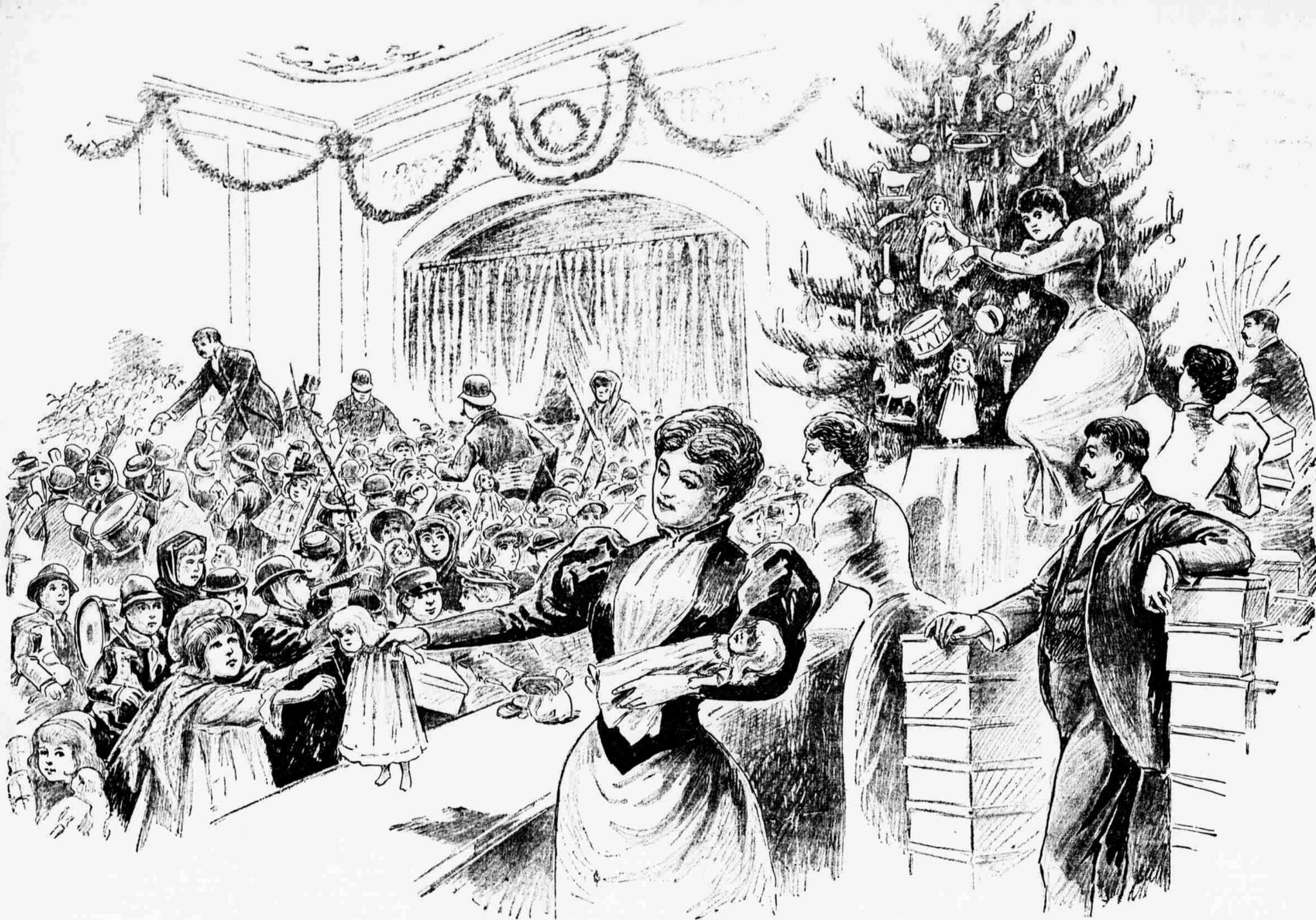


# ONE OF THE POOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREES.



## Distributing the Gifts Provided by "The Evening World's" Readers.

As if to make atonement for the hard times Dame Nature appeared with the most genial smiles this morning, and the day, as mild as in April, has been especially fine for the children of the poor who have depended upon "The Evening World's" Santa Claus for their Christmas joys.

