GIFTS TO BLIND CHILDREN.

THEIR IDEAS OF CHRISTMAS TREES AND SANTA CLAUS.

Such Trees Measure in Their Minds All the Way From Four Stories in Height Down to a Few Feet—Some Things They Hope to Find in Their Stockings.

Twenty-five sightless children gathered about a Christmas tree on Saturday the magnitude of which they could not appreciate and the beauty of whose decorations and the pretty gifts which filled its branches they could not see. It was the first real Christmas tree that the little children of the Blind Babies' Home, at Eighty-fourth street and Thirteenth avenue, Brooklyn, had ever enjoyed. It is only a few months since this institution, which is the only one of the kind for babies and children under 8 years of age in the country, settled at its present location.

In one corner of the schoolroom on the first floor a big fir tree reared its head until it quite touched the schoolroom ceiling. Its boughs were hung with all the glittering things typical of the occasion. Besides this there were gifts for all the children, and these were presented after Christmas songs had been sung, recitations given and a pretty sunflower dance presented. Children who had mothers or fathers knew that their parents were sitting near by as guests, and that added to their happiness.

The shouts of joy with which the presents were received amply compensated the older folk for their efforts in fitting up the tree. With deft and rapid touch the little fingers of the children fluttered over the gifts as they were presented, and from the expression on their faces one could see that their little minds grasped the picture which their eyes could not paint.

"Oh," sighed Betsey, a little Greek, aged 5, who is the pet of the home, as a handsome rag doll was placed in her arms, "how boo-tiful," while she touched it gently from head to toe and then began to rock it to sleep.

"Humph, I'd rather have a nail file. Then I can clean my own nails," announced Cornelius, also a five-year-old, with a proud little swagger as he produced that toilet article in silver as his particular gift.

It was funny what different mental pictures the children had conjured up about the tree, Santa Claus and the holiday season in general, for when a reporter asked Annie, one of the brightest children, who is about 7, how big the tree was she remarked gravely as was her way:

"I should say it's about four stories high. At any rate it's very, very tall," and she turned her sightless eyes toward the ceiling in an endeavor to correctly imagine the height.

It's not," interrupted Howard, another five-year-old; "it's only four feet high."

"No, it's as high as this," chirruped a small four-year-old, holding up his chubby hands as high as he could over his head.

"I know, for once I went up to Central Park where Christmas trees grow and a man told me all about it."

"Well, I do know this," continued Annie slowly, "that it is a very large tree with branches that spread out about it and it has cycles [icicles] on it and little glass balls and——"

"Yes, and it has those things on what you pull and then it opens and you take out a hat," broke in Cornelius the towhead.

"Oh, Cornelius," chided Annie, "don't make so much noise," then she took up the thread of her discourse—"and I should say it grows out in the country, not in the city, for there wouldn't be room for it with all the big buildings."

"Girls don't know everything," pouted Cornelius, who had announced Central Park as the home of the Christmas tree. "You ask a policeman and he'll tell you it is so and Santa Claus sometimes stays there. Santa is a jolly little elf with green whiskers and a nose like a cherry.

"He's white," exclaimed Harold, eager to give his version, "and dressed all in fur from head to toes, and inside his hands are a lot of twinkling lights. I'm going to look for the lights on Christmas eve if I can keep awake."

"He always comes at 12 o'clock," remarked Annie, with the air of one settling the question and "every one is expected to be asleep."

"When you snore are you asleep?" queried Cornelius, the irrepressible in a burst of curiosity, to which no one payed any attention.

"I'm going to pretend I'm asleep," went on Annie, as though no one had spoken, "for you know," quaintly, "I can close my eyes when I'm not asleep sometimes."

To-morrow night all the blind children are going to hang up their stockings, and they have quite as many wishes as the same number of seeing children could possibly have.

"Would you mind writing a letter for me to Santa Claus?" queried Annie, with the depth of earnestness so characteristic of her. "And me," "And me," "And me" came from twenty different sources.

"You see, perhaps if you were to write it he might pay more attention to it than if I wrote it, for you are older and know how to write a letter better.

"I do want a real trunk very much indeed. Not a play trunk but one that I can keep my things in, and then I'd like any little thing to put in it; perhaps some dresses."

"And I want an iron," shouted Cornelius, breaking out again.

"An iron?" queried the reporter doubtfully.

"Oh, he means a little play iron—a flatiron," interrupted Annie.

"Yes, I want a little play iron, a wagon that winds and two horses and a little play stable."

Harold got his innings then with the words "I want a lion—a real one—and a lion stable and a cash register and a music box and a knife with two blades."

"Please ask Santa Claus to leave me a bureau, a trunk and a talking doll," requested Emma, and when a second Annie couldn't seem to formulate her wishes the elder Annie settled the matter for her by saying, "I think she would enjoy very much having a laundry set."

After the close of the Christmas celebration there were lots of good things to eat and the youngsters were put to bed, but not to sleep for several hours, so excited were they over the events of the afternoon. None of the children seemed to realize that they were different from other children, nor was there a complaint coming from one of them.

Miss Tregear, matron of the home, which is conducted by the International Sunshine Society, says that at no time do they appear to think themselves different, and that, so far as the images they create in their own minds, the pictures are probably far more beautiful than the reality, and if they were suddenly to be endowed with sight they would experience disappointment at the actual pictures.

There are some twenty-seven children in the home, a number of whom have gone to their own homes to spend the holidays. While a few of them have both parents living, the rest have but one or are total orphans. Until the establishment of this home there was no institution where blind children under 8 could be taken care of. As a consequence many of them came to the home very ignorant. Their parents were either too poor or had not the time either to teach them to help themselves or to teach them their letters. Most of the children are blind from illness, though one or two were born blind. One little fellow it is hoped may be operated on and his sight, if not restored, improved. He can see a trifle with one eye.

