

THE SPIRIT OF WAR.

It Manifests Itself in President Cleveland's Latest Message.

Rising Utterances on the Venezuelan Question—Monroe Doctrine Must Be Upheld, by Force of Arms, if Necessary.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The president sent to congress Tuesday the Venezuelan correspondence, accompanied by the following significant message:

To THE CONGRESS: In my annual message addressed to the congress on the third instant, I called attention to the pending boundary controversy between Great Britain and the republic of Venezuela and rectified the substance of a representation made by this government to her British Majesty's government, suggesting reasons why such dispute should be submitted to arbitration for settlement and inquiring whether it would be so submitted.

The answer of the British government, which was then awaited, but has since been received, called attention to the dispatch to which it is a reply, is hereto appended.

Such reply is embodied in two communications addressed by the British minister to Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador at this capital. It will be seen that one of these communications is devoted exclusively to observations upon the Monroe doctrine, and claims that in the present instance a new and strange extension and development of this doctrine is insisted upon by the United States, and that the reasons justifying an appeal to the doctrine enunciated by President Monroe are generally inapplicable to the present case, and especially inapplicable to a controversy involving the boundary line between Great Britain and Venezuela.

The Monroe Doctrine Strong and Sound. Without attempting extended argument in reply to these positions, it may not be amiss to suggest that the doctrine upon which we stand is strong and sound, and its enforcement is important to our peace and safety as a nation, and is essential to the tranquility maintenance of our distinctive form of government.

It is intended to apply to every stage of our national life and cannot become obsolete while our republic endures. If the balance of power is justly a cause for anxious anxiety among the governments of the old world, and a subject for our absolute non-interference, this is a cause of the same nature of the Monroe doctrine of vital concern to our people and their government.

Assuming, therefore, that we may properly insist upon this doctrine without regard to the state of things in which we live, or any changed conditions here or elsewhere, it is not apparent why its application may not be invoked in the present controversy.

If a European power, by an extension of its boundaries, takes possession of the territory of one of our neighboring republics, against its will and in derogation of its rights, it is difficult to see why, to that extent, such European power does not thereby attempt to extend its system of government to that portion of this continent which is thus taken. This is the principle which President Monroe declared to be "dangerous to our peace and safety," and it can make no difference whether the European system is extended by an advance of frontier or otherwise.

A Place in International Law. Practically the principle for which we contend has peculiar if not exclusive relation to the United States. It may not have been admitted to so many words in the code of international law, but since in international councils every nation is entitled to the right of being heard, it is the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine in something we may justly claim it has its place in the code of international law as a principle as securely as if it were specifically mentioned, and when the United States is a subject before the high tribunal that administers international law the question to be determined is whether or not we present claims which the justice of that code of law can be said to be right and valid.

The Monroe doctrine finds its recognition in those principles of international law which are based upon the theory that every nation shall have its rights protected and its just claims enforced. Of course this government is entirely confident that under the sanction of this doctrine we have clear rights and undoubted claims. Nor is this ignored in the British reply. The prime minister, while not admitting that the Monroe doctrine is applicable to present conditions, states: "In declaring that the United States would resist any such enterprise if it was contemplated, President Monroe adopted a policy which revealed the entire sympathy of the English government of that date."

The Proposition to Arbitrate. In the brief upon the doctrine for which we contend was clear and definite, that it was founded upon substantial considerations and involved our safety and welfare, that it was fully applicable to our present conditions and to the state of the world's progress, and that it was directly related to the pending controversy, and without any conviction as to the final merits of the dispute, but anxious to learn in a satisfactory and conclusive manner whether Great Britain sought, under a claim of boundary, to extend her possessions on this continent without right, or whether she merely sought possession of the territory fairly included within her lines of ownership, this government proposed to arbitration as the proper means of settling the question, to the end that a vexatious boundary dispute between the two continents might be determined and our exact standing and relation in respect to the controversy might be made clear.