He is a mighty fine fellow, this St. Nick, of "The Evening World," thanks to the generous-hearted readers who contribute to his Christmas fund. He was in seven places at once to-day, and many thousands of his dearest little children were out bright and early to see him. Santa Claus has a host of lovely daughters, too, and they helped at the seven "Evening World" Christmas trees with smiling faces and hearty good wishes, and they were as kind as they bestowed the good old Santa's gifts upon these lainers from back tenements.

Wan-faced, weary mothers, with toddlers at their skirts and their work-arms full of smiles and hearty good wishes, and discouraged fathers with their little ones, forgotten by Santa Claus at home, but remembered beautifully by the old fellow at these gathering places.

Big girls led little ones and big boys helped their smaller brothers to find their way through the crowds and get to the place where Kris Kringle's gifts were distributed Christmas joy.

The readers who have given so generously cannot imagine, till they have had one experience, the amount of work and patience and trouble expended by other gentle-hearted people in preparing these festivals of pleasure for the babies of Poverty Row. Besides the cases and cases of toys, dolls, sheep, pigs, goats, drums, horses, jumping-jacks, whips, Noah's arks, tea sets, kitchen sets, mittens, warm stockings, little coats, jackets, shirt waists, caps and what not, purchased with no small contribution by the readers and added to by the editor of "The Evening World," there were other cases by the score of toys and crackers, clothing, books, candles, crackers, cookies, doughnuts, nuts and the like sent in by donors who give frequently without so much as a mark to show who was the giver.

All these had to be divided up among the seven trees, five in New York, one in Brooklyn and one in Jersey City, and when it is considered that there were thousands and thousands of gifts to be distributed of toys, surely, and articles of wear when they seemed to be needed, besides a box of candy, nuts and crackers to each poor child, some idea of the work done by these volunteer ladies and gentlemen may be had.

All the work of preparation has been going on for three weeks at "The Evening World's" Christmas-Tree Headquarters,

104 and 108 East Twenty-third street. Those who have labored there by day and till 10 or 11 o'clock at night include Miss Marguerite St. John, the beautiful English actress; Master Henry Levy, the already famous young pianist; Miss Margery Wood, Walter J. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Keith, Mrs. Augustus Whiting, Mrs. Corry Childs and Mr. Ellis.

The ladies who assisted Miss St. John were Mrs. Beatrice Corry Childs, Miss Bertha Wilby, Mrs. John Glendinning, Miss Annie Kelle and Nellie Sullivan, Miss Marie Carlin, Mrs. Queenie Vassar Lynch, Miss Florence Throp, Mrs. Throp, Miss Helen Fernandez, Miss Mary Mary, Miss Marie Smith and Miss Lennie Julian.

Outside the counters was a committee of gentlemen, who guided the children into the hall by one door, saw that each received gifts from the supply, and then guided them out at another door to the street again. This committee included Royal Keith, John Glendinning, the singing actor, T. Sydney Lambert, the comedian, Henry Levy, the pianist; Walter J. Brooks, the well-known English actor, and Herr Fred Lubin, the professional.

Up in the gallery conductor Emil Schenck and thirty-five members of that famous organization of St. Mark's place, the symphony orchestra of New York, discoursed sweetest music while the children marched in, got their gifts and retired.

Harlem Opera-House, One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and 85th avenue, 8:30 to 10:30 o'clock, by the kindness of Oscar Hammerstein, of generous heart.

American Theatre, Eighth avenue and Forty-second street, 8:30 to 10:30 o'clock, through the goodness of T. Henry French, Clarendon Hall, Thirtieth street, between Third and Fourth avenues, 8:30 to 11:30 o'clock.

Central Opera-House, Sixty-seventh street, east of Third avenue, 8:30 to 11:30 o'clock.

New Irving Hall, 214 Broome street, 9 to 11 o'clock.

Clarendon Hall, Brooklyn, 9 to 12 o'clock.

Office of the Overseer of the Poor, 14 Bright street, Jersey City, 9 to 11 o'clock.

fume and laden with Christmas fruit, there were beautiful dolls, tiny drums, tin horns, vari-colored balls and gewgaws of all kinds. Forming a square about this ear, arranged tables heaped high with all sorts of delights for juvenile hearts. Then again, outside of that was another counter, and between the tables and counters were a levy of beautiful girls and good women, ready for the eager, clamorous throng that filled Thirtieth street almost from Third to Fourth avenue, while every street in the neighborhood was the scene of processions of hungry children, bound for "The Evening World's" Christmas Tree.