Concert of Liberati's Band.

Alessandro Liberati and his Italian military band, assisted by Irwin Eveleth Hassell, pianist, and Mme. Noldi, soprano, gave last night's Sunday concert at the Hippodrome. The audience expressed its pleasure vigorously and applauded especially Liberati's cornet solo, "The Pyramids," one of the leader's new compositions.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

A West Side junk dealer has for sale a fine looking old church bell, which he picked up at a smelting works where it had been purchased, along with other old metal, for melting. The old bell bears, in a circle of embossed letters running around it near the top, the names of its founders and the place and date of its casting: "Alfred Ives & Co., New York, 1844." Its weight is 340 pounds. The same dealer has an old and ornamentally wrought Spanish church bell that came from Cuba, this bell weighing 200 pounds. The price of the old Spanish bell is $100, and that of the old church bell cast in New York $125.

Lewis S. Chanler, the new Lieutenant-Governor, is a devotee of court tennis. He passes the weekends at Tuxedo and is then constantly in the tennis court. He holds his own very well on the court handicaps with T. Suffern Tailer, Richmond Talbot, Alfred Seton, Pierre Lorilland, Jr., and the others who use the court regularly. The Lieutenant-Governor has a fine stroke and sends the volleys as hard and straight as he marks a point in his speeches.

"One of the most interesting collections of autographs in this town is owned by a man who cultivated the art of kicking in order to secure them," said an autograph expert. "Every signature in the collection was appended to a letter written by some prominent person in reply to a complaint made by the indefatigable kicker. He complained about everything under the sun, to railroad presidents about delays on the road, to public officials about abuses in their system of managing public interests, to literary men and artists about shortcomings in their work, to actors and singers about some defect in a favorite rôle, and always his complaints were couched in such virile language as to win consideration and a reply, not from some secretary but from the celebrity whose autograph he coveted."

Lovers of fine animal skins would have been interested in the collection recently mounted at the workshop of a Seventh avenue taxidermist. They were all native animals, some half a dozen in number, and represented the fruits of a hunting expedition of President Roosevelt in the Rocky Mountains. He had sent them on here to be mounted for use in the White House. One of his injunctions to the taxidermist was to mount the heads flat as he declared he had too many "stumbling blocks" in the way of mounted heads already.

At one of New York's most select boarding schools for girls some of the pupils have formed a society for the abolition of slang and fine themselves ten cents for every slang word they use. One golden haired miss recently reported at the secretary's desk, in a silvery voice: "Thirty cents; two 'rottens' and a 'beastly.' "

SALVE FOR "JULIE BON BON."

The Judicious Doyle Liked the Vivacious Lipman, Anyhow.

Louis Mann, his wife, Clara Lipman, and the rest of the "Julie Bon Bon" company that went against an iceberg in London town got back home yesterday. Mr. Mann and his wife came on the Hamburg-American Line steamship Amerika and the others on the Atlantic Transport liner Minnehaha But they all arrived in Hoboken, because the Minnehaha was compelled to dock there, as the slip at the foot of Houston street was occupied.

Louis Mann was as cheerful as possible under the circumstances, and when one of his friends told him that it had been cold in New York Louis remarked that he didn't think that it could have been cold, comparatively speaking.

He was sorry that "Julie Bon Bon" did not take over there, because it showed him that the people had no appreciation of a good thing. After a week some of the audience did seem to be getting where they could appreciate it, but they were slow.

But Mr. Mann was greatly encouraged, for he said that he had made a hit with Sir Conan Doyle and at his request will play *Gregory Brewster* in "Waterloo," the one act piece which was written for Sir Henry Irving. Also Sir Conan said that Miss Lipman was as charming an actress as he had ever had the pleasure of seeing, and he resented the things that the critics of London had said about "Julie Bon Bon."

Sir Conan said that he did not know what was the matter with the critics, that the public was always a better critic than the ones that set themselves up as such and that Mr. Mann, had he stayed a little longer, would have won.

Other passengers on the Amerika vouched for the story that Louis Mann "strung" a passenger—"chaffed him terribly," as it was put. The passenger asked what Sandy Hook was like.

"It is an enormous iron affair that takes the vessels in its grasp and drags them up to the village. They call it Sandy because it was built by a Scotchman," the passenger was told.

The Amerika anchored at the bar Saturday night, but the passenger was up bright and early yesterday to see how the bloomin' thing would work. Just before parting with him Louis told him that if he had occasion to go up in any of the tall buildings he should take an express elevator always. If he took a local he would probably miss his dinner.

Dr. J. Fond Thompson, the Washington physician who was recently operated on in London by Dr. Mayo Robson, was a passenger on the Amerika. He was accompanied by two of his daughters. Others on board were Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown Potter, Miss Beatrice Bertrand, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Gurnee, the Misses Gurnee, Baron Wulff von Plessen, the Swami Abhedañanda and the balloonist D'Outremont.

The Cunarder Umbria brought a big Christmas mail. She had 2,695 sacks. Among her passengers was Col. Offley B. S. F. Shore, D. S. O., who is on his way to Canada. He was a conspicuous figure in the last British trouble in South Africa.

CROWD TO HEAR ROSENTHAL.

Largest Audience of the Season at the Metropolitan Concert.

A vast audience gathered at the Metropolitan Opera House last evening for the fourth Sunday night concert. It was doubtless the largest concert audience of the season and there was scarcely room to move behind the rail, hundreds standing to hear the music.

Moriz Rosenthal, the pianist, was the main attraction. He played with his usual dash and brilliancy, and the audience could hardly withhold its applause until he had finished Chopin's "Romanze and Rondo." He also played "Humoreske and Fugato" on themes by Johann Strauss, and was recalled many times by his enthusiastic admirers.

