NEARING THE $2,500 MARK.

Large Donations for "The Evening World's" Christmas Tree Fund.

Matinee Benefit at the Union Square To-day.

A Glorious Christmas in Store for 20,000 Poor Children.

The special matinee in aid of THE EVENING WORLD Christmas-Tree Fund at the Union Square Theatre this afternoon is the culmination of much energetic endeavor and self-sacrificing work on the part of several society ladies whose sympathies have been excited in the cause of the poor children. The ladies have met with the most generous co-operation on the part of managers and professional people, and everything possible has been done to render the affair a success. The following ladies subscribed as patronesses:

Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Mrs. John E. Brady, Mrs. Calvin S. Brice, Mrs. Roger A. Pryor, Mrs. Egbert Guernsey, Marquise Lanza, Mrs. E. Marcy Raymond, Mrs. Archibald C. Gunter, Mrs. Frederick S. Goodwin, Mrs. Abner Bartlett, Mrs. Horace A. Hutchins, Mrs. J. J. Eakins, Mrs. Benjamin Hanfeld, Miss H. C. Abbe, Miss Mattie Sheridan, Mrs. Alexander McKinstrey.

Manager Hill donated the use of the theatre, and great assistance has been rendered by advertising agents, billposters, &c., and the veteran, John Polhemus, gave the necessary printing. Following is the programme:

There will be presented "Elsie," a domestic drama in five acts, by Townsend Allen, with the following cast:

Captain Gideon Eldridge.....Mr. Beaumont Smith
Harold Warrington.....Mr. Guy Lindsley
Dick Lawrence.....Mr. Francis Conrad
Dr. Robert Abbey.....Mr. Nathaniel Hazard
Dennis Malloy.....Mr. Charles Koehler
Mrs. Madison Lenox.....Mrs. Frederick S. Goodwin
Miss Mildred Van Benschoten (Elsie).....Miss Julie Christin
Hulda Starbuck.....Miss Carrie Jackson
Don Miff.....(By himself)
Kate.....Mrs. Beaumont Smith

Clergyman, Bridesmaids, &c.

Mr. and Mrs. Beaumont Smith and Mr. Koehler, of the Boston Museum Company, appear by kind permission of Mr. Arthur S. Chase.

Mr. Guy Lindsley, of the Mantell Company, by kind permission of Mr. Augustus Pitou.

Miss Carrie Jackson, of the Great Metropolitan Company, by kind permission of Messrs. Klaw & Erlanger.

To conclude with "Why Don't He Come?" a midnight monologue, written expressly for and recited by Miss Zilha Procter Otis.

A benefit performance, with many specially attractive features, will take place at Jacobs' Third Avenue Theatre next Tuesday afternoon. The affair is under the management of Manager Edwards, Jerome H. Eddy and Mrs. Fernandez. A flower sale will be conducted by "Aunt Louisa" Eldridge and a bevy of pretty girls. An act by children of stage people will be a feature of the matinee. Among the names added to the programme yesterday were Tim Murphy, William G. Beach, Jennie Yeamans, Kate Davis, Marie Cahill, Addie Pennoyer and Edith Widmer, May Haines, John McKeever, the brothers Perry, the Bender sisters and Eugene Sanger.

Among the notable contributions yesterday were a check for $50 from Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, a doll stuffed with silver coins instead of sawdust from little Daisy May Fisher, a magnificent doll, to be credited to "no name," bearing $10 in coin as a letter of introduction and scores of other pretty and useful presents for the tree. A very great many packages are sent anonymously, and it is therefore impossible to acknowledge them in this column, other than to thank the donors in a lump. They are very acceptable.

Donations of goods and toys are liberally coming in from merchants and others. Notify THE EVENING WORLD when you have ready a donation of toys, books, clothing, &c., and an EVENING WORLD wagon will call for it at your address. Those designed for the Harlem tree should be sent to Mrs. John Allen, Hotel Hamilton, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and Eighth avenue.

Under Mrs. Percy's supervision arrangements for the Christmas trees are rapidly taking form. The ladies who will patronize the parties are, with able and attractive corps of assistants, working energetically in an amicable rivalry to make each tree more successful than the others. Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Fernandez, Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer, Dr. Julia H. Lombard, Mrs. Benson, Mrs. Hough and all the other ladies will forever endear themselves to the poor children to whom the coming Christmas Day will be an epoch-marking event in their cheerless lives.

Here is a list of the places where the Christmas parties will be held:

Turn Hall, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street and Third avenue.

Maennerchor Hall, Fifty-sixth street and Third avenue.

Nilson Hall, East Fifteenth street.

Apollo Hall, Clinton street.

