

BEGGARS' MERRY CHRISTMAS

THEY BLOW IN \$10,000 OR SO ALONG THE BOWERY.

Some of the stars missing for seasons of state, but the Undertaker, Dublin Johnny and Prince Rudolph appear at Peg Leg's with the Black Hoods.

The floggers and the plingers and the yegmen, the lords of the craft, celebrated a white Christmas last night in the Old Tree, Peg Leg's dump at 20 Bowery.

The Undertaker, the solemnest scamp in beggardon, slapped the side pocket of his disreputable overcoat and winked at old Mendelssohn, who sat with Dublin Johnny Armstrong and Denver Kitty, a shell of beer at his right hand, his fiddle at his left.

"Kid," said the Undertaker, "she was worth a cent a flake."

The Nut, an old second story man who turned square guy after he broke an ankle pulling off a job up in Buffalo two years ago, limped into the back room, scattering the sawdust with a few fancy steps.

The Nut was as gay as any, for he knew that serving mixed ale and beer to the panhandlers on Christmas night would be as profitable as a job in the interior.

"I'll be wit' yuh in a minute," said the Nut slyly, "and don't get too fresh or I'll poke some of you dead ones right on the conk. Big Spanish is down with a couple of rags and buyin' wine like one them Astors."

Old Mendelssohn laid aside his eye patch and his blue spectacles, plinked the strings of his fiddle until his ear told him that it was in perfect time, and began to play very softly "The Wearing of the Green." The Undertaker kept time to the swing of the music, tapping the door with his crutch, a crutch that is worth its weight in silver to the dismal rasoul.

The beggars and the thieves were silent a little while, for old Mendelssohn is a musician of real talent. You may have seen him some time at Twenty-third street and Broadway fiddling silver into his tin cup, his eyes cunningly turned up behind his blue spectacles.

Denver Kitty began to cry and the Undertaker brought the music to an end with a vicious smash of his crutch.

"Can it!" growled the Undertaker. "If you can't tear off somethin' cheerful you can beat to some other drum. That's all. We ain't workin' to-night. C'mere you Nut!"

The Nut took the order and served beer all around, the Undertaker paying the shot out of an overcoat pocket stuffed with the takings of the day, a heap of small silver and copper. Old Mendelssohn brought and so did Denver Kitty, reaching into her stocking for a roll of bills. It has been a mighty good season for Kitty.

Her graft is playing the widow in distress. Maybe you've noticed the street and alley woman in the plain black dress who wept and said she had lost her pocketbook in an subway and just had to get back to Paterson or Bridgeport or there would be a terrible time at home. Chicago Annie, who came in later with her friend, Fiddler Sam, had been working the good old Southern home pipe and was as merry as a mink.

It's a good lay, that old Southern home pipe, and Chicago Annie's story of the old and her daughter in Georgia who had written to her daughter to come home for Christmas because it was probably the last Christmas they would ever be together gathered round in many a dollar from good hearted folk who don't know the ways of the plingers.

If you had gone to the Old Tree and met by The Nut with the street and alley whistle you would have seen just how merry the panhandlers made over the white Christmas. But both the Word and the Whistle were necessary to get the reasons why the Word can't be told, but the Whistle is a double chirp, rapidly—Pfft! Pfft! like that. The next time a plinger sidles up to you, the street and alley whines for a dime give him the Pfft! Pfft! He will back away in a hurry, recognizing you for one of the craft, no matter how respectable you may look.

Without these signs of fellowship you would have seen in Peg Leg's grimy, smoke clouded backroom only a collection of singularly unpleasant characters, who were drinking beer, speaking sometimes maybe in the curious guttersome, half a wimper and half a growl, that is peculiar to the beggar folk. With them you would have seen the plingers as they really are, with all the properties of their trade in their hands. The Undertaker said: "It's a damned fine thing to be able to shed eye patches and fake wooden legs and bandages and straighten some that look fearfully crooked and malformed to the unmedicated eye."