Mme. Louise Homer sang the grand air "O Prêtres de Baal" from Meyerbeer's "Le Prophète" and the aria from Bruch's "Odyssœus," and Anton Van Rooy gave with fine dramatic effect "Wolfram's Address" from "Tannhäuser." He also sang songs by Schubert and Schumann. Mme. Olive Fremstad was liberally applauded when she sang the aria "O Don Fatale" from Verdi's "Don Carlos."

Saint-Saëns, the composer, sat in one of the boxes. Nahan Franko, the conductor, spied him and there was a fanfare from the orchestra, the audience joining in the applause.

A QUESTION OF AUTO VERACITY.

A Plain and a Cop Driver Differ as to Blame for Collision.

Alfred Johnson, the driver of Maurice Untermyer's automobile, who was arrested on Saturday at Fourth avenue and Twenty-sixth street by Policeman Leitch, who drives Deputy Police Commissioner Waldo's automobile, was arraigned yesterday in the Jefferson Market police court.

Leitch's and Johnson's stories differed greatly. Each tried to show that the other was at fault and was the aggressor. Both parties finally said they could produce witnesses to back up their statements and asked for an adjournment. This was granted and the case was set down for a hearing on Thursday afternoon. Johnson was paroled in custody of his counsel.

PASSING OF THOMAS LOAFER.

A BAD INDIAN PRESS AGENTED OUT OF NEW YORK.

He's One of 57—Count Them—57 Who Appear at the Hippodrome, and a Job in Front of a Cigar Store Appealed to Him as Higher Art Than Ghost Dancing.

With solemn and picturesque ceremonies that lasted almost twenty-four hours Mr. Thomas Loafer was kicked out of the Hippodrome company yesterday, and Saturday and started toward the Golden West with a tin can tied to his trailing blue suspenders. All the pomp of the noble red man's impressive rites was brought into play at the press agent powwow held in the back yard of the Sioux Indian boarding house, at 226 West Thirty-fourth street, yesterday afternoon, and at the conclusion of the regular Indians' exercises Chief Press-Agent-Will-Page—who has been received into the Sioux tribe on probation and is known to the other Indians as Billy-True-Talk—handed a bottle of apollinaris to Miss Omena, who leads the Lobster Ballet in "Neptune's Daughter."

Miss Omena broke the bottle on Mr. Loafer's quarter deck as the red man started down the ways. Then Mr. Loafer was induced to light out straight into the setting sun, with the remaining fifty-six Hippodrome Indians and the tin can following. Mr. Loafer said his ultimate destination was the Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota, and that he would go there by way of the Hoboken route. He intends to retire permanently from the theatrical profession.

The ceremonies began on Saturday afternoon, when after an impromptu council of the Indians a committee of the big breezes of the tribe waited upon Little Father Max Anderson and reported through Interpreter Jim Gabriel that as a dramatic artist Mr. Loafer was a lemon. They said that ever since the first public performance of the ghost dance Mr. Loafer had always squatted in the spot light to talk with Mary-Bullets-in-the-Face, Tilly-Not-Afraid-of-the-Tenor, Alice-Kick-a-Hole-in-the-Sky and the other girls and had permitted the braves to do all the ghost dancing. Furthermore, Mr. Loafer had refused of late to turn up for performances at all and had given his time to wandering around town looking for a job with some tobacconist on the exterior of the store.

After the Saturday matinée a posse was formed by Little Father Max Anderson, and headed by Scout Jim Gabriel the posse hit the trail for the Bowery Bad Lands to round up Mr. Loafer. He was discovered leaning against himself in front of Isador Iskowitz's cigar store in Second street by Chief Press-Agent-True-Talk-Page, who had led the posse to the spot with unerring instinct. Mr. Loafer had spent the day holding out a bunch of stogies tied with baby ribbon, just as Chief-True-Talk's typewriter had divined he would the night before, and then the press agent gave the tobacconist a severe call-down.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself, Mr. Iskowitz," stormed Chief True-Talk, as he glanced hotly at his typewritten notes, "for engaging this man for a cigar sign when he is under contract to appear only in the Hippodrome in the most fascinating picture of early Western life ever presented on any stage. Furthermore—but here's what I think of this cigar man, already typewritten," concluded the press agent, handing out manifold copies. There was a page or two of indignation that ended with the cruel reprimand: "This conversation is not to be released until Monday."

To avoid attracting attention in the crowded subway trains Mr. Loafer was then led back to the Hippodrome on foot by way of Madison Square, Broadway and Forty-second street. In the press office Little Father Max Anderson was awaiting the return of the posse. The exercises that followed were brief and in order to save the dismissed artist from unnecessary humiliation there were no invited guests except the reporters of the evening papers. After a short recount of Mr. Loafer's delinquencies the Little Father presented to the artist a Christmas card on which were his stage name and the number twenty-three embossed in gilt. There was also a ticket to South Dakota, one way, to be used within twenty-four hours of date stamped on back.

The big tribal powwow that was to result in the ceremonial dismissal of Mr. Loafer from the Sioux tribe did not get under way until yesterday afternoon. Chief Not-Afraid-of-Porous-Plasters, presided and huddled around him in the back yard of the boarding house in West Thirty-fourth street was the entire band and Miss Omena, Jim Gabriel and Billy-True-Talk-Page, the palefaces having arrived early in an electric cab. All were in their war paint. Scout Jim Gabriel opened the council by droning in the Sioux tongue to the accompaniment of a tomtom.