Salvation Army Hall, Seventh avenue near Thirty-fifth street.

Palace Rink, Clermont avenue, Brooklyn.

Cooper's Hall, Newark avenue and Washington Place, Jersey City.

Contributions to THE EVENING WORLD Christmas-Tree Fund are reported as follows:

Previously acknowledged	$1,972.52
Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt	50.00
D. P. M.	1.00
May Alice Hankinson (8 years)	1.00
Maud Hankinson (6 years)	1.00
Mrs. Alice Hanainson and Charles Hankinson	10.00
Clark Willett and Stella Lewis	1.00
M. F. O'C.	1.00
J. L. H.	1.00
Bessie and Florrie	2.00
"Sympathy"	5.00
A. F. Pallock	1.00
King's Daughter	1.00
Bertie T.	1.00
"Old Grandfather"	1.00
No Name	10.20
Mrs. Linthicum	5.00
Mrs. W. B. Bentley	5.00
Mabel M.	1.00
Mrs. Henry L. Meyer	15.00
G. B. F.	1.00
Lulu	1.00
Collected by Montrose K. Newman	1.05
A Mother	1.00
S. F. O'R.	1.00
J. A. Le Page	1.00
Ray S. Button	2.00
"In His Name"	5.00
Edith	1.00

Agnes Keefe (15 years); John Blackwood (15 years), and Joseph Morris (10 months).....1.00
N. W.....1.00
Miss E. W. Smith.....0.65
J. A. K.....1.00
Teresa.....1.00
Bonbrette.....1.00
"One of the Boarders".....1.00

Nance W. Fowler, 50 cents; Clara Schles, 25; Charles Schles, 10; Minnie Weissenstein, 15; Viola Schiff (in a beautiful little purse, collected all by herself, only five years old), $3.25; Grace Sisman, 25; Nick, 50; K. M., 25; Unknown, 10; Elmira M., 5; Sam M., 5; N. W. G., N. J., 50; H. Berge, 15; E. Berge, 10; Willie, 10; Little Willie, 10; Cora and Harry, 15; Cecilia Freeland, 50; Cash, 50; Albert and Frank Chambers, 20; Cash, 5; Eugene and Mortie, 25; Carrie L. and Lillian F. Stork, 50; Employees 22 College place, 72; Jennie Gremlis, 30; Lillie Kirk, 30; Charlie Kirk, 30; A. F. Faventhold, 92; "Doc," 56; Otto, Albert, George and Carmo, 25; A. H. S., 50; Three Little Boys of Jersey City Heights, 90; Little Lulu, 25; Mamie Mann, 10; Willie Lewis, 30; Mamie, 10; Cash, 30; Little Priscilla, 25.

Collected by little Pinky Goodwin, six years—Papa, 50 cents; Mamma, 50; Louie G., 10; Eddy G., 10; Pinky G., 10; Arthur O'Hara, 11; Tim, 5; McGinty, 10; Mrs. Reid, 10; Mabel Wise, 5; Mrs. Howard, 6; Mrs. Forbush, 5; H. C. Nixer, 5; Harry Hammerstein, 10; Cash, 3; W. W. Hue an, 1; Cousin Allen, 5; Gentleman whose pups he was, but who don't want their names printed, $5.38.

Collected from employees Postal Telegraph Company, 195 Broadway—J. H. Usher, 50 cents; F. E. M., 25; D. F. M., 25; J. McN., 25; S. A. Coleman, 25; C. J. M., 25; H. N. Bauer, 25; W. W., 25; F. N. Andrews, 25; Regan, 25; G. F. M., 25; W. F. Carroll, 25; Thomas J. Dunn, 25; Churchill, 25; T. J. O'Leary, 25; F. L. Reits, 25; F. E. Burnell, 25; A. J. A., 25; R. F. Hodnett, 25; A. M. Kemp, 25; W. H. Young, 25; N. D., 25; T. J. Casey, 25; J. E. Brennan, 25; H. Leonard, 25; P. J. K., 25; Slower, 25; Thos. F. Kehoe, 25; D. D., 25; W. H. Harvey, 25; D. Smith, 25; K. F., 25; C. Shirler, 50; E. S. Butterfield, 25; Cash, 25; K. F., 25; L. J., 25; J. B., 25; B. N., 25; D. W., 25; W. H. B., 50.

Collected by E. W. Allen—E. W. Allen, 10 cents; Fred Fauerbach, 25; G. Glauber, 10; A. T. Polhemus, 10; Henry Drenckhahn, 25; T. Reibel, 10; Aug. Geobels, 10; L. L. Preuss, 25; Christ. Reigher, 25; Inery E. Trafton, 10; F. V. Donnelly, 25.

