

Prompted from the Gallery.

IN the "third floor back" of a dismal-looking lodging-house in a street near Waterloo bridge, a man was standing, singing. In a dilapidated armchair by the window, his audience—one wee, pretty lassie—was curled up, wrapped about with an overcoat, for it was the afternoon of Christmas Day, and there was no fire in the cheerless grate.

"Shall I light the lamp, daddy?" she asked, as he ceased to sing and began to execute a grotesque dance, still whistling the refrain of his song. "It has grown so dark that I can't see to give you your cues," and she held up some tattered manuscript as she spoke.

"No, Babsie; that will do for to-night. Don't try your eyes. Shall we have our usual chat in the dark, pet? There is no rehearsal to-night. Ugh how cold it is. Have we no coal or wood, dearie?"

"No, dad; but it isn't very much colder without fire, because the silly smoke won't go up the chimney, somehow, so



IN A DILAPIDATED ARMCHAIR ONE WEE, PRETTY LASSIE WAS CURLED UP.

I have to keep the window open when we do have a fire."

"My poor little frozen baby," he said sadly, taking her in his arms. "We will find lodgings where the smoke does exit the proper way—after boxing night."

"Dad," she said, as she nestled close up to him in the armchair, "shall we have a Christmas pudding some day?" "Shall I sing to you, Babsie?" he interrupted hastily. And, gently stroking her soft curls, he broke into a lively music hall ditty.

Babsie was soon fast asleep. He lifted her up and placed her on the bed.

"Heaven help her!" he murmured sadly, as he gazed upon the sweet white face. "If I had only been a laborer you would not have gone hungry on Christmas Day, my pet. I wonder how many poor mummies are waiting eagerly for Boxing night? I have looked for work without ceasing. I wonder if the noble army of bogus managers with whom I've been so closely acquainted of late are dining well to-night while she is starving. I'll spend every penny I earn this pantomime upon her comfort. Oh, if I can only make a hit, now my chance has come! Oh, my Babsie, my brave little Babsie!"

"Daddy, it's the glorious Boxing day at last!" cried Babsie, dancing round him in her excitement, as he was preparing to go to the theater.

"Everything wasn't quite smooth at dress rehearsal," he had explained to her; "so I shall be at the theater all day."

The latter part of this statement was not true; but he saw that there was barely food for one in the cupboard, and his pocket was quite empty.

As he ran down the stairs a little shoe came clattering after him, and a saucy, smiling face peeped over the balusters.

"That's for luck, dad," she called out. He noticed the little shoe had a hole right through the sole, and he sighed.

When he reached the theater he found only a few shivering nobodies assembled on the stage. They all waited for about two hours for the stars, who had never intended to appear, and then the stage manager dismissed them. Halliday met his manager as he turned out of the stage door with the intention of strolling about the streets until evening.

"Hallo!" said that individual, genially. "Hope all the plum pudding you had yesterday won't affect your top notes. I think your song will fetch 'em upstairs. There's money in it—"

Halliday uttered an exclamation, and, stooping down, picked up a quarter.

"There, what did I tell you?" laughed the manager, as he slapped him on the back and went on his way.

Halliday hugged the little coin in his palm. It meant so very much. It meant a little Christmas for Babsie, and it had entirely changed his plans for the day. He hurried homeward with a lighter heart than he had carried for months, only stopping at a coster's barrow on his way to invest some of his treasure in rosy-cheeked apples.

He sprang lightly up the stairs to his home, calling "Babsie!" as he ran, so

anxious was he to see her astonishment and delight. But no answer came; no patter of little feet. The dreary room was empty. He sat down chilled and uneasy, and the apples rolled unheeded to the floor.

But one hour—two hours—three hours passed, and still no Babsie. The fog was growing denser and denser. The anxious father paced up and down the little room. At every footfall on the stairs he rushed out and called her name.

The callboy at the Regal Theater was calling out "Overture and beginners" as he made his way along the passages when a man rushed past him and disappeared into one of the dressing-rooms. It was Nigel Halliday, white and trembling, and with huge beads of perspiration on his brow.