The Course to be Pursued. The course to be pursued by this government in view of the present condition does not appear to admit of serious doubt. Having labored faithfully for many years to induce Great Britain to submit this dispute to impartial arbitration, and having been now fairly apprised of her refusal to do so, nothing remains but to accept the situation, to recognize its plain requirements and deal with it accordingly. Great Britain's present proposition has never been regarded as admissible by Venezuela, though any adjustment of the boundary which that country may deem for her advantage and may enter into of her own free will cannot of course be objected to by the United States.

Assuming, however, that the attitude of Venezuela will remain unchanged, the dispute has reached such a stage as to require it now incumbent upon the United States to take measures to determine with sufficient certainty for its justification what is the true divisional line between the republic of Venezuela and British Guiana. The inquiry as to what and should of course be conducted carefully and judicially, and due weight should be given to all available evidence, records and facts in support of the claims of both parties.

In order that such an examination should be prosecuted in a thorough and satisfactory manner, I suggest that the congress make an adequate appropriation for the expenses of a commission to be appointed by the executive who shall make the necessary investigation and report upon the matter with the least possible delay. When such report is made and accepted it will in my opinion be the duty of the United States to resist by every means in its power as a lawful aggression upon its rights and interests the appropriation by Great Britain of any lands or the exercise of governmental jurisdiction over any territory which after investigation we have determined of right belong to Venezuela.

ANOTHER MESSAGE.

The Financial Situation in Danger, Says the President.

Congress Urged to Enact Legislation for Its Betterment Before Recess—News from New York Precipitates Matters.

Washington, Dec. 21.—In the senate at 4:20 p. m. Friday the following special message was received from the president on the subject of bonds:

To THE CONGRESS: In my last annual message the evils of our present financial system were plainly pointed out and the causes and means of the depletion of gold were explained. It was therein stated that after all the efforts that had been made by the executive branch of the government to protect our gold reserve by the issuance of bonds amounting to more than \$12,000,000, such reserve then amounted to but little more than \$7,000,000; that about \$15,000,000 had been withdrawn from such reserve during the month next previous to the date of that message, and that quite large withdrawals for shipment in the immediate future were projected.

Immediate Action Necessary. The contingency then feared has reached us, and the withdrawals of gold since the communication referred to and others that appear inevitable threaten such a depletion in our government gold reserve as brings us face to face with the necessity of further action for its protection. This condition is intensified by the prevalence in certain quarters of sudden and unusual apprehension and timidity in business circles. We are in the midst of another season of perplexity caused by our dangerous and fatuous financial operations. These may be expected to recur with certainty as long as there is no amendment in our financial system. If in this particular instance our predicament is at all influenced by a recent incident upon the position we should occupy in our relations to certain questions concerning our foreign policy, this furnishes a signal and impressive warning that even the patriotic sentiment of our people is not an adequate substitute for a sound financial policy.

Nation's Sovereignty Questioned. Nation's sovereignty unquestioned, and its public obligations in the recognized money of the world. We should not overlook the fact, however, that aroused fear is unreasonable and must be taken into account in all efforts to avert public calamity and the sacrifice of our people's interests. The real and sensible cure for our recurring troubles can only be effected by a complete change in our financial scheme. Pending that, the executive branch of the government will not relax its efforts nor abandon its determination to use every means within its reach to maintain before the world American credit, nor will there be any hesitation in granting its residence in the residence of our country and the constant patriotism of our people.

Asks Congress to Act. "In view, however, of the peculiar situation now confronting us, I have ventured to hereby express the earnest hope that by congress, in default of the inauguration of a better system of finance, will not take a recess from its labors before it has by legislative action expressed the earnest hope that by its efforts not only to remedy the existing situation, but to secure a permanent and comprehensive among our people that the resources of this government and a scrupulous regard for honest dealing afford a surer guarantee of the safety and soundness, but to reassure the world that with these factors and the patriotism of our citizens the ability and determination of our nation to meet in any circumstances every obligation it incurs do not admit of any question. I ask at the hands of the congress such prompt aid as it alone has the power to give to prevent in a time of fear and apprehension any sacrifice of the people's interest and the public funds or the impairment of our public credit in an effort by executive action to relieve the dangers of the present emergency."