Collected by M. Wasservogel from the employees of Hirsh Co.—Fred Hallan, 10 cents; J. Wasser, 25; Emil Young, 10; W. K., 10; R. S. Jostrom, 25; W. L., 10; E. Schafer, 10; J. Cohen, 10; L. Hirsch, 10; C. P., 10; Cash, 10; W. S., 10; M. F., 10; J. H., 10; Bedford, 25; Charity, 10; William, 10; B. H., 10; A. M. O., 10; M. S., 10; F. R., 10; E. B., 10; L. H., 10; L. K., 10; A. H., 10; W. M., 10; L. D., 10; Andy, 10; Miss McGinty, 10; Charity, 20; Pat Shay, 10; C. S., 25; Cash, 50; R. R., 50; Gus, 25; M. W., 10; Joe, 5.

Collected by Miss Mackay—Mrs. Crawler, 10 cents; Lillie DeRivera, 25; Libbie DeRivera, 25; Baby Sweetland, 25; Miss Mackay, 25.

Collected by Maggie Entwistle (eight years)—Uncle, 25 cents; Maggie and Hattie Kane, 25; Lily Herzer, 5; Cash, 10; Tillie Fisher, 50; Mamma and Papa, 50; Bertha Henry, 25; Miss Loughlin, 10; Maggie Entwistle, 20.

Collected by John H. Fischer, Annex Hotel—Charles E. Smith, 50 cents; Wilhelm Canaris, 10; John Hagen, 10; John Biehm, 25; Berker, driver, 10; Gardner, conductor, 10; Harper, 10; J. Maddern, 10; John Ayens, 10; Tom Donovan, 10; Henry Beck, 10; Pat Welch, 10; Charles Mulland, 10; John Muller, 10; John H. Fisher, 30.

Collected from workingmen—Gustav Schenke, 50 cents; Weigand Kuhn, 25; Frank Rittersieer, 25; F. W. Noelke, 25; Cash, 50; Cash, 25; Bachem, 50; collection of workingmen, 90; Cash, 10.

Collected by Miss M. Orrin—Miss Orrin, 50 cents; Cash, 10; Mrs. Cabott, 20; Cash, 10; W. H., 25; John More, 25; D. Block, 10; Cash, 50; Flora Harding, 114 84th street, $1; Adele Potter, 40 83d street, 50 cents; Weber Ackerbush, 25; Gladys Arkenbrugh, 25; Master Berry, 25; Cash, 25; Minnie K., 22; Frank Schenc, 10; G. L. M., 10; A. W. Smith, 10; E. M. B., 50; Lillie K. Smith, 20; G. E. H., 25; Cash, 31; Smythe, 3 cents.

Collected by Selma Spiegel—Selma Spiegel, 25 cents; Gertrude Bamer, 20; Carolina Mathias, 11; James Mathias, 10; George H. Menter, 5; L. Spiegel, 25; A. Krieg, 25; Abbie Cohn, 10; R. M., 5; M. Josephson, 10; Moses Rosenblatt, 25; Phillips, 5; Ike Weissman, 5; Israel Fromm, 5; McGinty, 5; P. Weissmann, 5; J. Spiegel, 25; M. M., 25; A. Schumann, 5; Cash, 5; Annie Kane, 5; Estelle Schatman, 5; Clara Barrow, 5; Cecelia Lichtenstader, 5; Annie Reibetanz, 5; H. O. J., 25; Marion Shea, 10; Sarah Mulay, 10; Annie Glogger, 5; Katie Meisner, 5; Emma Lang, 10; Gertrude Warner, 25; Clara Weber, 5.

Collected by little Daisy May Fischer—Pop, $2; mamma, $1; Nemo, 25 cents; Milton, 25; Mrs. Cook, 25; Aunt Freda, 5; Uncle Maurice, $1; Lillian, 15 cents; Annie Tate, 30; Clarence, 15; Howard, 15; F. Gellers, 25; M. Dougherty, 25; M. Holden, 10; Daisy, $1.

Collected by M. Henry—Mrs. Worden, 10 cents; Mrs. Lake, 10; Lipke Bros., 50; Mrs. J. L. C., 10; Bowman, 10; A. Butcher, 10; Cash, 10; Grocer, 10; Mrs. Reichenback, 10; T. Anderson, 10; F. T. S., 25; Max Hymes, 25.

