

ROSA'S CHRISTMAS DINNER.

From New York Weekly. It was the day before Christmas. The streets were crowded with people in wagons, carriages, streetcars and omnibuses, as well as a large number on foot; and everybody seemed to be in a hurry. The windows of the shops were glittering with jewelry, splendidly bound books, beautiful pictures, rare articles in silver and gold, bronzes, alabaster, and terra cotta, to please and tempt the rich and fortunate. Others were filled with luscious fruits, and nuts and candies, as well as delicious cakes and bread, and pastries. And others still, exhibited splendid turkey chickens, fish, and game, with all other substantial meats and vegetables.

It poured its contents out into her lap. "I have oat vegetables, and decent clothing. My coat is good, and I can do without that striped shawl." And she looked down a little regretfully at the old, but neat fitting velvet jacket, and pink, cheap, shawl dress, and took off and wrapped up accordingly the shawl, the dress, the hat and the gloves, the white gloves and blue stockings that she had bought that day. "As I shall do very well," she continued, as she put it back upon her head, "I can spend five dollars without feeling a very much, and I will save some. That will buy a chicken and a spare rib—No, it shall be a nice fat little Christmas turkey. Won't that be grand? And I'll have plenty of bread, and vegetable and peas, and apples. I'd like nuts and oranges, but I'm afraid the money wouldn't hold out. My table will hold four, so it must be six—two on each side, and one at each end. But there will be Mrs. Weston, and little Nellie, and Mattie next door, and Nellie Gray, and her little old grandmother, and pretty young and goodly hair d Carrie Somers, who is sticking her nose away in the way; and poor Uncle Ben, who sits at the foot of the stairs, for he is old and lame, and though he loves everybody, has made to love him. Let's see how many does that make? Mrs. Weston and the children, three; and Mrs. Gray and Nellie, two; and Carrie Somers, six; and Uncle Ben, seven; and myself eight. Oh dear! and the table will hold only six. I want them all, if I have any. For there is Nellie Gray, a saintly Martyr, if there ever was one, and her poor, blind grandma has so few pleasures. Carrie Somers, a poor child! hasn't a friend in the world, but one. Mrs. Weston is the best friend I have, if she is a cashewoman; and she was so kind to me during father's illness, and so good afterward in finding me this little room, that I feel as if all I could do for her or the children when she is away at her work, will never repay her. Is she to blame that intemperance made a brute and a convict for life of her husband, and wrecked all the bright hopes of her life? Not at all, and I must have them, anyway. And there is Uncle Ben, always with a warm greeting, and a "Heaven bless you little gal." How many things he sent up to me last summer when I was sick! I can't do without him. I'm quite sure—and there will certainly be enough for eight." (reflectively) "There! I haven't (with a satisfied look) little Jim and Mattie will be tucked to take their share off the bones of the turkey, and I can draw my trunk out from under the bed for them to sit upon. I don't that to be sure. I'll correct my champagne and take a drink or two. I'll be ready, with what I have. Oh, how it smells! I'll go out and get the things I want, and be home in an hour."

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