"Now, you !!! * * * !!! white livered mutt, what have you to say for yourself?" The scout kicked Mr. Loafer thrice, as required by the Sioux liturgy. When the accused man merely snored in reply Devil's Advocate Gabriel again took up the monotonous drone, which seemed to be a fantasy in the Indian tongue made up from Senator Tillman's "Essays on the Race Question." As the recital got its stride the scout's views quite drowned out the throbbing of the tomtom. The rear of Thirty-third street rapidly gave up other occupations and opened the windows.

While Mr. Loafer still slumbered the picturesque ceremony of tying the tin can was commenced. With all the flourishes omitted it consisted principally of unfastening the sleeping Indian's suspenders along the front elevation by the head men of the tribe and then fastening the can with impressive mutterings to the suspenders as they trailed to the leeward in the winter weather. When this had been accomplished six stalwart braves carried Mr. Loafer into the house and on through to the front steps where an improvised shoot the chutes, with an acute twist toward the West at the bottom, had been provided. The chute had been greased with lard.

Miss Omena laid aside her ermine muff and took the bottle of apollinaris as Mr. Loafer was placed in the trough of the chutes. Billy-True-Talk Page had had it all framed up to have a regular bottle of real California champagne, but Miss Omena fearful of opposition from the W. C. T. U., insisted upon beer. Apollinaris was finally settled upon as a compromise.

"The tall timber for yours," chanted Miss Omena in the Sioux tongue, and as Mr. Loafer slowly but surely got under way the frail girl brought the bottle down thrice against the red man's slats, with merely enough force to awaken him.

As the Sioux in their war paint took up the chase toward the ferries Miss Omena read a few typewritten remarks, while Billy-True-Talk raced across the street to a telephone.

"We have given Mr. Loafer every chance to progress in his art," read Miss Omena, "but he has absolutely refused to work in the ghost dance. As he has lost his position at the Hippodrome the Indians do not feel that they should support him for the rest of the season. Loafer is the man's real name, as Heaven is our judge. If this is of interest kindly send a reporter and in all events do not release until Monday morning."

News of Plays and Players.

This afternoon at the Hippodrome the Niards, a troupe of German acrobats, who have never before appeared in this country, will make their first appearance in the arena as an added feature to the circus, between "Pioneer Days" and "Neptune's Daughter."

A performance will be given by the People's Theatre Company of a notable Jewish play at Carnegie Luceum on Thursday evening, December 27. The play that is to be given is "The Jews," by Eugene Tschirikeff. The People's Theatre Company is headed by Boris Thomashefsky, and includes Bella Gudinsky, Bernard Young, Clara Young, M Rosenstein, Mme. Abramovitch, L. Ferkauf and E. Toplitsky.

APPEAL FOR STARVING CHINESE.

The President Asks for Contributions for the Famine Stricken People.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Reports received by the Government concerning the famine in China show that it is of a particularly distressing character and likely to increase unless relief measures are taken at once. President Roosevelt to-day determined to take action to afford succor for the starving people. He was actuated in this decision by appeals from charitable and missionary organizations, which represented the conditions as appalling. At their behest, and on the basis of reports received by the Government, he issued the following appeal:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 24, 1906.

To the people of the United States:

There is an appalling famine in China. Throughout a district covering over 40,000 square miles and supporting a population of 15,000,000 the crops have been destroyed by floods and millions of people are on the verge of starvation, thousands of dwellings have been destroyed and their inmates are without homes. An urgent appeal has been made for the assistance of the United States.

Our people have often under similiar conditions of distress in other countries responded generously to such appeals. Amid our abounding prosperity and in this holiday season of good will to men assuredly we should do our part to aid the unfortunate and relieve the distressed among the people of China, to whom we have been allied for so many years in friendship and kindness.

I shall ask Congress upon its next day of session for authority to use our transport vessels to carry flour and other food to the famine stricken region.

I recommend that contribution for the purchase of such food and for other appropriate relief be sent to the American National Red Cross, which will take charge of the expenditures. Such contributions may be made either through the local Red Cross treasurers or through the Department of State or may be sent directly to Charles Hallam Keep, Red Cross Treasury, United States Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The New York State Branch of the American National Red Cross, under instructions from the national executive committee, has sent out an appeal for contributions of money or foodstuffs for the famine sufferers in China. Reports received at the State Department, the secretary of the organization says, show that millions of people are on the verge of starvation. Assistance to be efficient must be prompt. Contributions should be sent to Jacob H. Schiff, treasurer, 500 Fifth avenue.

In a statement given out by the Red Cross yesterday it is recalled that a considerable sum of money was sent to sufferers from the Japanese famine last February. "This generosity," the circular says, "helped to strengthen the already strong bonds of friendship between the two peoples." The Red Cross "hopes and expects that similar generosity on this occasion will have a similar result in strengthening the kindly relations and mutual understanding between the United States and China."

CHURCH SPENT $224,000.

St. Bartholemew's Has 250 Persons on Its Salary List.

Nearly a quarter of a million dollars was raised at St. Bartholomew's Church in the year ending November 1, according to the annual year book, which was distributed to members of the congregation yesterday. The actual amount was $224,493.74, and nearly half of the amount was expended in the work conducted at St. Bartholomew's parish house and clinic on East Forty-second street. It cost the parish last year $91,043.99 to maintain this work, the share of the clinic being $17,725.52.

But all the money to maintain the East Side work does not come from the people who worship in the parish church in Madison avenue. The people of the parish house furnished more than $20,000, much of the amount coming through dues in the various organizations of men, girls and boys, fees of the employment bureau and receipts at the clinic. Then, too, there is an annual income of nearly $30,000 from legacies of two members of the Vanderbilt family.

For current expenses of St. Bartholomew's Church $40,484 was spent last year, the amount including only the cost of maintaining services at the Madison avenue and Forty-fourth street church. For various objects outside of the parish, some of them outside of the diocese, the church gave about $75,000, about half of the amount being given through the rector, the Rev. Dr. Leighton Parks.