Collected by Walter H. Sitner—Walter H. Stiner, 25; Cash, 25; No Name, 25; Cash, 25; Twin Lakes, 25; Captain, 10; J. H. Schwartz, 10; M. K. S., $1; J. B., 50; Cash, $1; Ruby, 5; Rakenoe, 10; Harlem, 10; Ellison, 25; X. Y. Z., 50; E. K., 25; Cash, $1.

Notes by Nell Nelson.

A Miserable Sinner.—Don't chastise yourself. You are good to send the trifle which will cause a very large joy throb. May it find an echo in your heart.

Mrs. J. Lichtenstein.—You are an angel. The truck full of toys is a real treasure house. It means a merry Christmas morning for a hundred poor little ones.

Orphan.—Nothing prettier than your Jack Horner pie has been received.

George H. Schauer.—Your dollar has been received and duly credited.

Charles S. Wrege.—Look in THE EVENING WORLD of Tuesday and you will find your subscription acknowledged.

JIM.

Read About this Midget and Remember that Christmas is Near.

Jim came from Jersey City on the 9 o'clock boat.

After paying for his ferry fare he had 3 cents in his pocket.

There was no school at St. Peter's, and it occurred to him that he might anticipate the evening papers and earn a little Christmas money. Crossing the street in Park Row en route for THE EVENING WORLD he slipped, fell in the mud, and came within a foot of being run over by a Fourth avenue car. With the assistance of a savage-voiced but kind-hearted passer-by, poor Jim was safely landed on the sidewalk in a pitiable state of mud and fright.

Without exception he was the most forlorn-looking little creature that I have seen this Winter. There were no buttons on his jacket, none on his red flannel shirt, and the only support of his ragged little trousers was a trunk strap hinged with pieces of rope. His eyes and hair were black, so were his clothes, and blacker than either were his face, hands, ears and neck.

His grimy little knees had worked their way through his stockings, and the shoes he wore were, without exaggeration, of John L. Sullivan size.

At sight of the poor child I remembered a suit of clothes that had been brought to the office Tuesday afternoon by a kind-hearted gentleman to be given to any boy they would fit, and Jim accepted my invitation and followed me upstairs to try them on. With the help of the copy boy his clumsy shoes were untied, and when his stocking came off it was hard to tell which was the blacker—the big shoe or the little foot. Poor Jim stifled his pride, as childhood will, with an attempt at levity.

He apologized for the untidiness of his feet by telling us that he "all'ys walked in the gutter, cause it was quickest;" that he "took the scrabbing-brush to them," and "any way me shoes is all'ns broke and that's why me feet and stockings get wet."

We dried the little soles in a newspaper, rubbed off the mud from his ankles and between his toes, exchanged his torn stockings for a good pair and the ragged clothes for a brand-new suit.

What did he say?

Not a word.

There are joys too deep for expression, and Jim's delight was of that sort.

While the old suit was being wrapped up, I got my new little friend to talk about Christmas.

"We haven't had any presents or any Christmas since fadder died. He's the only Sandy Class we have and we ain't got him now. Last year we hung our stockings on the door-knob, but didn't get anything. Me mudder said Sandy Class lost the number of the house. We've moved since and I know he'll never find us now.

"I sell papers every evening, but I give the money to me mudder for the rent. Last month I paid all the rent. It was six dollars and there was only one nickel, all the rest was in pennies. This month I can keep all I make over 25 cents a day. I have 16 cents already and I'm saving it to buy presents for me little brudder and sister.

"What do I want for Christmas? A pair of gloves. That's all."

That's all, dear, kind reader. That's all this eleven-year-old mite of humanity wants.

That's all the washerwoman's son asks of your bounty.

The season of gladness is very near. You must hurry if you want to help.

Cards have been written for this little hero and his small brother and sister.

He must be welcomed, and you will infuse the warmth of your charity in our greeting. Please do.

There is no reason why you should heed the midget Jims, save that it is good to do so, good for them and good for you.

Don't you want to do good in the world?

NELL NELSON.

LAURA'S TALE OF WOE

A beautiful little eight-year-old girl with a wealth of jet black tresses, cut from under which looked a pair of sparkling black eyes, told a terrible tale of cruel treatment at the hands of her aunt, at the office of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this morning.

Her name is Laura Thompson and she has neither father nor mother.

Last night little Laura ran up to Policeman McNally, in Fifth avenue, and begged him to take her to some institution for protection.

Her head was cut and her face terribly bruised, and she told the officer that she had just run away from her aunt, who lived in the top flat of the house at No. 140 West Thirty-sixth street, because that woman had struck her on the head with a salver for denying that she had stolen a $50 watch.

The policeman took her to the West Thirtieth street station, where the little girl repeated the story, adding that her aunt's name was Mrs. Potter, but that at present she was known as Mrs. Carrie Woodward.

