WHO READS THE CITY DIRECTORY?
EVERYBODY WHO WANTS TO FIND SOMEBODY.
* * *
WORLD "WANTS?"
EVERYBODY WHO HAS A WANT.

The EVENING EDITION World.

DO YOU WANT BOARDERS?
OVER A MILLION EAGER EYES SCAN THESE COLUMNS DAILY.
BOARDERS WANTED 20c. A LINE.
NO EXTRA CHARGE ON SUNDAY.

PRICE ONE CENT. NEW YORK, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1891. PRICE ONE CENT.

LAST EDITION.

SANTA'S GREAT LOAD.

Tons of Toys and Candy for Children of the Poor.

80,000 Little Ones Remembered at Christmas Time.

What "Evening World" Readers Are Doing for the Fund.

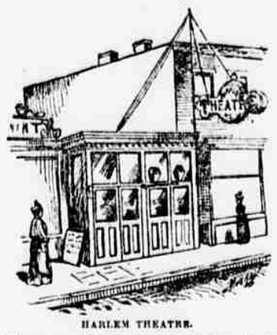
Ladies Who Will Superintend the Distribution of Gifts from Five Trees.

Six tons of candy!

Think of that. A procession of six big carts, each laden with sugar plums, each load nicely packed in 4,000 pretty boxes!

30,000 children who have been invited to come and be merry this one day in the 365.

It takes a lot of money to do this, and THE EVENING WORLD is busy acknowledging the receipts of dimes and dollars and handsome checks from those of its readers who can afford to give and who love and sympathize with the little children of the poor.



HARLEM THEATRE.

There are hundreds of dollars to be gathered in yet and thousands of readers who have not contributed yet!

The list of givers includes John W. Mackay, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. William C. Whitney, Mrs. John D. Parsons, Washington E. Connor, Daniel S. Appleton, F. W. Lockwood, Bernheimer & Schmid, Robert Bonner, A. W. S. Low, James Everard, Mrs. L. W. Opdyke, Anson Phelps Stokes, S. F. Fisher & Co., and a host of others whose contributions have been mentioned in THE EVENING WORLD.

of Maine. They are from eithteen to twenty-five feet tall, straight as arrows and with plenty of beautiful green foliage.

J. Austin Shaw, the Brooklyn florist, charged with the infectious spirit of this glad children's holiday time, contributes the trees as his share of the good work.

There will be five of the trees in New York. One tree, however centrally located would oblige thousands of children either to walk many miles, possibly in inclement weather, or pay car fares to the tree and home again with their gifts.

THE EVENING WORLD Christmas trees have been distributed over the city, each to serve the children of the poor in its own neighborhood.

Tickets may be had by or for deserving children by applying by letter or card to Manager Wood, 74 Fifth avenue.

Public school teachers might assist much in discovering deserving children if they would furnish names to the Fund, giving the addresses of the needy little ones. They could render splendid service on Christmas morning, too, by assisting in preparing the trees and distributing the gifts.

Dispensary doctors and others having knowledge of needy children should inform THE EVENING WORLD of their addresses and the number of tickets needed.

The use of the halls has been donated, and as most of them are to be used for other purposes Christmas afternoon the hours for the distribution are arbitrarily fixed.

By the kindness of T. Henry French, an EVENING WORLD Christmas tree will rear itself in the great tesselated forum of the Grand Opera-House again next Friday. Miss Marguerite St. John will preside here, assisted by Louise Gerard, Winona Shannon, Natalie and Ernestine Lambert, Mrs. Royal

"Yes, and he put cinders in mine," said a sister child of eight.

The jest of blithe-eyed, dirty-faced Dick who "didn't get nothing in *his*, 'cause the holes was too big," rescued the little girls from the flood tide of tears that completely swamped the undersigned.

The retrospection of these children was the very acme of pathos. It would have wrenched the heart of a woman. It would have planted a dagger in the breast of a man. Sympathy could not have heard it without being put upon the rack. Accident made me hear it.

Pity took my friend down Starvation alley Sunday afternoon to smooth the pillow of a dying woman.

We were just leaving Roosevelt street when three little girls popped out of a hole in the wall.