"He'll never be on!" said the performers in chorus. But he was at the side, dressed and made up, fully five minutes before his first entrance. The other performers were looking at him curiously, for his face was twitching and he spoke to no one. "Nervousness or drunkenness," they all agreed.

There was a ripple of laughter as he made his first entrance. It acted like an electric shock upon him. He knew what was expected of him, and he worked desperately. "He'll do," said the anxious manager, sagely, as he watched his grotesque exit and listened to the applause that followed it.

As soon as Halliday was off the stage after the fourth scene he caught the assistant manager by the arm.

"I'm not on until the palace scene," he said, eagerly. "How long is my wait?"

"Oh, about an hour to-night," was the reply.

Halliday rushed down the passage to his dressing room, removing his kingly robes as he ran.

"What the deuce are you doing?" cried one of the men, as he watched him struggling into his overcoat. "Are you drunk to-night, or what?"

"Don't stop me!" panted Halliday. "Hands off, I say! It's my long wait. I'll be back in time. My child is lost—missing since morning. I'm crazy with anxiety; she's my only one."

Through the streets he ran, threading in and out the traffic, heedless of the shouts of drivers. The fog had cleared away, and the night was starry.

"Babsie! Babsie!" he panted, as he tore along. "Babsie! Babsie!" as he vaulted up the dark staircase to his home. All was silent in the desolate room. He stood there one moment and threw up his hands in voiceless prayer, and then he hastened back to the theater.

Just before his entrance in the palace scene the doorkeeper made his way through the crowd and said something in a low tone to the stage manager. He saw them glance toward him, and in a moment he was beside them.

"In heaven's name, tell me, Grahame! Is it news for me? Don't lie; I know it!"

"When you come off, Halliday—after your song. There's your music playing now. Go on, old man."

"Tell me first," Halliday replied hoarsely, "and I give you my word I'll go on!"

"A little girl—run over—taken to



WAS BEING CLASPED IN HER FATHER'S ARMS.

Faith Hospital. Don't know who she belongs to. Died unconscious," Grahame replied hastily.

"Thank you," was all the wretched man said as he staggered past them onto the stage.

A child in the gallery laughed gleefully at his grotesque entrance. It sounded just like Babsie's laugh. Babsie now, perhaps, lying a little mangled corpse in the Faith Hospital. Why was he there, he asked himself, if his darling lay dead? What did he care for money now?

But Babsie had been so fond of his "drinking song." She had looked forward to hearing him sing it. He would sing it for her sake.

Then his voice began to falter—he

swayed slightly. "He's breaking down," was the terrified whisper. "Won't some one step in to fill the gap?"

And some one did. Right from the very back of the gallery it came—a child's voice that caught up the refrain just as the wretched singer was about to rush from the stage, and the astonished artists, looking up to the "gods," beheld the singer, a little girl, perched upon the shoulders of a stalwart coster. It was Babsie—Babsie alive and well.

By the time the little girl had got through the chorus and the gallery had shown their appreciation by applause and whistling, Halliday had regained his self-possession, and he sang the remainder of his ditty with such joyous vigor that he carried his audience along, and the infection of gaiety from all the smiling faces on the stage made itself felt all over the house.

"That kid in the gallery is an old music-hall dodge," said one petite to another.

"Yes, but this was jolly well worked. I thought the chap had really broken down," replied his friend.

Behind the scenes the "kid in the gallery" was being clasped in her father's arms amid a group of sympathetic people in motley attire.

Babsie's story was soon told. She had been offered a quarter by a neighbor to mind her babies while she went out. The temptation to see her "dad" perform had been too strong, and the little girl, with her precious coin in her hand, had patiently waited outside the gallery door for many hours. As she had not expected her father home all day she had not been in the least uneasy.

Then Manager Vaughan and Stage Manager Grahame claimed her attention, and the former slipped a brand-new dollar bill into her hand.

"It's what I owe you for that unheard-of effect," he said, laughing. "Forget-Me-Not."

FORTUNES IN TOYS.

Wealth waiting for the Man Who Can Invent a Popular Puzzle.