Sergt. Sheldon at once reported the case to the Society and Agent Knoll took charge of the little girl.

Meanwhile the aunt had arrived at the station to report the flight of her niece and was astonished at finding the girl there.

She told the Sergeant that Laura was a bad, vicious child, and had been brought up in the slums of Brooklyn until she had become thoroughly incorrigible.

The woman said she had taken the child at the request of her mother, when the latter was dying in a Brooklyn hospital, and had tried to give her a good home and make a good girl of her. Laura's mother, the Woodward woman said, was her sister.

The Society's officers found that Laura was in a terrible condition from bruises and blows that had been inflicted upon her delicate little body.

Low down on the back of her head the hair appeared to have been torn out by the roots, and a large bare spot disclosed an ugly wound, now slowly healing.

On her beautiful young faces were black and blue spots, readily discernible under the hair. There was a yellow bruise mark on her nose and her left eye was discolored.

A big lump on her thigh looked as if it had been made with a heavy iron stick or poker.

All the wounds and bruises had been made in the last two months.

Little Laura strenuously denied that she had ever stolen her aunt's watch and said she never had seen her have one. Her aunt, she said, had frequently accused her of stealing money, and then beaten her when she denied it.

The girl told her story modestly, and while she was very talkative her language was free from slang even and showed that her thoughts were well phrased for her words.

Laura's aunt has something of a record.

About eighteen months ago a wealthy resident of Baldwin, L. I., named Potter met her in a Sixth avenue resort. She was good looking and her smiles won Potter, who married her, took her home to Baldwin and established her in a palatial residence.

Her old habits, however, proved too strong, and the result was a separation.

Mrs. Potter then came back to New York and took up her residence in a flat on West Fifty-third street, resuming her old name of Carrie Woodward, but prefixing it with the title "Mrs."

She lived in Fifty-third street until she was obliged to leave there. Laura says, by Potter, who followed her up and caused her existence to become unendurable.

She has six well-furnished rooms, Laura says, in the flat at 140 West Thirty-sixth street.

When an EVENING WORLD reporter called there this morning his summons was answered by a stylish little girl of about seven years, but Mrs. Woodward would not be seen.

"We will probably place Laura in the hands of the Brooklyn authorities," said Assistant Superintendent Stocking, of the Society. "She claims things there and says that she was in an institution on Dean street, in that city, before her aunt brought her to New York."