Executive Mansion, Dec. 20, 1895. How It Was Received. The message is received with widespread astonishment on all sides. Few can be found who care to express an opinion for publication either upon its merits or as to the course which congress would probably pursue. Privately, republican members of the house severely criticised the president. It was contended by a number of these gentlemen that the measure was ill-considered and unnecessary; that its effect would be to add to the gravity of the situation and that congress is in no position at the present time to afford the relief desired. Leading republicans say that no measure satisfactory to them can either pass the senate or receive the president's sanction. On the other hand, the house, they assert, will not agree to any measure looking to the retirement of the greenbacks and the substitution thereof of gold interest-bearing bonds. Speaker Reed declined to express an opinion respecting the message. He thought it not unlikely that congress might remain in session with a view to assisting the executive as far as lay in its power, but beyond this he declined to talk.

Iowa Legislature. Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 25.—The 26th general assembly will convene in this city at 10 o'clock a. m. on Monday, January 13, next. The senate will consist of 40 republicans and seven democrats; the house of 80 republicans and 20 democrats, giving the republicans a majority of 96 on joint ballot.

AMERICAN COMMERCE.

The Centennial of Its Liberty is Observed in New York.

New York, Dec. 21.—American commerce celebrated the centennial of its liberty Thursday night by a banquet at Delmonico's. Thursday night was chosen for the banquet because it marked the 100th anniversary of the full approval by the president and senate of the treaty negotiated with Great Britain by John Jay, then chief justice of the young republic of the United States. The feast also inaugurated the annual observance of December 19 as "Commercial Day" by all organized commercial bodies of the country, and it was held under the auspices of the editors of and contributors to the recently completed history entitled "One Hundred Years of American Commerce."

ALL FOR PEACE.

Ministers of the Gospel Say There is No Need of War.

Chicago, Dec. 23.—Ministers of the Gospel in various Chicago churches on Sunday referred to the warlike appearance of affairs between the United States and Great Britain in their sermons. Without exception all insisted that there was no need of war to settle the matter in dispute.

New York, Dec. 23.—Ministers in nearly all of the churches in this city made references in their sermons Sunday to the Venezuelan boundary dispute and the possibility of war between the United States and England. All were strong in their utterances against proceeding to the extreme, and in protest against war talk by press and public.

The War is Costly.

New York, Dec. 21.—President Chauncey Depew, of the New York Central & Hudson River railroad, said Friday: "The war has already cost the country \$1,000,000,000 in depreciated values, and it has been going on for only three days. I met the man Friday who owns most of the swamp in Venezuela which is in dispute and he said he would sell it to me for \$25,000."

Signed the Venezuelan Bill.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The president signed the Venezuelan commission resolution Saturday and it is now a law. According to the wording of the resolution authorizing the commission, the commissioners are directed to ascertain the true divisional boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana.

Plowing at Green Bay.

Green Bay, Wis., Dec. 23.—For the past three days farmers adjacent to this city have been engaged in plowing, the ground since the last thaw being found in excellent condition for that work.

LOWELL STATE BANK.

Capital \$25,000.00

Francis King, President. Chas. McCarty, Vice President. M. C. Griswold, Cashier.

DIRECTORS: Francis King, Chas. McCarty, Robert Hardy, F. T. King, Geo. H. Force, M. C. Griswold.

A General Banking Business Transacted. Money Loaned on Real Estate Security.

KALAMAZOO'S SUCCESS.

A Year of Financial Prosperity Enjoyed in That Balliwick. Kalamazoo, Dec. 20.—Kalamazoo has not been having a boom the past year, but a retrospective view has made it evident that the city has been steadily growing so far as commercial matters are concerned. Among the important manufacturing plants which have been constructed together with their cost, are the following: Bryant paper mill, \$125,000; Humphrey manufacturing and plating plant, \$30,000; G. J. Bremer, foundry and machine shop, \$10,000; Clark & Dunton, foundry and machine shop, \$8,000; Dewing & Son, rebuilt plant, \$125,000; total, \$309,500. The new business blocks erected cost \$200,000; residences, 200, \$200,000; grand total, \$509,500.