My companion shivered in her furs at sight of the trio. She stood like one transfixed with horror—speechless, nerveless and pale, wildly staring at the bare feet and thin blue legs of the youngest child. The other two were shod as far as their soles. All were hatless and each had at least one thickness of cotton covering under her faded calico dress.

Only scraping would have brought out the natural complexion of these really pretty little girls, who were as hard to catch as so many squirrels.

No amount of coaxing could drag a out them. They giggled derisively when asked for the number of their house, and by way of defense established themselves along the curb-stone.

It was not until the magic of a dime was tried that the small barbarians yielded and led the way to their comfortless abode up

ONE OF "THE EVENING WORLD'S" CHRISTMAS TREES LAST YEAR—CLARENDON HALL.

That sounds like a good deal of confectionery, but it is only one of the orders placed by Kris Kringle's agent for the benefit of the horde of children of the poor, who are looking forward with eager confidence to THE EVENING WORLD'S Christmas trees.

Perhaps six tons of candies plumped at you in this blunt fashion may awaken a realizing sense of the magnitude of the task that THE EVENING WORLD and its million readers have undertaken.

Six tons of chocolate creams, almonds, caramels, crystallized fruits and other bonbons!

And that is only one item.

On the orders already placed by THE EVENING WORLD, with full confidence in the forthcoming of the dimes and dollars from the pockets of its readers, are thousands of dolls.

There are Japanese dolls and Chinese dolls, Hindoo dolls, dainty dolls, doll brides and doll widows, baby dolls and sailor dolls, soldier dolls and dolls robed in a manner to make the Fifth avenue dressmakers envious.

Then there are 9,500 trumpets and 1,000 flutes for 10,500 boys to make a glorious racket with, and if every boy that gets one of them on Christmas morn were to apply to the armorers at all the armories of the New York and Brooklyn regiments, there wouldn't be guns enough in all the arms-racks to equip them.

MINER'S PEOPLES' THEATRE.

Then there are 1,000 bellows, toys for the very little chaps. Chanticleers, elephants, lambs and rhinoceroses; stem-winding watches, with chains; musical boxes, drawing slates and tops; 2,000 tops, humming tops and whip tops; Indian-rubber balls for the babies and eccentric Japanese toys; velocipedes, writing-desks, hobby-horses, doll hammocks, Noah's arks, doll carriages, horses and carts, locomotives and railway trains of vestibuled cars, sheep in the fold and stray lambs and woolly dogs; kitchen sets, cooking stoves, tea sets and dolls' dishes; Jacks in the box, cups and balls and other wonders.

Then there are stacks of books, some with colored pictures and some with none at all.

And then there is clothing for the needy. There are 8,000 pairs of nice warm knit mittens for chapped little hands and serviceable woollen stockings to keep little legs warm.

There are a thousand children's jerseys, besides knit hoods, scarfs, ear-muffs, fur capes, muffs, shoes, rubber boots, handkerchiefs, baby-bibs, collars, jackets and scores of other things that some little boys and girls are sorely in need of.

Last of all, as most youngsters think they are hungry on very slight provocation, there will be cakes and fancy French rolls; loads of sugared pop-corn, boxes and boxes of fancy crackers in the form of animals, and a big red apple to top off with for every one of the

These have given cash. There are lots of people to be heard from still, and there's need for more money.

There are others who have sent great cases and bundles of new toys, clothing, sweetmeats, books and other things from their stores to Manager George M. Wood, at the storage house, 74 Fifth avenue.

NILSSON HALL.

Among these are Harper Brothers, books Vantine & Co., Japanese goods; Bloomingdale Bros. and Simpson, Crawford & Simpson, toys; J. A. Crandall, Brooklyn, hobby horses; Acher & Co., Cortlandt street, and Dryden & Palmer, rock candy; John J. Leach, caramels; Larrabee & Co., fancy crackers; Fleischmann, fancy rolls; C. A. Spalding & Brothers, 241 Broadway; Butler Bros., 360-62 Broadway, and Pinsker Bros., 401 Bedford avenue, Brooklyn, shoes; William J. A. Lieder, 94 Park Row; E. J. Hersman, 341 Broadway; Peter F. Pia, 123 White street, and L. H. Mace & Co., 117 East Houston street, toys; M. J. Paillard & Co., 680 Broadway, musical boxes, and fancy boxes from Robert Gair & Co., Chambers street; National Folding Box Company, 16 Reade street, and B. G. Hughes & Bro., 242 Centre street.