The Closing Quotations.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Clos.
Am. Cotton Oil t. r.	30¾	31¼	30¼	29¾
Alton & Terre Haute	40	40	40	40
Atlantic & Pacific	5	5	5	5
Atch., Top. & Santa Fe	34	35	34	34½
Brunswick Land	31	31	31	31
Canada Southern	56	57½	56	56¾
Chesapeake & Ohio	20¾	20¾	20¼	20¾
Ches. & Ohio 1st pfd.	54	54½	54	54½
Ches. & Ohio 2d pfd.	44½	44½	44½	44½
Chicago Gas Trust	43¾	44	43	43¾
Chic., Bur. & Quincy	106¾	106¾	106¾	106¾
Chic., St. L. & Pitts.	16	16	16	16
Chic., St. L. & Pitts. pf.	42¾	42¾	41¾	41¾
Chicago & Alton	134	134	134	134
Chicago & Northwest	111¼	111¼	111¼	111¼
Chic., Mil. & St. Paul	71¼	71¼	70¾	70¾
Chi., Mi. & St. P. pf.	114¾	114¾	114¾	114¾
Chi., Rock Is. & Pac.	98¼	98¼	98	98¼
Chic. & Eastern Ill.	53¾	53¾	53¾	53¾
Chic. & East. Ill. pfd.	83	83	83	83
C., Cin., Chi. & St. L.	72	72	71¼	71¼
C., Cin., Chi. & St. L. pf	97¾	98	97¾	98
Cin., Wash. & Balt.	2¾	2¾	2¾	2¾
Colorado Coal & Iron	38¾	38¾	38¼	38¾
Commercial Cable	100½	100½	100½	100½
Consolidated Gas	136¼	136¼	136¼	136¼
Del., Lack. & West.	137¾	137¾	137¼	137
Delaware & Hudson	141¼	141¼	141	141¾
Den. & Rio G. pfd.	49¾	49¾	41¾	50¼
Den. & Rio Grande W.	19	19¾	19	19¾
Den., Tex. & Ft. W.	37¼	37¼	36¾	36¾
Dis. & Cattle Feed Ex.	40¾	40¾	40¾	40¾
Illinois Central	118	118	118	118
Lake Shore	107¾	108¾	107¾	108
Lackawanna	18	18	18	18
Louisville & Nashville	80¾	80¾	80¾	80¾
Louis., N. Aln. & Chi.	38	38	38	38
Manhattan consol	102¾	102¾	102¾	102¾
Michigan Central	99¾	99¾	99¾	99¾
Mil., L. S. & W. pfd.	115¾	115¾	115¾	115¾
Missouri Pacific	74¾	74¾	74¾	73¾
Mobile & Ohio	17¾	17¾	17¾	17¾
N.Y. Lead Trust	19	19¼	19	19¼
New Jersey Central	121	122¾	121	122¾
New York Central	108¾	109¼	108¾	108¾
N. Y. & New England	44	44¼	43¾	44¼
N. Y., L. E. & W.	6¾	6¾	6¾	6¾
Norfolk & West. pfd.	60	60¼	60	60¼
Northern Pacific	26¾	27¼	26¾	27¼
Northern Pacific pfd.	74¾	75¼	74¾	75¼
Ontario & Western	20¾	20¾	20¾	20¾
Oregon Transcontinental	35	35¼	34¾	35¼
Oregon Short Line	57¾	58¼	57¾	58
Pacific Mail	53¾	53¾	53¾	53¾
Pipe Line certificates	103¾	104¼	103¾	104
Phila. & Reading	39¾	39¾	39¼	39¾
Pitts. & Western pfd.	38	38	38	38
Pullman Palace	185	185	185	185
Rich. & W. Point Ter.	22	22¼	21¾	22
St. Paul & Omaha	34	34¼	33	33¼
St. Paul & Omaha pfd.	96	96	95	95
St. Paul & Duluth pfd	83	83	83	83
St. P., Minn. & Man.	113¾	113¾	112	112
St. L. & San Fran. pfd.	38¾	39	38¾	38¾
Southern Pacific	35¼	35¼	34¾	34¾
Sugar Refineries	59¾	59¾	58¾	58¾
Tenn. Coal & Iron	26	26	26	26
Texas Pacific	20	21	20	20¾
Tenn. Coal & Iron	77¼	77¼	77	77
T., St. L. & K. C.	31¼	31¼	31¼	31¼
Union Pacific	49¾	49¾	49¾	49¾
Wabash, St. L. & Pac.	18	18¼	18	18¼
Wab., St. L. & Pac. pfd	31	31¼	31	31¼
*West. Union Tele.	84¾	84¾	83¾	84
Wheeling & Lake Erie	68¾	68¾	68¾	68¾
Wis. Central	32¾	33	32¾	33¼
*Ex. div.				

AN AUDIENCE OF ACTORS.

At the Author's Matinee Performance of "A Fair Rebel."

Dockstadker's to Be Again Re-Opened—Fresh Dramatic Gossip.

There was an author's matinee, to which the "perfesh" at large was invited, at the Star Theatre yesterday. It looked as though "the square" had emptied itself into this house, which contained a large, voluble and ultra self-satisfied audience. The play was "A Fair Rebel," by Harry P. Mawson, who had evidently with fraternal generosity written a part for Edward E. Mawson. It dealt with the late war, and it is perhaps hardly necessary to state in what way. It can easily be guessed that the love of a Union gentleman for a Confederate lady was the way. Mr. Mawson made no attempt at originality. The story of "A Fair Rebel" was studiously commonplace, with a few heroics thrown in for the Union gentleman and the Confederate lady. It is also, perhaps, hardly necessary to state that there was an old colored man servant, of the approved type, and consequently a nuisance. "A Fair Rebel" was a weak solution of war-lore, rather nicely served up. The language of the play was good; the dialogue at times quite worthy. Much worse works have had long runs. The cast was also commendable, and—wonderful to relate—the members knew their lines. Mr. Edward B. Mawson played his hero quite intelligently and convincingly, and Miss Leslie Tilson, as a maiden aunt, was acceptably humorous. The star lady was Miss Agnes Thomas, who did fairly well.

* * *

A theatrical man told an amusing story yesterday of the row between Arthur Forrest and Rose Eytinge, of the "Captain Swift" company, which culminated, as we know, in Mr. Forrest's dismissal of Miss Eytinge. "I happened to meet them in Canada," said this gentleman, "and I knew the trouble was imminent. They were apparently quite friendly, though I think they both hated each other. In a sort of singing manner she used to call him 'Ceddy,' short for Cedric, in 'Little Lord Fauntleroy;' he used to call her 'Dearest.' If you just think of Forrest as Fauntleroy, and the plump Eytinge as Dearest, it will make you laugh. When I heard this interchange of courtesies I said to myself: 'There'll be a row in less than a week.' And there was!" Miss Beverley Sitgreaves and Miss Grace Kimball have left the company.