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of anxious, eager, expectant or frightened fatherlessness, as they surged into the hall in spite of the efforts of the policemen outside and the Committee-men inside and then emerged, the girls hugging rose-colored dolls to their ragged bosoms, the boys blowing their lungs out on tin horns, beating drums or boasting about their stuffed horses, tin canines and what not, and all munching candy and laughing gleefully.

### JOY IN THE CLERMONT RINK.

Thousands of poor children in Brooklyn crowded into the Clermont Avenue Rink at 9 o'clock this morning to receive toys, clothing and food from their Santa Claus—"The Evening World's" Christmas Tree.

The children, many of whom were accompanied by their parents, poured through the doors and divided on both sides of the galleries.

Before 7 o'clock they began to gather in front of the entrance of the rink, on Clermont avenue. By 8:30, a half-hour before the doors were thrown open, there were fully five hundred children clamoring for admittance.

They were poor children in every sense of the word. Some of them were barely clad. One little fellow, named Archie Davids, a lad seven years old, came in with his bare feet. He was given a fine new pair of shoes, three pairs of warm woolen stockings, a woolen undershirt, coat and fur hat with ear caps, besides receiving the amount of toys and candies which were given to the other children.

Every little girl and boy that was scantily clad was given clothing, some of them were placed on the platform and dressed from head to foot.

The decorations were donated by Frederick Albrecht, the well-known Brooklyn musician, who had a fine collection of Solomon's Orchestra, consisting of twelve pieces, led by Charles G. Solomon, of 52 Myrtle avenue, played all the National and popular airs, and the children joined in the choruses with a will.

The Christmas tree was decorated even more artistically than in former years, and the limbs were bent down almost to the floor with dolls, Ferris wheels, horns, Noah's arks, drums and toys of all descriptions.

The decorations were principally the work of Miss Edith Ackerman, who, with other ladies, spent all yesterday afternoon making preparations for the reception of the children.

Mr. Norman L. Munro, who donated the use of the rink, was present all the morning, to see that the attaches of his property gave every assistance for the comfort and pleasure of the poor little children.

Mr. Norman L. Munro, the bright young woman reporter of "The Evening World," was among the ladies who had supervision of the Christmas tree in Brooklyn. She labored herself in providing the little ones with huge stacks of toys and candy, and sent them away with light hearts and smiling faces.

Each boy was given a rag-born—the little ones trumperies—Ferris wheel, tin-canine, a game, such as tempus, horse, darkey, targets, swords, jack-in-the-box and a big box of candy.

The hearts of the little girls were made glad with pretty dolls, sweet biscuits, clothing, dolls, dresses and two big boxes of candy.

There was no restraint placed upon the children. The boys were permitted to romp about the floor blowing their horns, beating the drums and shouting merry Christmas until the neighborhood resounded with the echo of their demonstrations of happiness.

The case of little Mickey Dougherty was pathetic in the extreme. Mickey is a cripple, and as he is obliged to use crutches he did not dare to rush in with his stronger brothers when the doors were opened.

In the crowd of children were many poor men and women, who were taken care of by the thoughtfulness of the many merchants who had donated food and clothing for adults along with their toys and candies. The women were given hosiery and underwear, and among the men were distributed shoes, trousers, coats and hats.

When Mickey reached the tree he was crying as though his heart would break, because, he said, "all the good things were gone."

Miss Ackerman took Mickey in charge, and fitted him out in a brand-new suit, underwear, shoes, stockings, and a cap with a good lace band around it. This cap pleased Mickey more than the big box of toys he was given. Later the little fellow was found crying because he couldn't carry home the toys and food on account of his crutches. One of the ladies volunteered to go home with Mickey, and he left the rink, possibly, the happiest of the little folk.

A feature of the distribution was a big candy church, which was donated by Leon H. Leach, sexton and undertaker, of 142 Third avenue, New York.

The candy church was broken up and the pieces distributed among the children.

As the toys were distributed each child was asked if there was anything at home who wanted something. If they answered yes, as they invariably did, they were given an extra box of candy and extra toys.

There were 5,000 dolls, 2,000 books, 3,000 trumpets, 1,000 drums, 500 pieces of clothing, 5,000 boxes of candy, 2,000 books, 3,000 fancy masks and 100 drums distributed among the crowd during the first hour, and when the last child had received his or hers there were still a number of dolls, boxes of candy and other toys left over. Nothing had been left of the tree.

Manager Perry, of the Edison Electric Light Company, had come prepared to illuminate the tree with electric lights, but the tree was so heavily laden with good things it was decided not to change the idea.

poor children holding the bogus tickets, which had been sent out by persons not in authority.