Then, beside these, many children have packed up the toys that they have tired of and clothing that they have outgrown and sent them on to the storehouse to make other little hearts glad on the coming Christmas Day.

The American, National, United States and Westcott Express companies carry and deliver free all packages not over twenty-five pounds in weight addressed to THE EVENING WORLD Christmas Tree, 74 Fifth avenue, and the Fifth Avenue Storage Company, thanks to Manager Maxwell, will send a truck to any point in the city for heavier parcels or cases for this noble charity if notified by card at Thirteenth street and Fifth avenue.

CARNEGIE MUSIC HALL.

Christmas is coming right along now. It's less than a week distant, and the trees that are to bear fruit so bounteously are the next interesting things.

They are beauties! Handsome, graceful, fragrant spruce trees, fresh from the forests

Keith, Mrs. Shannon, Master Johnny McKever, Albert G. Thies, Alexander Lambert and other dramatic and musical lights. The doors will be opened at 9 A. M., and the distribution must be finished by 11 o'clock.

President Morris Reno has tendered the use of Recital Hall, at Carnegie Music Hall, Broadway and Fifty-seventh street. It is a splendid hall, capable of seating 1,200 persons. It has a fine gallery, and is fitted and decorated magnificently. The seats will be removed, and here the children of the middle district will gather to a festival, over which will preside Mrs. Harriet Hubbard Ayer, who will be aided in the work of distribution by a bevy of pretty girls and stalwart young men. The distribution here will begin at 10 o'clock and end at noon.

Harry C. Miner has again thrown open his People's Theatre in the Bowery for an EVENING WORLD Christmas-Tree festival. The tree will be planted in the centre of the ample stage. The children from the east side will march in like a victorious army at the Bowery entrance, down the centre aisle, up an incline and on to the stage.

GRAND OPERA-HOUSE.

There they will receive their gifts from the hands of Mrs. P. A. Roberts, assisted by a number of the ladies of the stage, Supt. T. W. Moore, of the theatre; E. Napier Anderson and Royal Keith.

The youngsters will then march out at the Chrystie street stage exit. The distribution will begin at 8.30 and last two hours.

A fourth tree will grow in the reception-room at Nilsson Hall, under the main hall, in Fifteenth street, near Third avenue, thanks to Manager H. Bimberg. The children will enter at one door, pass around the tree, receive their gifts and pass out again at the other door. Among the ladies and gentlemen who will assist in the distribution here are Miss Alice E. Ives, the gentle art critic; Miss Agnes Crawford, the actress; Mrs. Beatrice C. Childs, Mrs. Harmon and Inez Harmon, Mrs. and Miss Cutler and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Brandt.

The doors will be open two hours at Nilsson Hall—from 9 to 11 o'clock.

The fifth and last city tree will be in the auditorium of the Harlem Theatre, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street near Third avenue, thanks to Manager F. W. Hofele. Mrs. Miller will preside and among the good people who have volunteered in her aid are Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Hubbard, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer D. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bott, Miss Rose Anderson, Misses Amy and Lillian Jackson.

A CYNIC AT SEVEN.

Where Christmas Cheer Would Create Joy Indeed.

A cynic and only seven years of age!

"I hanged up my stocking last Christmas, and Santa Claus put a stick of wood in it!"

Continued on Second Page.

EXTRA.

BURNED AT SEA.

The Guion Steamship Abyssinia Destroyed by Fire.

Passengers and Crew Were Taken Off in Mid-Ocean.

The Steamer Spree Reports that All on Board Were Saved.

She Left This Port Dec. 13 with 55 Passengers and a Valuable Cargo.

[BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The Guion line steamship Abyssinia, which sailed from New York on Dec. 13 for Liverpool, was burned at sea.

THE ABYSSINIA.

All hands were saved.

