CHRISTMAS CHEER

New York Charities Distribute Many Christmas Gifts.

FEED OVER 50,000 POOR

Salvation Army Gives Free Dinners to 35,000 Persons in New York City and 500,000 throughout the Country—Other Organizations Help.

New York, Dec. 25.—The participation of charitable and religious organizations in the work of spreading Christmas cheer in this city today is to be on a larger scale than ever before.

About 2000 families, including ten thousand persons, are to receive Christmas dinners or presents of clothing through the relief department of the association for improving the condition of the poor. Friends of the association have contributed to it about $15,000 to be spent in this work.

The Salvation Army will give free dinners today to 35,000 persons in the city and about 500,000 throughout the country. The Volunteers of America also will feed several thousand persons.

Seven hundred detained immigrants on Ellis Island were made happy yesterday by the missionaries of the various religious denominations who held Christmas service for the new arrivals. All the little children received dolls or other toys, the women boxes of candy and the men pipes and tobacco. Harry Balf, th keeper of the restaurant on the island, also gave to every one of th immigrants a Christmas dinner. Addresses were made in eight different tongues by the missionaries.

NEW TRAMP COMING.

A genuine tramp, a detective, a life insurace agent, a wealthy rogue and a deceitful husband, a persecuted wife and mother, a beautiful daughter and a village ne'er-do-well, are the principal characters which go to make up the comedy sensation, "A Jolly American Tramp," which will be presented at Fisher's next Monday evening, New Year's day. The play is from the pen of Mr. E. E. Kidder, a playwright who is responsible for more tender, touching, pathetic, heart-interesting plays than any other author now before the public. His "Peaceful Valley" and "A Poor Relation" made Sol Smith Russell famous and a millionaire. In this work he promises to surpass his other efforts, and give to us a piece that for stirring situations, startling climaxes as well as heart-touching interest cannot be surpassed. Manager Newell has cast "A Jolly American Tramp" with car, selecting only artists eminently fitted for their respective roles. Seat sale opens next Saturday morning at Hoefler's candy store. Prices—25, 35 and 50 cents.

AFTER TRUSTS.

Representative Sulzer Arraigns Corporations and Trusts in America.

New York, Dec. 25.—Arraigning corporations and trusts as the greatest menace of the present time to American institutions, Representative Sulzer discussed the problem of "Who shall rule America," at the Baptist Church of the Epiphany yesterday. In part he said:

"The total population of the United States is about 80,000,000. The total aggregate wealth is about $65,000,000, and it appears that out of that population less than 35,000 persons own more than one-half the aggregate wealth of the land. And this has all been brought about in the last twenty-five years by combinations and conspiracies called trusts fostered by special legislation and nurtured by political favoritism. If these conditions obtain in the next century, I predict that less than 5000 persons will control more than three-quarters of the wealth of this country.

"Twenty years ago John D. Rockefeller was worth only a few hundred thousands of dollars. Today his wealth cannot be estimated under a billion. I have searched the congressional library for statistics bearing upon the wealth of the great Croesus whose name has been handed down through the ages, and find that he possessed a paltry $10,000,000.

"He could not sit in a poker game with John D."

WIRES DOWN.

The telegraphic report of this morning's Astorian was necessarily cut short on account of wire trouble, which made it almost impossible to send anything over the line. The storm worked havoc on both telegraph and telephone systems.

SUDDEN DEPARTURE.

Santo Domingo President Leaves Country in a Hurry.

Santo Domingo, Dec. 25.—President Morales has left the city and his destination is unknown. The city and surrounding country is quiet, but considerable unrest and excitement is shown at the unexpected departure of the president.

EDUCATE JEWS.

Chicago, Dec. 25.—Classes to give instruction in English to the Russian Jews who are expected to come to America as refugees, will be started at once by the Chicago Hebrew Institue. This was decided on yesterday at a meeting of the institute directors.

Of Interest to Clergy.

The Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Co., having been granted membership in the Trans-Continental Clergy Bureau, the name of that company will appear in the clergy application blanks and clergy certificates issued by the bureau for 1906, and commencing January 1st, of the coming year. These permits will be honored by all agents of the A. & C. R. R., thus eliminating the individual half-fare permits issued by that company in former years. Requests for official application blanks should be made to J. C. Mayo, general passenger agent, Astoria.

CARS COLLIDE.

Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—Ten persons were more or less seriously injured in a boardside collision between two street cars this evening. A car on the Long Beach line crashed into an Ascot Park car at Twenty-second street.

Kelway and the Customs

By Sherwood Boyd

"No," said Miss Clovis, "I do not think that this trip holds for me any especial souvenir.