The chief penny toy now most in demand is something of a mechanical kind, either in the shape of a working model or puzzle. The old kind of toy, with no movement, but which simply was made to be looked at, is of no use to-day. Of the most popular penny toys, during the last half century, more than one dealer gave me full particulars. About 1862 or so there was a tremendous run on penny watches with imitation gold chains! And the manager of a famous firm told me how curiously this came about. It was all due to a woman who stood near the Mansions house, it seems. This hawk colored a piece of thin board with black velvet, and, cutting out holes for the penny watches, placed the latter in them, with the "gold" chains twisted attractively round. Then she called out loudly: "A lovely watch and chain for a penny!" People began to buy rapidly, and time after time that day she replenished her stock and sold out again. Other hawkers learned of it, and within three days this penny watch had become quite a rage all over England. The toy firms were simply "mobbed" for it by the hawkers. One firm alone sold over 5,000 gross in three months; and the maker, a Frenchman in Paris, had to put down new machinery and keep his factory going night and day for four months to supply the demand.

There is a fortune now waiting for the man who can invent a puzzle that will take the place which the "fifteen puzzle" once had, or the famous "pigs in clover." I was informed, on the very highest authority, that more than one regular street seller of toys could be pointed out to me who had often made over £20 a week; and that £10 weekly was by no means unusual for many of them to make during a good run of a popular article.—English Illustrated.

An Old Timer.

A crowd of young men were seated in one of the steamboat offices in the city the other afternoon while an old steamboat veteran regaled them with stories about old times on the Mississippi and reminiscences of old-time citizens.

"Did you know old Bill Jones?" asked one of the men, after the captain had finished relating how he ran a gang of Indians with his boat 'way back in the forties.

"Member Bill Jones? Well, I guess I did," replied the captain. "Let's see he died just after the war. He was a good old fellow, too. I knew his father before he was married to Bill's mother."

One of the boys thought the old man was "doping," and, by way of tripping him up on his dates, asked: "Cap, how long have you been running on the river?"

"Who, me? Why, I started on the Mississippi when it was nothin' but a creek."—Memphis Scimitar.

New French Pistol Saber.

A pistol saber is a new form of weapon now engaging the attention of the French war department. It has a firearm in the hilt, and when the sword meets with a resisting surface it recedes and the pistol is discharged. The sword weighs one-third more than the usual cavalry weapon, and when the pistol is not loaded the saber can be used in the ordinary way. Experiments show that the bullet will go through a breast plate.

HAPPENINGS OF 1899.

SUMMARY OF A YEAR'S IMPORTANT EVENTS.

War in Philippine Islands and South Africa, the Dreyfus Trial, Political Difficulties in Samoa, Death and Destruction by Fire, Wind and Flood.

Many causes have combined to make the year 1899 a rather remarkable one. Its opening was signalized by Spain's surrender of the last vestige of her sovereignty in the western hemisphere; its progress brought forth the declaration of war between England and the Transvaal Republic, and its close leaves these nations still engaged in a bloody contest, that may result in important political changes in South Africa. During the year the fighting between the natives and United States troops in the Philippines has continued and the war is yet on.

Other events, aside from warfare, that have occupied public attention to a greater or less extent have been: Signing of the treaty of peace with Spain; settlement of difficulties in the Samoan Islands; trial, conviction and pardon of Captain Alfred Dreyfus in France; numerous large fires that have destroyed many lives and much property; tornadoes that caused disaster and death at Kirksville, Mo., in April, and at New Richmond, Wis., in June; several fatal shipwrecks; deaths of prominent men, among them President Felix Faure of France, Garret A. Hobart, Vice-President of the United States, and Robert G. Ingersoll; great street car strike at Cleveland and labor riots at Panama and Carlsbad, Ill.