LATER.—The North German Lloyd steamer Spree, Capt. Willigerod, which left New York Dec. 15 for Bremen, passed the Scilly Islands this morning and signalled that the steamship Abyssinia, of the Guion line, which sailed from New York on the 13th inst., under command of Capt. Murray, bound for Liverpool, had been burned at sea in latitude 49 N., longitude 29 W.

SIGNALLED THAT ALL HAD BEEN SAVED.

The Spree signalled also that all on board the burned steamship were saved. The date of the burning of the Abyssinia, however, was not signalled.

Although the Spree did not report that the Abyssinia's passengers and crew were on board of her, it is supposed that such was the case.

The burned vessel was an iron bark-rigged screw steamer of 2,346 tons net and 3,651 tons gross. She was built at Govan, Scotland, in 1870.

She was 363 feet long by 42 feet 7 inches beam, and 34 feet depth of hold. She had compound engines of 500-horse power.

CARRIED ONLY NINETEEN CABIN PASSENGERS.

The Abyssinia left this port at 6.15 P. M. Sunday, Dec. 13. She carried nineteen saloon passengers. They were:

MISS MARY WOLFENDEN, Fall River, Mass.
Mrs. E. WOODFIELD, Springfield, Mass.
JOHN HARVEY, Toronto, Ont.
JAMES COOK, England.
ROBERT CARTWRIGHT, New York.
HELEN CARTWRIGHT, New York.
JOSEPH M. KERR, Salt Lake City.
IRA WILLIAMS, Salt Lake City.
J. H. RICHARDS, Salt Lake City.
CHARLES MASSEY, Montreal, Can.
Mrs. J. PILLING and two children, Troy, N. Y.
JAMES JOHNSON.
Miss NELLIE TIGHE.
FRANK PORITTY.
PATRICK FLANNERY.
DAVID WILLIAMS.
JOHN DINGLE.

The residences of these latter are unknown to the company.

THE LOST VESSEL'S CREW.

The officers and crew of the Abyssinia are the old crew and officers of the Alaska, which is now in dry dock at Liverpool.

George S. Murray was the Captain; Albert Brandt, Purser; Dr. Freeman, the Surgeon; John Williams, Chief Engineer; Thomas Lamb, Chief Officer, and Joseph Thomas, second Officer.

The crew numbered eighty all told and there were thirty-six steerage passengers.

The latter were almost without exception Swedes and Norwegians from the West, who were going over to see their friends and families and spend the holiday season in the fatherland.

HER STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

Following is a list of the steerage passengers:

Kate Donahue and sister, Providence, R. I.
James Currie, Chicago.
C. E. Landol.
Michael Hennessey.
M. Feldman.
A. Stocker.
S. Anderson.
C. O'Brien.
James McHalvey.
A. Sherlandy.
John H. Schalatz.
John H. Pope, Scranton, Pa.
Emil Bergholz.
Anton Olsen.
B. Wilkins.
H. Heurich.
Johann Betcher.
H. Kroft.
Robert Redler.
N. Zuckerman.
Cornelius Hammond.
Frank Belanoy, Toronto, Ont.
Robert Reilly, Boston.
John Craig, Boston.
J. Orman, Toronto, Ont.
John McVeigh, Pawtucket, R. I.
R. G. Currie, Chicago.
M. Baker, New York.
Mary O'Hara, Boston.
S. Carlsen.
William Kildery, Minauka, Pa.
H. Arbor.
Peter Johnson.
Henry Spencer.
Daniel McMillan.

CARRIED A VALUABLE CARGO.

The Abyssinia carried a valuable cargo of merchandise, which is valued at several hundred thousand dollars. The exact figures cannot yet be given.

There was a large quantity of cotton in the hold, and it is believed that this may have taken fire from a spark while the vessel was being loaded in this port, and smouldered until it broke out at sea.

The steamship itself was valued at $250,000, and was insured in English companies.

The Abyssinia was built in Glasgow in 1870 by J. & G. Thompson, the builders of the City of New York and the City of Paris. She had a single screw propeller.

In rig she was a three-masted bark, with a single funnel and a straight prow.

BUILT FOR A CUNARDER.

She was built originally for the Cunard Steamship Company, but was afterwards purchased by the Guion line.