* * *

Charles Reed, it has been decided, will be the comedian in Mr. David Henderson's production of "The Gondoliers."

* * *

Dockstader's, it was reported yesterday, will be reopened on Monday night, when two variety stars, Sheridan and Flynn, will give an entertainment, under the management of A. M. T. H. Smith. The house, it is understood, has been leased for two weeks, with the privilege of a longer time in case of success, when Dockstader's may become a first-class variety house.

* * *

Sidney Woollett will give his usual series of poetic recitals at the Madison Square Theatre on the Monday afternoons of January and February, beginning Jan. 13. He will recite for the first time several poems and plays.

* * *

The Shakespearian productions of next season will probably be "Henry VIII.," with Mrs. D. P. Bowers and Frederick Warde are to produce. Mr. Ward is going to have a particularly good company. "Macbeth" will also be given, with Ward as the Thane of Cawdor, and Mrs. Powers as his misguided wife.

* * *

Another victim of influenza, Ramsay Morris has got it. Said he yesterday: "I sneezed and writhed so much on the cars that people turned and looked at me. Then they seemed suddenly to realize that the Grippe was about, and that it was contagious, for I was left in undisputed possession of three seats."

* * *

The indications are that the Union Square Theatre will be packed this afternoon, when "Elsie" is to be given for the benefit of THE EVENING WORLD'S Christmas-Tree Fund.

SCENE WITH A MANIAC.

Mrs. Bohn Drank Carbolic Acid and Tried to Kill Her Child.

Mrs. Catherine F. Bohn attempted this morning to kill her child and herself with carbolic acid.

Mrs. Bohn is thirty-eight years of age and lives with her husband, a tailor, at 422 East Ninth street.

She was noted for her ungovernable temper, and her husband often expressed fears that she would go crazy and poison him.

Shortly after midnight this morning, when the tailor crept into his bed, the woman rushed at him yelling: "I've got you now."

With that she seized a tumbler full of carbolic acid that stood at the sink and, while the tailor thought his last hour had come, gulped it down herself.

The poison burned and she shrieked like a mad woman.

Her six-year-old child heard it in the other room and ran in, crying for its father.

"Come here, come!" coaxed the crazy woman with mock affection.

The child came and the mother seized it. Forcing open the child's mouth, she flourished the bottle.

The father dashed it aside and, springing between, caught up the child and ran with it into the hall. Then police and an ambulance came, and the woman, who was consumed by a burning, unquenchable fire, was taken to Believue Hospital. It is hardly possible that she can live.

RIVER TRAFFIC AGAIN DELAYED.

Steamers and Tows Anchor to Wait for the Fog to Rise.

(SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.)

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., Dec. 26.—There is another serious interruption to river travel because of fog. No steamers have passed north since yesterday afternoon. The Dean Richmond and two large tows are anchored on this place.

The steamers Redfield, Ansonia and Saratoga are below here somewhere and are yet to be heard from.

The last boat to go south was the Daniel S. Miller at 7 o'clock last night.

The boats due from the north and not yet heard from are the big Drew, City of Troy and the McManus.

The John L. Hasbrouck arrived here from New York at 10 o'clock this morning.

GAS COMES TO STAY.

Electric Light Companies Preparing to Go Out of Business.

Wireless Dynamos Render Hundreds of Men Idle.

Gilroy's Men Persistently Nipping the Death-Dealing Wires.

The raid on the electric-light wires has rendered hundreds of men idle to-day.

One hundred and fifty men were discharged by the Brush Electric-Light Company yesterday, and the Company has practically gone out of business. Of the 400 employees whose names were on its pay-rolls a little more than a week ago only a handful remain.

The same state of things exists with the United States Illuminating Company, which has five crippled plants on its hands, with no conductors over which to send its electric currents, and consequently no necessity for employees beyond a small number to watch the Company's property.

The East River Company is in the same predicament, most of its employees having been discharged and, with the gangs of incumbrance removers invading Harlem and the Annexed District, the Mount Morris and North New York companies will share the same fate, as may also the Manhattan, although it has thus far enjoyed immunity for its wires.

Mayor Grant, when spoken to this morning about the large number of men thrown out of employment by the action of the Board of Electrical Control in the matter of the wires, remarked:

"I dare say that this action has furnished work for more men than it has deprived of employment."

Such, indeed, was ascertained to be the fact. Seventy-five men are engaged in the six gangs under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works in removing dangerous wires.