It was afterwards learned that fully 500 children had come in on these tickets.

The following ladies were on the committee, which had worked with untiring zeal for "The Evening World's" Christmas tree: Miss Viola Wilcom, Mrs. Virgie Wilcom, Miss Stella Van Buren, Mrs. Clara Ackerman, Miss Edith Ackerman, Mrs. M. Seales, Miss Mulliner, Miss Jessie Rich, Miss Maud Baker, Miss Marguerite Jenkins, Miss Lily

The gentlemen who assisted the ladies were: Capt. Downs, Harry Dater, George C. Conklin, Frederick Briggs, A. V. Tenney, Charles V. Dupont, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Morton, Charles Weir and M. H. Ramey.

To Mr. Edward J. Shea is due the credit of managing the distribution of presents with success, and carrying out the arrangements which had been made by the ladies and gentlemen for "The Evening World's" Christmas Tree.

The little children and their parents came from various parts of the city free, through the kindness of Secretary Boardman of the Brooklyn City Railroad Company.

Mr. Boardman had issued orders to all conductors of the various lines of the Company to pass all persons bearing admission tickets to "The Evening World's" Christmas Tree at the rink.

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Boyer, Dooley, and Foley, who could scarcely keep an open space at the entrance, which was to be thrown open at 9:30 o'clock.

Before 9 o'clock, however, the crowd had grown to such formidable proportions, and was surging back and forward so impatiently that J. E. Whitley, chairman of the committee in charge of the tree, decided not to wait until the appointed time. The doors were accordingly thrown open.

No invitation to enter was required. With a mighty shout the vast army of children threw itself forward and in a jiffy filled all the open hallways, and corridors and staircases of the big building to their utmost capacity.

The large hall, where stood the glittering Christmas tree, was, of course, the Mecca into which each child strove to get first.

The tree was a thing of beauty. Its myriad lights made it shine like the sun, and filled each little heart with a joy not felt since last year's "Evening World's" Christmas tree.

A momentary pause, long enough to give vent to an exclamation of delight, and the host rushed at the blazing pyramid.

Then began the task of the Committee. Toys, hobbles, jumping jacks, whistles, Noah's arks, tinpans, tin boxes, checker boards and checkers, dishes, candies, fancy crackers, tin, chess, school utensils and a hundred other kinds of toys and useful articles were given out to each holder of a ticket.

There were also, now and then, grown folks to be served. These were mostly women in the last stages of destitution. To these were given, in addition to toys for their children, articles of clothing for themselves and their husbands.

When, finally, at 9:30 o'clock the doors were thrown open the flood of little ones burst into the hall, and the shout of joy from the hundreds of throats at the sight of the tree, sent a deafening echo through the hall.

At the foot of the platform extending the full length of the hall stood the two loaded down with good things. On the platform was a row of tables all heaped full of toys, candies and nuts.

Mrs. J. G. Miller, of 185 Madison avenue, had charge of the distribution, and was assisted by twenty young men and women, who for two hours had their hands full.

The boys, many of them newboys, received these toys each as they filed up to the point of distribution. They grabbed their presents, and with a shout of glee and homely gratitude they ambled out of the side door.

with him feelings of gratitude for the generous souls who had contributed to relieve the dreariness of Christmas for these unfortunates.

### AT THE HARLEM TREE.

Joy, Gayety and Gratitude Manifested at Harlem Opera-House.

As early as 8 o'clock this morning children began to crowd the steps leading to the Harlem Opera-House, where "The Evening World's" Christmas Tree was set up and where the distribution of toys and good things was made.

An hour later there was one mass of heads extending from the top of the long steps to the middle of the street. The boys jostled and pushed each other good-naturedly, while on the faces of the girls there was a look of patient expectancy.

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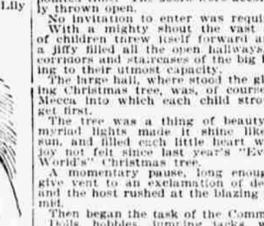
MARGUERITE ST. JOHN.



MARY SHAW.



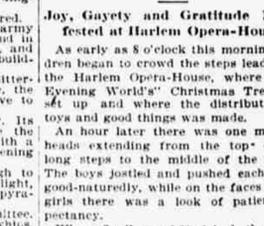
FLORENCE THROP.



QUEENIE VASSAR LYNCH.



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