As the night went on and The Nut made trip after trip from the bar to the backroom, balancing his sloppy tray like a juggler, but spilling more jokes than beer by a good sight, the plingers got bolder and livelier, and sometimes the jovial Nut had to throw the tray up in the air on the racket. There was no reason, the Nut said, why they couldn't be ladies and gents, or why they should start a rough house.

The deaf and dumb flogger of Twenty-third street, Dublin Johnny Armstrong, "Ireland's Prince" they call him because he is a spender when he's got the craps, three cents and nickels to the Black Hoods—the evil looking old women who live in sixes and sevens in nests on the lower West side and go about representing, sometimes, sisters of charity. The Prince sang as he scattered the coppers and the Black Hoods cackled and giggled.

"Ain't he a wonder, that guy?" said the Undertaker. "He does that every Christmas just to be hellin'." Then skirts has got as much coin as Johnny at the game. Memphis Dutchy, who always winters in New York and takes the road with the first warm weather to practise his profession of crib cracking, started a crap game on the one round topped table back in the far corner. There isn't a hotter sport in the business than Memphis Dutchy, and he likes to shoot for regular money. He drew into the game the Man With The Yellow Dog (that's all the name he has so far as anybody was ever able to find out, and he got the name around always faking blindness, with a yellow dog trotting by his side). Chl Slim dropped into the play and presently the horses were rattling around the table from Memphis Dutchy to Saginaw Red. Bitterly Jack—hopeless paralytic in the light of day—laid Tooth English, Hoboken Dick and Tim Leg.

"I'm shootin' for a dollar," said Memphis calmly. "Who's fadin' me?" They took him for a dollar apiece around the table and Memphis was collecting a catchful of change. Once a row started over a cracked dice, and The Nut jumped in and stamped out the budding fight. There were a couple of dangerous weapons lying handy—heavy wooden legs and stout crutches—and somebody's head would have been broken surely, but it never got that far.

"Just be nice," said the Nut, "be nice, that's all I sat. Memphis, you owe her the last round."

Now and then somebody dropped out of the game and a newcomer took his place, but it went right on and Memphis was collecting a catchful of change. Once a row started over a cracked dice, and The Nut jumped in and stamped out the budding fight. There were a couple of dangerous weapons lying handy—heavy wooden legs and stout crutches—and somebody's head would have been broken surely, but it never got that far.

"Just be nice," said the Nut, "be nice, that's all I sat. Memphis, you owe her the last round."

Now and then old Mendelssohn, who never moved from his chair at the back reached for his fiddle and played a tune that set the plingers tapping the floor with their feet. Broken Back Schmiddy, really a cripple, sang with a good voice to old Mendelssohn's accompaniment, and occasionally the Boson, who works Park row in a second hand navy uniform, joined in with his bass. And through it all the Nut made trip after trip serving beer, for money was plentiful, and there were few of the plingers who were too stingy to treat. It was easy money, and they knew where there is a lot more of it.

There were three of the craft that were badly missed last night at Peg Leg's. Blind Berkowitz was one. The police grabbed Berkowitz and sent him to the island for the holidays. He's the fopper you must have seen at Thirty-fourth street and Broadway. He is said to have four wives and \$50,000. Berkowitz is really blind, but he brought it on himself by "throwing up" his eyes so that only the whites would show.

A. Jaeckel & Co.
Fifth Avenue & Co.
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Will place on sale Monday at greatly reduced prices, remainder of IMPORTED MODELS Together with large assortment of our own exclusive designs in long coats of

ERMINE, CHINCHILLA, BROADTAIL, CARACUL and HUDSON SEAL.