She is registered at Lloyds as a first class vessel in every respect, though she was the smallest and slowest of the Guion line fleet, which includes the Alaska, Arizona and Wyoming.

She was provided with seven water-tight bulkheads.

PARTICULARS OF THE DISASTER UNKNOWN.

General Passenger Manager P. W. Gibson said this morning that the agents here have not yet received particulars of the disaster.

All that is known is that the vessel and cargo are totally lost, and that all the passengers and crew have been rescued. How they were rescued or by what vessel is not known.

SPOKEN WHEN FOUR DAYS OUT.

The Abyssinia was spoken by the City of Chester on Dec. 17, 45.20 north latitude and 50.15 west longitude. She was then four days out from New York and all was well aboard.

Mr. Gibson says that for the past five years the Abyssinia has been chartered by the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company and has been employed to carry mails, passengers and freight between Yokohama, Hong Kong and Vancouvers.

Last Summer the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, of the English royal family, took passage in her from Yokohama to Vancouvers.

TRANSFERRED FROM SERVICE ON THE PACIFIC.

The Abyssinia was taken off the Pacific service last Fall, and was put on the transatlantic fleet, to take the place of the Alaska and Arizona, both of which are now laid up at Liverpool for their regular Winter overhauling.

This was her first trip from this side for the present season.

She arrived in this port last October with a cargo of teas from Hong Kong. Her cargo on her outward trip included besides cotton and grain, a large assortment of general merchandise. It was all insured it is said by the shippers, most of it in New York companies.

THE ABYSSINIA'S CARGO.

A complete list of the cargo carried by the Abyssinia, and its proposed destination, was obtained from the agents. It shows as follows:

For Arica, six organs, 12 wagons, fifty bales domestics, one case harness, three cases sample goods.

For Belfast, 425 packages of soap.

For Buenos Ayres, 14 bales of domestics.

For Constantinople, 14 packages of pumps.

For Dublin, 425 packages soap.

For Halifax, Eng., 11 cases of hardware.

For Liverpool, 1,227 bales of cotton, 15,789 pounds of cheese, 142,000 pounds of ham, 63 cases pork ribs, 6 cases of furs, 197 logs Sabien wood, 42 barrels zinc ashes, 2,000 pounds of grease, 20 cases of beef extract, 134 handspikes, 13 cases of wheels, 29 organs, 37 packages of machinery, 5 cases of stationery, 29 cases of iron scraps, 16 cases of Pampas plumes, 13 cases of notions, 2 cases of printed matter, 1 case of candy 1 package print, 1 case electrical material, 1,750 bags copper matte, 3 barrels oysters, 16,000 bushels wheat, 509,550 pounds bacon, 21,100 pounds lard, 350 barrels lubricating oil, 10 tons satinwood, 549 barrels leather, 452 barrels hops, 100 cases canned goods, 1 case advertising material, 7 packages manufactured iron, 4,400 stoves, 47 cases clocks, 28 cases hardware, 10 cases of drugs, 803 barrels of apples, 33 packages of agricultural implements, thirteen cases sample goods, two cases pictures, four cases effects, 1 case furniture, three cases toys, 1 case of books, 4,725 pounds butter.

For London, 304 bales of hops.

For Melbourne, 1 radiator, 6 cases printed matter, 1 case photograph material.

For Molendo, 65 barrels domestics.

THE LOSS ON CARGO ESTIMATED AT $750,000.

The cargo carried by the Abyssinia was the largest and probably the most valuable she had ever taken out of this port.

The value of the goods is not stated by the shippers in the bills of lading, but a conservative estimate places the loss on goods at $750,000. The vessel was valued at $250,000, making the total loss $1,000,000.

Agent Gibson said that the shippers would lose nothing, as the cargo was all insured, but he could not state in which companies nor give the amount of the risks, as shippers place their own insurance.

WAS CONSIDERED A LUCKY VESSEL.

The Abyssinia was the most inferior vessel of the Guion line fleet, yet she was considered the luckiest, and heretofore had never met with any serious accident.

The Alaska is acknowledged to be the best and fleetest vessel of the line, and the Arizona is considered second best.