"Nothing to remember, to recall, in after years as one of the patches of sunlight on life's checkered road?"

"Nothing," she said decidedly. "Three days of wretched seasickness and four days of storm tossed waters and seven days with an unhealthy mind."

"Do you care so much?" he asked softly. "I had hoped you had forgiven and forgotten."

"Really, Mr. Kelway," she said, "I am surprised that you should imagine for a moment that the incidents of last month still linger in my mind."

"Marjorie," he began softly.

"Miss Clovis, if you please," she corrected.

"I said Marjorie," he repeated. "Miss Clovis does not please me just at present."

"Then Miss Clovis will withdraw her undesirable presence," she began. Kelway held her hand in an iron grip.

"It has taken me the entire trip to get you alone," he said. "I am going to

MISS CLOVIS SPRANG TO THE TRAY, BUT KELWAY HAD SEEN.

hold you prisoner until you listen to an explanation."

"If you propose to use brute force I shall not make a scene," she said coldly, "but I have assured you a dozen times that I have no desire to reopen a dead issue."

"It is not a dead issue to me," he pleaded. "It is my very life."

"Who was it said that life was made up of trifles?" she asked.

"I don't know and don't care," he said ungraciously. "The only thing I can think of at this present moment is that tomorrow morning we shall be on land and that unless I can make you see matters from my point of view I shall lose you forever."

"One cannot lose what one does not possess," she suggested.

"But I did possess your love," he said eagerly. "You did not tell me so in words, but there were little things—that night on Ben Nevis, for instance."

The girl trembled. Even against the light gemmed shore of Staten Island she could see those misty heights; she could remember how she clung sobbing to Kelway, fearful of the danger.

He laid his hand upon hers. She shook it off, and there came the remembrance of another scene, a crowded railway station and Kelway, who had just left her, kissing a most attractive young woman as the train went on. This was the man she had given her heart to, a man who kissed others when they were as good as engaged.

"I wish," she said petulantly, "that you would not refer to that most unpleasant experience."

"I did not think it unpleasant. I am willing to be lost again—with you."

"Possibly your companion of the railway station might object," she sneered.

"Have I not told you that the girl kissed me by mistake?" he asked.

"A very reasonable explanation," she commented.

"A man never does get credit when he tells the truth to a woman," commented Kelway. "Now, if I had said she was a cousin or something of that sort, would you have believed me?"

"Certainly not," was the prompt reply. "It is immaterial whether I believe you or not."

"It is not immaterial," he declared.

"I may have loved you," she said, "but whatever affection I felt for you is dead. I have put you out of my mind and heart. I have done with you forever, and if you were kind you would take yourself out of my life."

"Is that your wish?" he asked very softly. "Is there no hope?"

"None at all," was the decisive reply. "I never want to see you again."

For one brief instant his hand crushed hers as it lay upon the rail. Then he had raised his cap and was gone. The light blinked and fluttered in an odd fashion. It might have been imagined that Miss Clovis was viewing them through tear dimmed eyes had she not savagely repeated: "I'm glad he's gone, I'm glad he's gone."

The customs officers invaded the cabin immediately after breakfast the next morning, and as the Wanderer steamed slowly up the bay the passengers made out their declarations.

Kelway had nothing to declare and stood on the deck watching the shipping, and not even when Miss Clovis passed did he take his eyes from the water. And, strange to say, Miss Clovis resented this literal compliance with her request.

She went to her stateroom, and Kelway did not see her again until she came to her trunks under the C's. He was sitting upon his own steamer trunk under the K's waiting for an inspector, and by the arrangement of the letters he was right beside Miss Clovis.

It was a very rude thing to do, but he watched as the inspector, suffering from an intermittent burst of official energy, dug down to the very bottom of her trunk.

On the top of the tray was a framed picture of himself, with a bit of heather inside the glass. Miss Clovis sprang to the tray, but Kelway had seen. He came forward.

"I am going back on the steamer tomorrow," he said to her.

"Why?" she asked as the blushes spread over her face.

"Since you do care after all I am going to get a sworn statement from that girl, the picture of the brother of hers she mistook me for, and his declaration that he was expected to arrive on the train by which I traveled."

"It is not necessary," she said softly. "I found out after you left me last night that it was all right."

"Who could have told you?" he cried wonderingly.

Not even the customs officer heard the whispered "My heart," but Kelway was content.

"To think that I should not have spoken if that meddling customs inspector had not shown me that you still loved me," he cried wonderingly. "Unless I had seen that frame I should have had no hope."

The inspector still wonders why that ten dollar bill was thrust into his hand.