Full length Pony Coats, \$50, \$65, \$85 and \$100
Hudson Seal (Musquash) plain at \$125
Hudson Seal (Musquash) Russian Collar of Skunk \$200 up

NECK SCARFS and MUFFS
RUSSIAN and HUDSON BAY SABLES
NATURAL BLUE and SILVER FOX
FISHER AND SKUNK
at most attractive prices

Third Floor Devoted to Ladies' and Men's Fur-Lined Coats, Auto Garments and Robes

384 FIFTH AVENUE BETWEEN 35th AND 36th STREETS
TELEPHONE 2044-MURRAY HILL

Called Her a Snow Baby.

A baby girl of 2 months, dressed from top to toe in snow white garments, was abandoned last night in the alleyway of Mrs. Amelia Walker's boarding house at 117 Wayne street, Jersey City. It was found by Mrs. Walker's maid, who took it in. Mrs. Walker kept it over night. To-day the "snow baby," as they dubbed it, will be taken by the police to a Jersey City hospital.

Eight Portraying Puritan Scenes to Be Unveiled in Brooklyn Church To-day.

After the morning services to-day the eight new lower windows in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, which, like the eight upper windows that were unveiled two years ago, deal with the influence of Puritanism, will be unveiled by the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, the pastor.

The pictures are the work of Frederick Stymetz Lamb and were made from the best authenticated historical portraits. One of the windows, the theme of which is "Roger Williams and Personal Liberty," was presented by Lord Northcliffe in recognition of the gift of the Shakespeare window to the church at Stratford by the American people. The donors of some of the other windows are Mrs. W. D. Munson, Mrs. Rufus Bush, Messrs. F. W. Starr, F. L. Ferguson and F. W. Kneeland.

WAGES VOLUNTARILY RAISED.

Pittsburg Master Builders Increase Pay of Carpenters 50 Cents a Day.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 25.—Without a suggestion from the workmen the Master Builders Association to-day voted unanimously to increase the wages of carpenters from \$9.50 to \$4 a day. The increase goes into effect April 15 next. The date was set forward so as to prepare all prospective builders for the advance. The advance was granted because of the increased cost of living.

Gifford Pinchot to Speak in New Rochelle To-day.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, left Washington to-night for New Rochelle, N. Y., where he will speak to-morrow at 3 P. M., before the People's Forum on "Conservation." Sir Horace Plunkett will preside.

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Heretofore on Christmas night the aristocrats of the profession had dropped down to the Bowery to mix with the gang. But Klondike Jean Dawson and his pal, Kid McCoy, are doing time. There was some question in their case about the ownership of a satchel which disappeared from the Grand Central Station, and Klondike and the Kid failed to prove their case. However, Big Spanish and Prince Rudolph turned their backs on the lights of uptown and mingled democratically with the gang in Peg Leg's. Prince Rudolph, an Austrian, is known as a high roller among the rakers, a slick hand at steno or in a poker game. His graft is getting a phony check cashed or negotiating a small loan. The big hotels know the Prince. As for Big Spanish, he has one of the cleverest grafts in town. He's a red hot revolutionist from any Central American or South American republic you please. Big Spanish collects cash that dictators may be overthrown. He organized a junta once all by himself and was making it pay like a gold mine when the charity people tipped off some real Venezuelans. They scared Big Spanish all the way down through his six feet one. But he is one of the face cards of the craft.

The main Christmas party was at the Old Tree, Peg Leg's, but the celebration spread itself more or less all over the Bowery and Park row, getting as far north as the Dead House, up in Third avenue near Twenty-third street. The gang took in "President" Flynn's dump at 8 Bowery, Diamond Dan, O'Rourke's

be the purpose of President Taft, through the medium of the bill to be presented by Senator Beveridge, to strengthen the hands of Gov. Clark and give him and his advisers more power.

The administration bill will place governmental control in a Governor and a council to consist of an Attorney-General, a Commissioner of the Interior, a Commissioner of Mines and a Commissioner of Education and Health. These five persons are to constitute the permanent government, a limited degree of popular representation will be provided in the election of four Representatives, one from each judicial district of the Territory, who will sit with the Executive Council for sixty days every year for the purpose of making Territorial laws. Each member of the Executive Council and each legislator will have a vote. The Governor will preside over this Assembly and will have the right to veto the bills of the Assembly in the event of a tie. The Governor also will have the right to veto enactments of the Assembly.