At the office of the North German Lloyd line, 2 Bowling Green, it was said that no definite information had been received as to whether the Spree had rescued and taken on board the Abyssinia's passengers. There was no doubt, however, in the minds of the officials of the line that she had.

THINKS THE SPREE PICKED THEM UP.

"The Spree must have picked them up," said one of the Company's officials.

"The Abyssinia was burned in latitude 49 N., longitude 29 W. That is about 800 miles from Queenstown, I should say.

"The Spree was in that locality late Saturday afternoon, and this indicates that she was near enough to have picked up the Abyssinia's passengers on that day, although the ship might have been burned before that."

LUBRICATING OIL FED THE FLAMES.

As the cargo included several hundred barrels of lubricating oil and a large quantity of wood and cotton, it is supposed that the fire broke out in the hold somewhere among these articles, and that owing to the combustible nature of the material the flames spread so rapidly that they soon got beyond control.

In such cases the order is usually given to abandon the ship, and steamship men think that the passengers were gotten off in time to avoid a panic.

Passed a British Steamer, Whose Machinery Was Disabled.

[BY ASSOCIATED PRESS.]

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The North German Lloyd steamer Spree, Capt. Willigerod, from New York, Dec. 15, for Bremen, which passed the Scilly Islands this morning, reported that she passed the British steamer Iona, Capt. Leicester, which sailed from Sunderland Nov. 24, via West Hartlepool Dec. 7, for Baltimore, in latitude 49 north, longitude 29 west, with her machinery disabled.

BLAINE AS A CANDIDATE.

And Absence of Politics from the Elkins Appointment.

[SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Of all the reports concerning the purpose or intentions of Mr. Blaine with regard to the Republican nomination for the Presidency in 1892 that brought by THE WORLD to-day is accepted as most authoritative and exact.

Many other declarations have been based on rumor and speculation. THE WORLD'S announcement bears that impress which stamps it as conveying facts. It is accepted as making certain that Mr. Blaine is a candidate for the nomination and has determined to stand.

THE WORLD'S story is eagerly discussed here in all its particulars, especially with reference to Mr. Blaine's skilful disentanglement of himself from all alliances with the capitalists Stephen B. Elkins, Andrew Carnegie and William Walter Phelps, which he at first thought advantageous, but afterwards found embarrassing in his campaign of 1888.

Much comment is caused, too, by the revelations as to "the family's" influence in leading President Harrison to give an eye to future and ex-Presidential considerations in favoring Mr. Elkins with a Cabinet position. That the new Secretary of War might be a Harrison choice to business ends rather than a Blaine choice to political ends proved a new and startling idea to many a politician here who had considered himself a shrewd guesser.

Gives His Employees a Dinner.

Fred P. Morris, General Manager of the Long Island News Company, will to-night entertain his company's employees at dinner at his home in Flushing, to commemorate the twenty-second anniversary of his connection with the business.

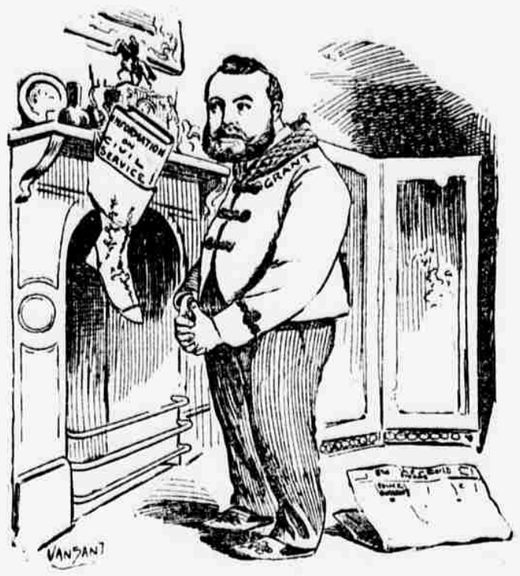
A Square Deal
Is what you get when you buy NABOB CHEWING TOBACCO in leatherette pouches. Five cents. *,*

Tar, Licorice and Tolu Wafers.
Best remedy for throat troubles. Y. & S. Mfrs. *,*

The Game of "INNOCENCE ABROAD."
Do not forget to get it for the children. It is a Christmas present worth having. *,*

The J. Chr. G. Hupfel Brewing Co.'s MANHATTAN BEER. Malt and Hops only. 229 E. 53d st. *,*

CHRISTMAS STOCKING SERIES.
No. 2.