SLATTERY WILL FIGHT.

Evicted Priest Will Invoke the Law Upon His Fees. Lansing, Dec. 20.—The 23 men who visited the Catholic parish house here and ejected therefrom Father Slattery and his six clerical guests will soon be called upon to defend themselves on a criminal charge unless the priest recedes from the position taken by him in a card published. He says that it is his intention to remain in Lansing, notwithstanding the efforts of the disfellowed members of his congregation to drive him away and that if there is any law to punish the persons who were concerned in the affair he will spare no means to enforce it.

DROWNS SELF AND CHILD.

Ann Arbor Woman Jumps Into a Cistern with Her Daughter in Her Arms. Ann Arbor, Dec. 20.—Mrs. Mary Grossman, wife of a prominent business man in this city, committed suicide by drowning herself in a cistern. When she sprang into the water she carried in her arms her only child, a three-year-old daughter. No reason can be assigned for the rash act, as her life is known to have been a happy and contented one. Her husband on returning from business found a note written by her directing him to search for her in the cistern.

ANN ARBOR DEBATERS.

To Meet Chicago University Men in Oratorical Contest in February. Ann Arbor, Dec. 21.—Charles G. Vert, '96 law, of New York; Edmund Block, '96 law, of Tennessee; and Paul Y. Albright, '98 law, of Pennsylvania, have been selected by an intersociety contest to represent the University of Michigan in a debate with the Chicago university to be held here next February. The question to be discussed is: "Is the principle of a graduated property tax one that should be adopted by the states?" Chicago has chosen the negative.

Lansing Must Settle.

Lansing, Dec. 19.—The city has been defeated in a damage suit for \$2,500. The case is the one for negligent injury to the plaintiff, Mr. Ostrander, caused by the alleged failure of the city to properly shore up the sides of a sewer on Madison street, in which the plaintiff was working. By reason of the failure it is claimed that the sewer caved in, burying Mr. Ostrander up to the hips. In his fear that another cave-in would occur and bury him completely, Mr. Ostrander claims to have struggled violently to get out, and in doing so to have injured himself.

A Coaster Killed.

Rockford, Dec. 19.—Dick White, a 15-year-old lad residing west of Rockford, while coasting was struck by a single sled descending the hill. He was thrown ten feet into the air, falling upon his head and crushing his skull. He died 12 hours afterward.

Christmas and New Years Excursions Rates via Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railway.

The Detroit Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railway, and Toledo Saginaw & Muskegon Railway, will make cheap excursion rates to all points and via all lines in Michigan, east, west, north and south, also to points in Canada west and including Toronto, Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

Tickets will be sold for Christmas on December 24th and 25th, valid to return to January 2nd, 1896, and New Years tickets will be sold December 31st and January 1st valid to return to January 2nd 1896.

FREE PILLS.

Send your address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a free sample box of Dr King's New Life Pills. A trial will convince you of their merits. These pills are easy in action and are particularly effective in the cure of Constipation and Sick Headache. For Malaria and Liver troubles they have been proved invaluable. They are guaranteed to be perfectly free from every deleterious substance and to be purely vegetable. They do not weaken by their action, but by giving tone to stomach and bowels greatly invigorate the system. Regular size 35c. per box. Sold by Hunter & Son.

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We Are NOT GOING OUT Of Business

Nor Have We a Lot of Old Shop Worn Stuff to Sell!

Table with 4 columns: Item, Price, Item, Price. Includes: Best Table Oil Cloth for 12 1/2c, Checked Toweling 8c, Best All-New Styles 36 in. all wool Dress, Dress Gingham 5c, Flannels 23c, Indigo Prints 4 1/2c, 50 in. all wool Dress, Good Silecias 8c, Flannels 38c, Best A. C. A. Ticking 11c, Ladies Wool Hose 11c, Everett Denim, Blue, 9c, Mens Heavy Underwear 29c.

A Full Line of New Styles Capes and Jackets BELOW ALL OTHERS.