Some idea of the size of St. Bartholomew's parish and its work is gained from the lists of salaried and volunteer workers given in the year book. Of the former there are 249, including 7 clergymen, 1 deaconess, 1 lay reader, 5 organists, 75 choristers, 3 parish visitors, 9 kindergartners, 25 instructors in clubs, 21 teachers, 6 nurses, 16 secretaries and clerks, 6 engineers and firemen, 35 porters, cleaners and laundresses, and 9 cooks and helpers. The volunteers number 806 and include Sunday school teachers and officers, physicians who visit the clinic, volunteer choristers and working members in clubs and societies.

CHURCH 100 YEARS OLD.

The Bloomingdale Reformed Celebrates Its Centennial With Special Services.

The Bloomingdale Reformed Church whose new building, fronting on Bloomingdale Square at Broadway and 106th street, was dedicated on Sunday, December 16, celebrated yesterday its 100th anniversary by special services in the morning and afternoon. At the service in the morning the pastor, the Rev. William C. Stinson, D. D., briefly reviewed the 100 years of the church's history, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Edward B. Coe, D. D., LL. D., senior minister of the Collegiate Church in this city.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon a vesper service was held, at which informal greetings were extended to the members of the church in their new home by the Rev. Henry Evertson Cobb, D. D., of the West End Collegiate Church; the Rev. Robert McKenzie, D. D., of the Rutgers Riverside Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Edgar Tilton, D. D., of the Collegiate Church of Harlem.

The Bloomingdale Reformed Church had its birth under the name of the Church of Harsenville, and its first building stood at the corner of Broadway and Sixty-ninth street. Since then the congregation has moved four times. The new building has a granite exterior, while the inside is finished in limestone and golden oak.

MASS FOR NIGHT WORKERS.

Unusually Fine Music at St. Francis Assisi's on Christmas Morning.

A solemn high mass will be celebrated at 2:30 o'clock on Christmas morning at the Church of St. Francis Assisi in West Thirty-first street for the night workers of the vicinity. An unusually fine musical programme has been arranged for the service. A double quartet of well known church singers, including Thomas Boyd and Signor Salvatore Micelli, will be supported by a trained choir of sixty voices under the direction of Prof. P. J. Quigley. The string music will be furnished by members of the Metropolitan Opera House orchestra. There will be another solemn high mass at 4:30 A. M. for the regular parishioners.

CHILDREN'S
BANK
ACCOUNTS

A UNIQUE and practical Christmas gift for a child is a bank account in his own name, with a personal check-book and pass-book. $1.00 will open an account in our Children's Department. Interest allowed on $5.00 and over. Send for circular.

VAN NORDEN
TRUST COMPANY
FIFTH AVENUE & 60th STREET
NEW YORK

GIFTS TO STAGE CHILDREN.

SMALL ACTORS HAVE THEIR ANNUAL MERRYMAKING.

Furnish the Entertainment Themselves—Appearance of a Doll in Tony Pastor's Care Upsets One Small Singer—Dinner and Presents Provided for Them All.

More than 500 stage children, the most of them sons and daughters of stage folks, were made happy last night at the annual festival held for their benefit at Tony Pastor's Theatre and Tammany Hall. Every one of them went away with a full stomach and carrying a present.

There was the customary entertainment by future actors and actresses ranging in age all the way from 3 up to 14 years. Anybody above 14 was considered a fit subject for the old actors' home.

Lillian and Violet Schneider, one 6 and the other 7, did an umbrella song. The umbrellas were closed when the two little singers appeared on the stage. They were supposed to open them when it was raining the hardest in the song. The ribs of Lillian's umbrella got all tangled up and there came a hiatus in the storm. The little girl struggled hard, but the stubborn slide wouldn't budge, even when her sister tried to help her out.

Tony Pastor came to the rescue and he made it possible for the storm to start again when he broke two ribs in the umbrella and pushed them through the cloth. But the drops that fell in the storm song weren't nearly so big as the ones that trickled down Lillian's cheeks as she trotted off the stage.

Stephen Atwell Davis, aged 3 years, did a buck dance. Unfortunately the upper gallery of the house was thrown into disorder just as his act was getting under way by the appearance of a man with an armful of dolls. Mr. Davis was obviously disgusted with the exhibition. He turned his back on the audience and trotted off the stage. Later he appeared before the footlights with this announcement: "I didn't make a hit." There was no doubt about the success of his second appearance.

Robert and Orrella Smith, 4 and 5 years old, sang "Waitin' at the Church." That is, they sang the first part of it, and Robert did the most of that. Orrella started off well enough, and undoubtedly would have finished if Tony Pastor, who had been handing out dolls to every little girl who appeared on the stage, hadn't thoughtlessly stepped out in the wing. He was holding a big rosy cheeked one with brown hair and brown eyes in his arm.

"There was I, there was I," went the duet, but just then Orrella's left eye began to roll in the direction of the stage wing. A moment later she stopped altogether. It was just at that moment when Tony Pastor stooped, to pick up something. The doll's fluffy head tipped toward the stage and her big brown eyes closed. That was the end of the act, so far as Orrella was concerned. She was at the showman's side in about three skips, and in response to the applause of the audience stood planting one kiss after another on the doll's mouth.

Eight-year-old Ruth Wells was appealing to an imaginary man in the gallery, her arms stretched out. "Oh," she was singing, "Mamma didn't mean to scare you, come down here I double dare you."

"What'll you bet I dassn't," piped up a little head that appeared above a white linen collar and a polka dot puff tie, and Ruth directed her appeal to another quarter of the gallery.

"Play a little slower, please," said Baby Vernon to the orchestra, as he toddled up to the footlights in a buck and wing dance.