The Bureau of Lamps and Gas has been consulted about putting a large number in rehabilitate the abandoned gas posts in the districts formerly lighted by electricity, and the several gas companies have been obliged to greatly increase their forces of workmen, because of the city's sudden demand for a large supply of burning gas.

The Manhattan and Edison are the only electric light companies which are running.

The latter's subway system and low-tension current protects its wires from the nippers of Commissioner Gilroy's men.

In the case of the Manhattan Company, the destroying forces haven't reached many of its wires. It has a great many cables in the subways, but has a long line on First avenue to connect with the subway at Fourteenth street.

This line is a new one, and was erected with the permission of the Board of Electrical Control on the report of the expert, yet on one side of the thoroughfare the electric light wires are strung along under a line of telegraph and telephone wire, which first some inspector now says are the most dangerous.

Realizing that this line would have to go to the corporation yard, the Manhattan Company tried to shift it to the other side of the avenue, but was prevented by the police.

To-day the gangs from the Bureau of Incumbrances of the Public Works Department were busily engaged in making the street safe by the removal of the dangerous electrical conductors.

Contractor Hess' party started in at Thirty-seventh street and Broadway, working north. The men under Inspector McGuinness were working on East Twenty-eighth street, between Third and Fifth avenues.

Contractor Corrigan's force began work on Third avenue at Forty-ninth street.

Inspector Fitzpatrick looked after the wires of the Brush and United States companies on the Bowery.

Inspector McGlynn is denuding the poles of the North New York Company of dangerous wires north of One Hundred and Forty-eighth street in Third avenue.

Inspector Gavin, with his men, are looking after the Daft Motor Company's dangerous conductors in the downtown streets.

Supt. McCormack, of the Bureau of Lamps and Gas, is doing his best to supply the loss of the electric street lamps, by illuminating the darkened thoroughfares of the city with gas, but he is finding it a difficult matter to get lamps enough for the purpose.

His men are working in Third, Sixth and Eighth avenues, and on Eighth street, between Third and Sixth avenues.

Col. George Bliss argued before Judge Lawrence in Supreme Court Chambers today upon the application of several citizens for a writ of mandamus to compel the Board of Health to abate the nuisance of high pressure currents on electric light wires.

Col. Bliss argued that the Board of Health seemed disposed to shunt its powers.

In reply Lawyer Frontlee declared that instead of shirking its duties the Board of Health had made the very recommendations upon which the Board of Electrical Control had acted.

Decision was reserved.

LEDERER SET FREE.

Dismissal of the Charges of Abandonment by Actress Clara Chester.

The curtain fell to-day on the Chester-Lederer comedy, which was in full swing at the Tombs Theatre a fortnight ago.

An examination was to have been held before Justice Hogan at the Tombs to-day to prove that Lederer was guilty of bigamy in his marriage with Miss Newcombe. The principal witness in the case did not put in an appearance, and on motion of Abe. H. Hummel, counsel for the giddy little Chester girl, the case was dismissed.

The denouement would appear to leave Miss Newcombe in the undisputed right to be called Mrs. Lederer.

From Colorado.

PLATTEVILLE, Weld County, Col., Oct. 21, 1887.

FLEMING BROS.

DEAR SIRS: I consider DR. C. MCLANE'S CELEBRATED LIVER PILLS to be a splendid article for biliousness, headache, fever and debility. They strengthen and tone the system perfectly. We have used them in our family for many years and can recommend them.

WM. D. ROSS,
MARGARET ROSS.

In case of sick headache, biliousness, torpid liver, dyspepsia and costiveness, DR. C. MCLANE'S CELEBRATED LIVER PILLS never fail to give relief—for both sexes and all ages, they are compounded with regularity even the most delicate constitution. Sold by all druggists. Price 25 cents. Prepared only by Fleming Bros., Pittsburg, Pa. Look out for an imitation made in St. Louis which is often palmed off on innocent spectators as ours. Insist upon having only the genuine

STRAY MORSELS OF MIRTH.

Crumbs of Laughter from the Funny Men's Table.

The Thing Forgotten.

(From Life.)

Waiter (hinting for tip)—Ah, excuse me, sir, but haven't you forgotten something?

Customer—Eh? Oh, yes, thanks! I came near forgetting to complain to the proprietor about the inattention of the waiters in this establishment.

Something that is Never Coveted.

(From the Glens Falls Republican.)

Said old Graymater—Wise men says as how mankind is allers borrowin' trouble. I've had a good deal o' trouble in my day, an' while I've allers found folks ready to borrow my dollars, I never yit found one that hankered for any o' my trouble.

A Cheerful Disposition.

(From the Philadelphia Record.)

Winks—