



## Christmas Eve, 1862, from "Harper's Weekly"

### Date

published January 3, 1863

### Primary Maker

Thomas Nast

### Medium

Wood engraving on newsprint

### Description

American Civil War. "Nast's depiction expresses pathos by emphasizing the separated family during Christmas, a sentimental time. Two large vignettes show a soldier and his wife, physically separated but thinking of and praying for one another. Below, scenes of an army marching through snow and a row of frozen graves remind the viewer of the gravity of their reality. The woman, portrayed within their home, serves as a pillar for emotional stability for her husband but also to her sleeping children, as she expresses her fears whilst they dream. Additionally, her submissive, kneeling posture evokes a sense of piety and moral aptitude that middle-class women were expected to possess and maintain. As a prototype, she is able to convey the feelings of every woman in her situation and affect viewers who are also impacted by the war." (SOURCE: Mary Bei Prince, "Thomas Nast's Conception of Nineteenth Century Women", 2019)

### Dimensions

Composition: 13 5/16 x 20 3/16 in. (33.8 x 51.3 cm) Sheet: 15 3/4 x 21 3/8 in. (40 x 54.3 cm)