"Ladies and gentlemen, with your kind attention and with the assistance of our handsome leader we will endeavor, &c., &c." was the nine-year-old Sweeny sisters' way of announcing what she and her sister would do.

The feast was served in the basement of the theatre after the show and the Christmas presents were distributed in Tammany Hall. It is safe to say that that place saw more disorder in five minutes last night as the bundles were picked off the lighted Christmas tree than it ever has at the most tumultuous political gathering.

Last night's celebration was the twenty-third of its kind that has been held. Mrs. E. L. Fernandez, who has nourished the festival from a humble beginning in her flat, had charge. Among the contributions was one of considerable size from the Police Department. Commissioner Bingham gave his permission for the inspectors to take up a collection in the interest of the festival.

QUAKER VIEW OF AMERICA.

Henry W. Wilbur Says It Is One Hopeful for Moral Uplifting.

A Quaker view of the country to-day was part of the speech of a distinguished Quaker minister, Henry W. Wilbur, yesterday in the meeting house at Fifteenth street and Rutherfurd place. Mr. Wilbur is one of the secretaries of the Society of Friends.

"The Spirit That Quickens" formed Mr. Wilbur's text. It quickens the national life, he believes, in spite of the disagreeable features of the day. "There is," he said, "this spirit in our economic prosperity to-day, material as this prosperity may seem. In the very abandonment of ourselves to the search for wealth there is being brought out a germ of future progress. It is the advent of peace among nations. For as they increase in the world's goods it will become less and less politic for them to hazard what they have in selfish wars of aggrandizement. Those wars and after them all wars of nations must cease; so there is the all pervading quickening spirit at work even among and through the untoward influences of to-day."

The quickening spirit was individually present, the speaker believed, among the men and women of the land. It had carried them forth to settle the country in the generation past. "But now," he continued, "that work is about done. Soon will come the day when the last American acre has been homesteaded. What then? The next labor of Americans will be, I believe, to deal with moral and spiritual questions. The people of the country may then band together and turn back to the East, especially in an effort to redeem the wretchedness that exists in the great cities." The speaker did not look on the city dwellers as the part of America most advanced in civilization but rather predicted a great influence to come cityward from the country.

"To conclude," he said, "the quickening spirit is something individual. It stirs in every heart. May humanity come to know and to recognize it and respect it. Then the poorest will feel the dignity and inspiration of its individual presence. Then will the human heart itself be redeemed from pauperism.

ARCHBISHOP BLESSES A BELL.

The Gift of Mgr. Kearney to the Old St Patrick's Church.

Old St. Patrick's Church, at Prince and Mulberry streets, the former Catholic Cathedral, was the scene of a picturesque ceremony yesterday afternoon, when Archbishop Farley blessed the bell which was presented to the church by the pastor, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. John F. Kearney. The Archbishop, assisted by Brother Philip of La Salle School and other priests, gave his blessing on the bell and also the banner of the Holy Rosary Society. The ceremony included a sermon by Mgr. Kearney, the presentation of the bell, the blessing and Archbishop Farley's address.

The bell, which is the only angelus bell in that part of the city, weighs 2,300 pounds and is forty-two inches across the base. It is made of bronze and is inscribed with a Latin text with the dates of Mgr. Kearney's pastorate.

COLLEGE STORIES
FOR GIRLS
By MARGARET WARDE
"Betty Wales—Freshman" "Betty Wales—Sophomore"
"Betty Wales—Junior"
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Daily Mats. 25c., $1. Evs. at 8, 25c. to $1.50.
Most Stupendous Production Ever Seen.
NEPTUNE'S DAUGHTER
Chorus of Mermaids in Real Water.
NEW CIRCUS ACTS AND PIONEER DAYS

LYRIC 42d St., W. of B'way. Tel. 1646 Bryant. Evs. 8:15. Mats. Xmas, Sat., New Year's
MRS. FISKE THE NEW YORK IDEA

Princess. B'way&29th. Tel. 2848 Mad. Evs. 8:20. Mats. Thurs., Sat., New Year's, 2:20.
MARGARET ANGLIN | THE GREAT DIVIDE | HENRY MILLER
SPECIAL MATS. To-day, Xmas, Wed., Fri., 2:15. Alla Nazimova in Hedda Gabler.

Majestic B'way & 59th St. Tel. 3500 Cols. Ev. 8:15. Mats Tues., Thur., Sat. 2:15.
Extra Mats. Christmas and New Year's.
HENRY WOODRUFF—BROWN OF HARVARD

Fields' Herald Sq. B'way & 35th. Tel. 2485—38. Last w'k. Mats. Xmas & Sat.
ABOUT TOWN. | Lew Fields' All Star Co. | THE GREAT DECIDE.
MON., DEC. 31 | THE ROAD TO YESTERDAY. | Seats Thurs.

CASINO B'way & 39th. Tel. 1646 Bryant. Mats. Xmas, Thurs., Sat., New Year's
JAMES T. POWERS | La Petite Adelaide & The Pony Ballet | THE BLUE MOON.

LINCOLN SQ. THEATRE. B'way & 66th St. Phone 5464 Col. Eve. 8:15.
Matinees To-morrow, Wed. & Sat. 2:15.
HENRY E. DIXEY THE MAN ON THE BOX.