A brief chronological transcript of the year's events is given below:

January.
1—Spain resigns sovereignty over Cuba.
4—Train held up and robbed at Macomb, Mo....Peace treaty with Spain introduced in the Senate.
9—Fourteen persons killed and forty-eight injured in a fire near Dunellen, N. J.
10—McCoy defeated by Sharkey in New York....Severe storm in California.
13—Fire at Memphis, Tenn., destroys wholesale dry goods house of J. S. Menkin & Co., and causes \$300,000 loss....Death of Congressman Dingkey of Maine.
14—British bark Adelina sinks at Tacoma with her entire crew of nineteen men.
17—Death of John Russell Young, librarian of Congress.
18—Disastrous flood at Cleveland....German consul at Apia, Samoa, ejected from Supreme Court Building by American and Philippine consuls.
20—Bank at Arthur, Ill., robbed of \$3,000.
21—Earthquake shakes Peloponnesian peninsula of Greece....Massacre of Spanish officers by natives at Balabac, in the Philippines.
22—One hundred thousand dollars damage done by fire at Johnstown, Pa....Adeline Patti and Baron Cederstrom married at Brecon, Wales.
25—Attorney General A. H. Garland dies suddenly in Washington....Court martial finds Gen. Chas. F. Egan guilty under two charges.
29—Cold wave over the West; 13 degrees below zero at Chicago.
30—Two hundred thousand dollar lumber yard fire in Chicago.

February.
1—Seven persons perish in snowslide in Rogers Pass, B. C.
2—\$75,000 fire in Columbus, Ohio, in which many are injured....Burning of the Buckingham Theater, Louisville, Ky.
3—\$800,000 fire at Philadelphia.
4—Battle between Filipinos and Americans at Manila....Mrs. Botkin receives life sentence for murder....James A. Sexton, Commander-in-chief G. A. R., dies in Washington.
5—Last detachment of Spanish army leaves Cuba....Death of Gen. Count von Caprivi, former Chancellor German Empire....Peace treaty ratified by United States Senate.
8—Manitoba Hotel at Winnipeg burns; loss \$100,000....Eleven business houses burn in Prairie du Chien, Wis.
9—Twenty-one degrees below zero at Chicago; coldest day in twenty-six years....\$600,000 fire in Front street, New York....Five business houses at Herington, Kan., burn.
10—Explosion in Baxter Stove Works, Mansfield, Ohio, causes a \$100,000 fire....Kelly Block in Cleveland burns; loss \$150,000....\$200,000 fire in Toronto, Ont....American troops capture Calocan.
11—Troops under Gen. Miller take Iloilo....Engagement outside Manila, in which Filipinos are driven back.
12—Twenty-four Italian miners and families perish in snowslide at Silver Plume, Colo....McClurg's book store in Chicago burns; loss \$502,000....Seventeen insane women burned to death at Yankton, S. D....Report of War Investigating Board made public in Washington....Great fire in New York City and Albany, N. Y.
13—Ligby, N. S., almost wiped out by fire....Blizzard in the East and South.
14—\$300,000 fire in manufacturing district of Cincinnati....Burning of manufacturers warehouse in Chicago; loss \$1,000,000.
15—Machine shops in Brooklyn navy yard burned.
16—Death of M. Felix Faure, President of France.
18—Emile Loubet chosen President of France....Riots in Paris.
20—Fire causes \$500,000 loss at Port Washington, Wis.
22—City of Manila fired by Filipinos.

March.
1—Death of Lord Herschell in Washington....Sagasta ministry resigns at Madrid.
3—George Dewey made an Admiral by President McKinley.
4—Congress adjourns.
5—Storm destroys life and property in East Tennessee....New ministry takes office at Madrid....Terrorific powder explosion at La Goubiran, France, kills sixty persons.
9—Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage resigns his Washington pastorate....Battle between Americans and Canadians on Porcupine River, B. C.
11—Gen. Maximo Gomez deposed from command by Cuban Assembly.
13—Pasig captured by American troops....Understanding reached on Samoan affairs....Herbert Putnam, of Boston, appointed Congressional librarian.
16—Mob shoots nine negroes at Palmetto, Ga....Death of Editor Joseph Medill....Five killed in street riot at Hot Springs, Ark....Election riot in St. Louis results in death of two men....B. P. Hutchinson, wheat operator, dies at Lake Geneva, Wis.
17—Peace treaty signed by the Queen Regent of Spain....Windsor Hotel burns in New York, with great loss of life.
18—Fatal riot in Havana.
20—Mrs. Martha Place electrocuted at Sing Sing.
21—24—Race war in Little River County, Ark., where many negroes are lynched.
23—Malietoa Tanuasi crowned King of Samoa.
25—Opening of ship canal at Port Arthur, Texas.
27—Burning of Armour's felt works in Chicago.
29—American and British warships bombard native towns in Samoa....Sinking of the steamer Rowena Lee in the Mississippi below Caruthersville, Mo.
30—One hundred and twenty lives lost by shipwreck of passenger steamer Stella in the English channel.
31—Fall of Malolos....\$500,000 fire in San Francisco.