All acts passed by the Governor and his councilors will be subject to review and approval or disapproval by the President of the United States. Under the bill the President's principal interest has been in Alaska. For a good many years delegations from that far off region have appeared in Washington during every Congress session to urge that the Territory be admitted to full Territorial privileges with a Legislature of its own. As a result of this agitation Congress enacted a law granting the citizens of Alaska the right to elect a Delegate to Congress, but declined to permit the Territory to have an elective legislative assembly.

Recently the agitation for a legislative assembly has been renewed with vigor, but Mr. Taft put a damper on the endeavors of the Alaskans by declaring in a speech which he delivered at Seattle while on his 19,000 mile journey that conditions in Alaska were such as to make a legislative form of government unsuitable. This speech was delivered shortly before Walter E. Clark was installed as Governor of Alaska. It had been made known that Mr. Clark had the entire confidence of Mr. Taft and that they intended to work in complete harmony for bettering the political situation in the Territory.

Mr. Taft has now reached the point where he is prepared to announce his policy with respect to bettering governmental conditions in Alaska. The announcement will be made shortly after Congress reassembles in January through a bill to be introduced by Senator Beveridge of Indiana, who is chairman of the Committee on Territories. This bill will have the endorsement of the Administration. Its provisions are known to Mr. Taft and have been approved by him.

In the President's opinion Alaska is occupied mainly by a nomadic population of such a character as to prevent any certainty of permanent residence in particular parts of the Territory. He believes that with such a population a complete legislative assembly would not be representative or desirable and that what Alaska needs is a strong centralized government administered by comparatively few men. Under present conditions the Governor's powers are extremely limited and it is understood to

NEW GOVERNMENT FOR ALASKA

TAFT PLANS TO HAVE A MIXED COUNCIL.

With Four of Its Nine Members Elected—More Power for the Governor—The Agitation for a Legislative Assembly Not Approved—The Reasons Why.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Ever since Mr. Taft became President he has been studying conditions in some of the outlying Territories of the United States with a view to formulating a policy for their better government and control. He reached the conclusion early that the present form of government in Porto Rico was not suitable to that island and he was impressed also with the idea that the means by which Alaska is governed did not give the best results, but tended to retard the development of the Territory.

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Governor, whose present salary is \$5,000 a year, will receive a salary of \$10,000 a year. The four permanent members of the Executive Council are to receive salaries of \$7,500 each, and the Representatives of the judicial districts are to receive \$28 a day for the period of their legislative service.

The plan outlined in the bill is somewhat along the lines of the government administered in the Philippines under the Taft commission.

HOPE TO WIN SAGE GIFT.

Bible Society Has Six Days in Which to Raise \$149,408.98.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 25.—The Rev. C. S. J. Browne, secretary of the American Bible Society, announced to-day that \$350,000.00 of the \$500,000 that the organization must raise before January 1 has been collected. This leaves \$149,408.98 to be got within six days in order to obtain the \$500,000 which Mrs. Russell Sage promised to give if the society got an equal amount.

The \$1,000,000 is to be used to distribute the Bible in every home.

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B. Altman & Co.

5TH AVENUE, 34TH AND 35TH STREETS, NEW YORK

ANNOUNCE VERY LARGE REDUCTIONS IN THE PRICES OF RUSSIAN SABLE & SILVER FOX FURS

THERE WILL BE PLACED ON SALE TO-MORROW (MONDAY), DEC. 27th.