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE.
This Evening, at 8—FEDORA—Cavalieri, Alten; Caruso, Scotti, Paroli, Muhlmann, Dufriche, Begue, Conductor, Vigna.
Wed. Evg., Dec. 26, at 8—LA DAMNATION DE FAUST—Farrar; Rousseliere, Plancon, Chalmin, Ballet Aerien. Conductor, Vigna.
Fri. Evg., Dec. 28, at 8—LAKME—Sembrich, Jacoby, Simeoli, Mattfeld; Rousseliere, Journet, Simard, Bars. Conductor, Bovy.
Sat. Aft., Dec. 29, at 1:30—SIEGFRIED—Fleischer-Edel, Kirkby-Lunn, Rappold; Burrian, Van Rooy, Reiss, Goritz, Blass. Conductor, Hertz.
Sat. Evg., Dec. 29, at 8, Pop. Prices—LA BOHEME—Abott, Alten; Dippel, Scotti, Journet, Simard, Dufriche, Rossi, Paroli. Conductor, Vigna.
Tues. Aft., Jan. 1—NEW YEAR'S DAY. MAT. AT 3 AT POPULAR PRICES.
Humperdinck's Fairy Opera,
HAENSEL UND GRETEL.
Seats now on sale.
WEBER PIANO USED.

IRVING Place Theatre. To-day Matinee 2:30. "Schneewittchen." To-night and Tues.
WILLI THALLER in "Die Von Hochsattel."

ASTOR Theatre, Broadway, 45th St. Eves. 8:30. Mats. To-morrow, Wed. & Sat. 2:30.
THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN by Chas. Klein.

MANHATTAN THEA., B'way, 33d St. Ev. 8:15. Mats. Tues., Wed. & Sat.
WILTON LACKAYE THE LAW & THE MAN.

GARDEN THEATRE. 27th st. and Madison av. Ev'gs 8:15. First Mat. Saturday, 2:15.
OPENS TO-MORROW (XMAS) NIGHT.
THE STUDENT KING With Lina Abarbanell.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC. 14th St. & Irving Pl.
LAST WEEK. Matinee Christmas Day.
Wright Lorimer The Shepherd King.
Prices, 25c. to $1. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2. Eve. 8:15.
NEXT WEEK BLANCHE BATES The Girl of the Golden West.

HUBER'S 14TH ST. MUSEUM
FIRST TIME IN N. Y. THE GREAT ZENTOS
HANDCUFF KINGS. Bring your handcuffs, leg irons, straitjackets, packing boxes, and he will get out of them in less than 5 minutes.
CHIEF JOHN TEVIS with His Troupe of South African natives; THE SISTERS FRANKS, Physical Culture Girls; LAURETTE, Snake Enchantress.
SUNDAY CONCERTS.
THEATRE—20 Star Vaudeville Acts.

NEW CIRCLE B'way & 60th. Mat. To-day. Smoking Allowed "A Tremendous Hit."—Globe. WINE, WOMAN, SONG CO. Bonita, Alex Carr, Others.

THE DEWEY East 14th st. Ladies' Mat. To-day REILLY & WOODS CO. 2—Farces—2. Vaudeville.

THE GOTHAM E. 125th St. Ladies' Mat. To-day THE BRIGADIERS CO. 2—Burlettas—2. Novelties.

31st St. & B'way. BIJOU Mat. Xmas Day and Sat.
TO-NIGHT—FIRST TIME
HENRI de VRIES
IN THE DOUBLE LIFE
By Rhinehardt Roberts.

BELASCO THEATRE. 42d st. Eve. 8:15. Mat. To-morrow & Sat. at 2.
David Belasco Presents THE ROSE OF THE RANCHO

MADISON SQ. THEA. 24 St., B'w'y Ev. 8:15. Mat. Wed. & Sat. 2:15. Xmas Mat. Tom'w
Carlotta Nillson IN The 3 of Us

HAMMERSTEIN'S 42d St., B'way & 7th Av. Evenings 25c. to $1.
Daily Mats. 25c. 50c. | That Quartet, Smith & Campbell, Clarice Vance, Siegde Pantomime Co., Felix Barry & Barry, etc.

14th St. THEA. At 6th Av. 25c. Mat To-day. A MAN'S BROKEN PROMISE.
SOUVENIRS TO-NIGHT—Carlsbad China Mustard Pots with Covers and Spoons.

HACKETT THEATER, 42d St. Eve. 8:20. Mats. To-morrow, Thurs. & Sat. 2:20.
ROSE STAHL in THE CHORUS LADY.

HURTIG & SEAMON'S | Mat. Daily. | Phil Sheridan's City Sports
YORKVILLE. Mts. T'day, T'm'w | YORKE AND ADAMS in BANKERS AND BROKERS
METROPOLIS. Mts. T'd'y, T'm'w, | ERNEST HOGAN in "RUFUS RASTUS."

AMUSEMENTS.

EMPIRE THEA., B'way & 40th St. Eves. 8. Mats. Tues. Wed. & Sat. 2
TO-NIGHT AT 8 SHARP.
MATS. TUES., WED. & SAT AT 2.
Only engagement in New York this season
FOR FIVE WEEKS ONLY
MAUDE ADAMS
in J. M. Barrie's PLAY PETER PAN

GARRICK THEA., 35th St., nr. B'way. Eves., 8:20. Mts. Tues. & Sat. 2:15
LAST WEEK.
XTRA MAT. TUESDAY.
WM. GILLETTE in his Comedy Drama "Clarice"

HUDSON THEA., 44th St., east of B'way. Evs. 8:15. Mats. Tues., Wed. & Sat. 2:15
MATS. TUES., WED. & SAT.
5TH MONTH | GREATEST OF ALL DRAMATIC TRIUMPHS.
THE HYPOCRITES.

SAVOY THEA., 34th St. & Broadway. Ev. 8:15. Mat. Tues., Thurs. & Sat. 2:15
MATS. TUES., THURS., SAT.
"A VERY GREAT SUCCESS."—Sun.
THE MAN OF THE HOUR
By George Broadhurst.