April.
7—Eleven lives lost in burning of Wallace Andrews' residence in New York.
8—Death of Justice S. J. Field, retired....Seventeen lives lost by breaking of an ice

gorge on Yellowstone River at Glendive, Montana.
10—Seven persons killed in riot at Pana, Illinois.
11—Exchange of peace treaties with Spain ends the state of war....Greek coaster Maria sunk off Tripoli with loss of forty-five lives.
14—Twenty-three Crow Indians drowned in floods near Sheridan, Wyo.
15—Great fire in Cleveland; loss almost \$1,000,000.
18—Fishing schooner Eliza lost off Nantucket, with eleven of her crew.
24—Death of ex-Gov. H. J. Oglesby of Ill.
25—Thirty persons drowned in wreck of British ship Loch Sloy on Kangaroo Island.
26—Dawson City, Alaska, almost wiped out by fire.
27—Tornado at Kirksville and Newtown, Mo., and a Soldier River valley, Iowa. Scores killed and injured.
29—Earthquake shakes Southern Illinois and Indiana and Northern Kentucky....Fatal mine riots at Wardner, Idaho.

May.
1—Destructive forest fires in South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado.
3—Resignation of Italian cabinet.
4—Opening of Ute reservation in Colorado.
6—Five killed by tornado in Chickasaw nation, O. T....Death of Mrs. W. C. Whitney.
7—Report of Wade Court of inquiry given out.
8—Russell & Co.'s threshing works at Massillon, Ohio, burned; loss \$500,000.
12—Death of ex-Gov. P. P. Flower of New York....Twenty-five persons killed in railway collision at Exeter, Pa.
15—Death of Francisque Sarcey, noted French critic....Riot at Princeton between students and Pawnee Indians' Wild West.
16—Cyclone in Ohio and Michigan.
17—Insurgent stronghold at San Isidro, P. I., taken by Americans.
20—Aguinaldo sends envoys to sue for peace.
21—American liner Paris goes ashore on the Manacles, off Cornwall, England.
22—Buffalo grain shovellers' strike ends....Tornado in Erath County, Texas.
25—Death of Don Emilio Castelar, Spanish statesman....Great fire at St. John, N. B., which rendered 1,000 persons homeless....Death of Rosa Bonheur, French artist.
28—Tornado devastates parts of South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska....Seven persons killed in train wreck near Waterloo, Iowa.

June.
9—Railway wreck at Grandview, Mo....Jeffries defeats Fitzsimmons at Coney Island, New York.
12—New Richmond, Wis., wiped out by tornado, 150 persons being killed....Dupuy ministry resigns at Paris.
13—Herman, Neb., destroyed by storm.
16—Thirteen persons drowned in steamboat accident near Stettin, Germany.
17—Twelve miners killed by mine explosion at Glace Bay, C. B.
22—New French cabinet organized at Paris.
23—Death of H. B. Plant.
29—Nine lives lost in wreck of steamer Margaret O'Neill in Lake Erie.
30—Dreyfus lands in France....Walkout at Homestead mills, Pittsburgh.
31—Disastrous floods in Texas.