15,000 YARDS OF DRESS SILKS
IN WHITE AND EVENING SHADES,
CONSISTING OF CREPE DE CHINE, SOFT SATIN-FACED SILKS, LIBERTY SATINS, CREPE METEORS, ETC.
INCLUDED ARE THE FOLLOWING:

SATIN-FACE CREPE METEOR, 40 INCHES WIDE.
IN EVENING SHADES AND WHITE,
USUALLY \$3.50 PER YARD AT \$1.78

IMPORTED WHITE SATIN, 43 INCHES WIDE,
USUALLY \$2.75 PER YARD AT \$1.35

IMPORTED FAILLE, 21 INCHES WIDE,
USUALLY \$2.00 PER YARD AT 95c.

WHITE WASHABLE HABUTAI, 27 INCHES WIDE,
USUALLY \$1.25 PER YARD AT 68c.

IMPORTED SATIN MESSALINE, 19 INCHES WIDE,
IN EVENING SHADES AND WHITE,
USUALLY 75c. TO \$1.25 PER YARD AT 58c.

SPECIAL SALES OF DRESS LINEN AND REPP
FOR MONDAY, DEC. 27th, WILL COMPRISE,
6,000 YARDS OF FRENCH LINEN, 46 INCHES WIDE,
IN SHADES FOR SPRING AND SUMMER WEAR,
SOLD USUALLY FOR 65c. PER YARD AT 45c.

AND 8,000 YARDS IMPORTED WHITE COTTON REPP,
AT THE EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICE OF 16c. PER YARD

WOMEN'S SHOES AND SLIPPERS
THE REMAINDER OF SEVERAL DISCONTINUED LINES WILL BE ON SALE MONDAY, DEC. 27th,
AT LARGE REDUCTIONS FROM THE ORIGINAL PRICES.

WOMEN'S MADE-UP GOWNS
SUITABLE STYLES IN READY MADE GOWNS ARE SHOWN FOR AFTERNOON AND EVENING USE, COMPRISING SELECT MODELS, MANY OF WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVE FOR THEATRE WEAR, DINNER DANCES, ETC.

A NUMBER OF READY-TO-WEAR TAILOR-MADE SUITS AND DRESSES ARE BEING OFFERED AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

ALTERATIONS WILL BE MADE AT SHORT NOTICE, IF DESIRED.

Fifth Avenue, 34th and 35th Streets, New York.

L. P. Hollander & Co.
Fifth Avenue, at 26th Street.

Great Annual Clearance Sale
Commencing (To-Morrow) Monday, Dec. 27th,

CUSTOMERS WILL NOT RECEIVE BILLS FOR GOODS BOUGHT DURING THIS SALE, TILL FEBRUARY 1.

Tailored Suits
\$25.00 to \$75.00.
Were \$50 to \$150.

Wool Coats
\$25.00 to \$50.00,
Were \$45 to \$85.

Coats
Made of Steamer Rugs
\$50.00
Were \$135.

Elegant Fur Coats
Unusual Models,
Less Than Cost

Balance of our **Evening and Dinner Gowns** marked very low \$65.00 to \$225.00
Were \$125 to \$400.

Women's and Children's Hats,
Now \$3, \$5, \$10.

Very beautiful **Fur Sets, Muff and Boa,**
From \$100.00
Were from \$250.

Small lot **Summer Coats and Suits**
Very cheap.

Misses' Party Dresses
of silk, chiffon, net and lingerie.
\$25.00
Were \$50 to \$75.

Misses' School Dresses,
\$18.00
Were \$35 and \$40.

Odd Lot Children's Linen, Pique and Lingerie Dresses
From \$7.50,
Were \$20 to \$35.

Lot Leather Belts
25 Cents
Were \$1 to \$2.

Separate Waists
tailor made, of dimity and handkerchief linen,
\$5.00
Were \$10 to \$18.

China Silk Waists,
hand made,
\$10.00
Were \$20 to \$25.

Chiffon Waists,
black and colors,
\$10.00
Were \$22 to \$30.

Lot Imported Waists
marked less than cost.

POSITIVELY NO GOODS SENT ON APPROVAL OR EXCHANGED DURING SALE