CRITERION THEA., Broadway & 44th St. Evs. 8:15. Mts. Tues. Wed. & Sat. 2:15
6TH MONTH. LAST 2 WEEKS.
MATS. TUES., WED. & SAT.
New York's Pet Musical Triumph.
HATTIE WILLIAMS in the great musical play LITTLE CHERUB

WALLACK'S B'way & 30th St. Evs. 8:15. Mats. Tues. & Sat. 2:15.
XTRA MATINEE TUESDAY
SAM BERNARD The Rich Mr. Hoggenheimer.

KNICKERBOCKER. B'way & 38th St. Eves. 8:15. MATS. TUES., WED. & SAT., 2:15
MATS. TUES., WED. & SAT.
MONTGOMERY & STONE in THE RED MILL

LYCEUM 45th St. & B'way. Eves. 8:15. Mats. Tues., Thurs. & Sat. 2:15.
Mats. To-m'w & New Year's THE LION AND THE MOUSE
NEXT FRIDAY AT 3 P. M. (Seats Selling)
KITTY CHEATHAM'S
HOLIDAY MATINEE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

NEW AMSTERDAM THEA. W. 42d st. Evs. 8:15 Mats. Wed. and Sat.
LAST 9 TIMES | Extra Matinee To-morrow. Wed. Mat. Best Seats $1.50.
RICHARD CARLE "THE SPRING CHICKEN."
DEC. 31. Thompson & Dundy will present BREWSTER'S MILLIONS. Seats on sale.

BROADWAY THEATRE. B'way and 41st st. Ev'gs 8:10. Mat. Sat. 2:10.
CHRISTMAS MATINEE TO-MORROW | ANNA HELD
IN THE PARISIAN MODEL
MISS HELD'S Great Dress Song at 8:20 & 2:20.

LIBERTY THEATRE. 42d st., near B'way. Ev'gs 8:15. Mat. Sat., 2:15.
4TH MONTH. Extra Mat. To-morrow.
ELEANOR ROBSON | "THE GIRL WHO HAS EVERYTHING." By Clyde Fitch.
All Season in Repertoire at This Theatre.

DALY'S THEATRE. B'way & 30th. Evs. 8:15. Matinees To-m'w, Wed. & Sat., 2:15.
THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR

New York THEA. B'way & 45th. Evs. 8:15. Mats. 2:15. Best Seats $1.
4 MATINEES THIS WEEK. | To-day, To-morrow, Wednesday and Saturday.
LEW DOCKSTADER
AND HIS GREAT MINSTRELS.

MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE, 34th St. Near 8th Av.
SEASON OF GRAND OPERA.
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN .... Director
TO-NIGHT at 8—Donizetti's LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR. Mlles. Pinkert, Severina; MM. Bonci, Minolfi, Mugnoz, Venturini, Tecchi. Cond., Tanara.
TO-MORROW (XMAS) NIGHT at 8—Verdi's AIDA. Mmes. Russ, De Cisneros; MM. Bassi, Ancona, Arimondi, Tecchi. Cond., Campanini.
WED., DEC. 26, at 8—Bizet's CARMEN. Mmes. Bressler-Gianoli, Donalda, Trentini, Giaconia; MM. Dalmores, Renaud, Gilibert, Daddi, Mugnoz, Reschiglian. Cond., Campanini.
FRI., DEC. 28, at 8—Gounod's FAUST. Mmes. Donalda, Giaconia, Lejeune; MM. Dalmores, Ancona, Fosetta, Arimondi. Cond., Campanini.
SAT. MAT., DEC. 29, at 1:30—Verdi's RIGOLETTO. Mlles. Pinkert, Severina, Zaccaria, Giacomina; MM. Bonci, Renaud, Arimondi, Mugnoz, Fossetta, Reschiglian, Venturini. Cond., Campanini.
SAT. NIGHT, DEC. 29—Opera to be announced later.
SEATS FOR ALL ABOVE NOW SELLING.

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE | TO-MORROW EVG. AT 8:30.
Saint-Saëns
Farewell
HIS LAST APPEARANCE IN AMERICA,
and for the ONLY TIME as
CONDUCTOR and PIANIST.
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Other Soloists: Mmes. Kirkby-Lunn, Rappold; MM. Rousseliere, Journet, Simard; Franko.
Entire Conried Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.
Prices, 50c, 75c, $1.00, $2.00, $2.50.
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WEBER'S BROADWAY AND 29th ST. Mats. Tuesday and Saturday.
FIRST TIME TO-MORROW NIGHT.
DREAM CITY AND THE MAGIC KNIGHT
Both by Edgar Smith and Victor Herbert.

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EDEN MUSEE | WORLD IN WAX. CINEMATOGRAPH. Victor Andre's London Co., | Gypsy Music Every Hour. Kin-Ka-Kuji and Usagi.

NEW STAR Lex. av. & 107th st. Mat. Today 25c. GALA XMAS MAT. | HOW HEARTS ARE BROKEN.

AMERICAN 42d st. & 8th av. Ev'gs 8:15. XTRA XMAS MAT. | Matinee Today, 25c THE COWBOY GIRL

3RD AV., cor. 31st. Matinee To-day. WHILE FRISCO BURNS

WEST END UNDER SOUTHERN SKIES. Mat. To-day, 25c. Souvenirs To-night.

SALES BY AUCTION.

BENJ. GOLDSMID, auctioneer, sells Japanese high art and books all this week at 501 Broadway, Brooklyn.

EDWARD KASELLE, auctioneer, sells daily and evenings Japanese high art, 562 E. 149th st.

M. SOVA sells noon and evening, 182 East Houston st., Japanese goods.

LOUIS LEVY & CO. will sell all week at 131 Park row, jewelry and bric-a-brac.

C. F. SORGUES & CO. sell paintings and bric-a-brac evenings, 7:30, 79 Cortlandt st.