July.
5—Death of Bishop J. P. Newman.
6—Death of Robert Bonner....Order issued for enlistment of ten regiments for the Philippines.
7—Death of George W. Julian, Indiana anti-slavery leader....Lindell Hotel, Lincoln, Neb., burns.
16—Street car strike inaugurated in Brooklyn, N. Y.
19—Resignation of R. A. Alger, Secretary of War.
21—Death of Robert G. Ingersoll.
22—Ellis Root named Secretary of War....Telegraph messengers strike at Cincinnati.
23—\$1,000,000 loss by burning of C. H. & D. elevator at East Toledo, Ohio.
24—Assassination of President Ulysses Heureaux of San Domingo.
27—Death of A. L. Lueigert in Joliet, Ill. prison.
30—Tupper Lake, N. Y., wiped out by fire.

August.
1—Ellis Root, of New York, sworn in as Secretary of War.
6—Thirty-five killed and twelve injured in trolley car accident near Bridgeport, Conn....Collapse of a ferry slip at Bar Harbor, Me., kills twenty persons and injures forty others.
7—Dreyfus trial begins at Rennes, France.
13—M. Lohri, counsel for Capt. Dreyfus, shot at Rennes.
20—Great riot in Paris.
21—Business portion of Victor, Colo., destroyed by fire.
28—Chicago Coliseum framework collapses killing nine men and injuring as many more.

September.
5—Extremely hot weather in Chicago; thermometer registers 98 degrees.
6—Fifty persons injured in collision on the B. & O. Railway at Connelisville, Pa.
9—Capt. Alfred Dreyfus convicted at Rennes, France.
13—Death of Cornelius Vanderbilt.
13—Trust conference begins in Chicago.
17—Seven negroes killed in coal mine riot at Carterville, Ill....Death of Chas. A. Pillsbury of Minneapolis.
19—Capt. Dreyfus pardoned.
21—Fire in Chicago stockyards; loss \$300,000.
26—Admiral Dewey's flagship, the Olympia, arrives in New York.
30—Dewey naval parade in New York.
30—\$1,000,000 fire in Big Four depot and warehouse at Cincinnati.

October.
7—Fall festival in Chicago.
11—War is begun in South Africa....Formal declaration of war by Boers.
12—Four thousand persons killed by earthquake in Ceram, Molucca Islands.
16—Columbia wins first race for America's cup.
17—Columbia wins second race, Shamrock being disabled by breaking of topmast.
20—Columbia wins third race....Boers defeated at Glencoe.
21—English defeat Boers at Elandslaagte.
23—Battle at Glencoe....South Africa.
24—Boers repulsed at Ladysmith.
25—Death of Gen. Guy V. Henry.
27—Death of Florence Marryat, English novelist.
30—British badly defeated in desperate battle at Ladysmith....Ferryboat sunk in North River, New York, and ten lives lost.

November.
3—Jeffries defeats Sharkey in New York.
4—American Steel and Wire Company's plant at Waukegan, Ill., burns.
7—Cruiser Charleston goes ashore off northwest coast of Luzon.
9—Admiral Dewey and Mrs. Mildred Hazen wedded in Washington....Joubert begins bombardment of Ladysmith.
12—Major John A. Logan killed in battle in Philippines.
21—Death of Vice President Garret A. Hobart.
23—British defeat Boers in hard battle at Belmont.
25—Death of George R. Davis, of Chicago, Director-General of World's Fair of 1893.
27—Death of Charles Coghlan, the actor.
28—Boers defeated in severe engagement on banks of Modder River.
30—Block of Philadelphia business houses burned; loss \$3,000,000.

December.
4—Fifty-sixth Congress opens.
5—Death of Senator Hayward of Nebraska.
6—Dick Coleman, negro murderer, burned at the stake at Mayville, Ky.
9—British meet decisive defeat at Stormberg....Thirty-two miners killed by gas explosion in mine at Carbonado, Wash.
11—British suffer great losses in engagement with Boers at Magersfontein.
14—Gen. Buller badly defeated by Boers in attempting to cross Tugela River.
17—Death of Thos. M. Brumby, flag lieutenant of U. S. warship Olympia.
18—Currency bill passed by lower house of Congress....Excitement on Wall street causes two big failures.
19—Gen. Henry W. Lawton killed before San Mateo, P. I.

In the San Francisco schools Japanese children are not segregated on the school rolls, but are classed as whites.