LAST EDITION.

FLORENCE A MASON.

Mystic Shrine Proclaims Honors to the Dead Actor Noble.

Does It Disprove the Alleged Death-Bed Renunciation?

His Record and High Standing in the Ancient Mystic Order.

In spite of the fact that the dignitaries of the Roman Catholic Church were satisfied that William J. Florence had renounced Freemasonry; in spite of the fact that in recognition of the dead actor's peace with the Roman Church he was accorded the funeral rites of that faith at St. Agnes's Church in East Forty-third street, and a solemn mass of requiem was sung at the Baltimore Cathedral for the repose of his soul by order of Cardinal Gibbons—notwithstanding these facts Florence is now said to have died a Freemason, in full membership in that ancient secret order.

It has been stated that William J. Florence had abandoned masonry some years before his death; that he had attended no meetings of the order in which he had achieved so much prominence, and had in many ways signified his desire to make peace with his Church.

But a secret proclamation, printed below, addressed by the Imperial Council of the Ancient Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America to the subordinate Temples of this pinnacle degree in the Masonic pyramid, shows that when Mr. Florence died he was considered by the craft to be in full fellowship.

To be in good standing as an Illustrious Noble he must have been in good standing with his Blue Lodge, and in all the succeeding and advanced degrees up to the very highest.

This secret proclamation came to Mecca Temple, of this city, of which Florence had been a member ever since its organization.

It is said that William J. Florence was, with Dr. Walter M. Fleming, the founder of the Order in America. The proclamation, interspersed with Arabic writing and beginning with a salutation to God, is as follows:

ES SELAMU ALEIKUM.

شرقي الكبير

THE
IMPERIAL COUNCIL.

مجلس السلطاني

ANCIENT ARABIC ORDER
OF THE
NOBLES OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE

FOR NORTH AMERICA.

اشراف المسجد سنى

FLORENCE

العضو خاقان عربي

NOBILITY OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

لاجل اميركا شمالي

PROCLAMATION

EMANATING FROM THE CONGRESS, IMPERIAL COUNCIL, ANCIENT ARABIC ORDER NOBLES OF THE MYSTIC SHRINE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

To all Illustrious Potentates, Rabbans and Noble Shareefs Throughout the Jurisdiction of the Western Hemisphere:

AFFLICTION; DISTRESS; SORROW!

Illustrious Noble William J. Florence, 32, Grand Shareef of Mecca Temple and Representative of Temples in the East, under the domain of the Crescent, is dead.

Our esteemed Noble died in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., on Leylet el Jumaah, the seventeenth day of the Arabic month of Rabih ul Akhir, A. H., 1309, corresponding to the 19th day of November, 1891.

"Glory to Him, Who transported His servant to the Unseen Temple."

You are hereby commanded, Imperial and Subordinate, for the full term of the next three crescent moons after this mandate, within the Mystic Sanctuaries of the Shrine, in accordance with the ancient Oriental custom, to drape your Altars and Tombs with the insignia of mourning, and let the symbolic Funeral Urn be placed upon the Sacred Black Stone, there to exhale incense during all ceremonials, and each and all of you to wear the customary emblems of mourning for the required term.

Also, inscribe upon your Temple records notice of the same. Executive action on memorial will be taken under the auspices of the Imperial Body at its next annual session, as prescribed for its illustrious dead.

In obedience to Supreme Decree.

SAM. BRIGGS, 33°,
Imperial Potentate, Cleveland, O.

Frank M. Luce, 33°,
Imperial Recorder, Chicago, Ill.

It was in 1870 that Mr. Florence, returning from a vacation in the Orient, broached the subject of the organization of an American branch of the great Arabic order of mystery.

He had been a Master Mason many years. He was a Knight Templar (Sixteenth Degree), and had advanced through the other Masonic degrees up to the Thirty-second. Dr. Fleming joined him, and Mecca Temple was founded in