We have one lot of last years' Cloak's sold for \$10 to \$23. Now selling for \$5.

No Elegant Kins of Fancy Handkerchiefs and Stamped Kins For Holidays.

We Have a Potato Price on All Our Stock. - - Dry Goods are Cheap.

COME AND SEE US. A. W. WEEKES

Pork Prices

AT BARBER & CRAW'S

Potato Prices Are Not In It!

We Are Here to Stay and Mean Business!

Table with 2 columns: Item, Price. Includes: 1 lb. of Dunham Coconut 30c, 1 Good Broom 10c, 8 lb. Rolled Oats 25c, 1 Doz. Pickles 8c, 5 lb. Ginger Snaps 25c, 1 qt. Sweet Pickles 20c, 6 lb. Raisins 25c, 28 bars Acme Soap \$1.00, 1 lb. Calumet Baking Powder (Good as Royal) 25c, 1 lb. Japan Tea 25c, 28 bars Jaxon Soap \$1.00, 1 lb. Best Japan Tea 40c, 1 doz. Boxes Matches 15c, 3 1/2 lb. Sear's Lunch Crax 25c, 6 lb. Bulk Starch 25c, 1 lb. Elegant Coffee 25c, 4 packages Corn Starch 25c, 4 packages Arm and Hammer Soda 25c.

A Full Line of Candies and Nuts.

All Goods Guaranteed!

Order Your Turks and Oysters NOW.

We pay best prices for Butter and Eggs and Farm Produce.

Barber & Craw.



Farmer Stebbins as Santa Claus.

By WILL CARLETON.

(Copyright, 1924, by American Press Association.)

We went to Pegtown visiting, my good old wife an' me,
An' thought that we would bathe ourselves in Chris'mas joy an' glee;
For Sarah Ann, a buxom dame, an' daughter, too, of mine,
Resides there with her older half an' children eight or nine;
An' so we gathered gifts enough to make 'em all content
An' took the train an' landed there the very day we went.



The children warmly greeted us an' crowded round
my chair,
With four a-pechin' on my knees an' young uns still
to spare;
An' asked about my spectacles, an' how I grewed
my wig,
An' if my papa bought my teeth before I got so big,
An' how my whiskers come to bleach an' other ques-
tions prone
To make a mortal realize that younger days have
flown;

An' if I ever looked it up how fur I was around,
An' when I run if it would shake the whole ad-
jacent ground,

An' if the your-correct-weight box didn't think I was a lot,
An' if I wouldn't have to put two pennies in the slot,
With other questions well designed to give a hint to me
That I was not a first class slyph so far as they could see.

An' when I told 'em fairy tales they wouldn't be-
lieve a word
An' said the Sin'bad sailor things could never have
occurred;
An' all the pleasant little lies that used to cheer my
youth
They set upon without delay as destitute of truth.
An' when of Christmas mysteries in solemn tones I
spoke,
They laughed an' said that Santa Claus was all "a
bloomin' fake."



So Christmas eve I slyly told my daughter
Sarah Ann:
"I'll show the tots a little sight to laugh at if they can.
You raze the fireplace clear o' fire, not tellin' them the cause,
An' I'll come down the chimney way dressed up as Santa Claus.
It isn't very fur to climb—the weather's pretty mild,
An' I would do three times as much to interest a child."



I went an' clad in hairy garb, with whiskers long
an' white
An' other things to paralyze the inexperienced sight,
An' had some sleighbells bright an' new a-hangin'
on my arms
An' pockets full o' Christmas things to add unto my
charms,
An' with the strongest ladder rope that I could find
in town
I entered in the chimney top an' clambered slowly
down.

My goodness sakes! Who ever heard of such un-
timely luck?
The chimney narrowed all to once, an' suddenly I stuck
An' hung there like a roastin' hen a-waitin' to be brown,
For spite of all my effortin' I couldn't get up or down.
An' then the chil'ren heard the noise an' run distressin' fleet
An' looked an' yelled: "It's Gran'pa Steb. We know him by his feet!"

An' then their mother had to tell what I had tried
to do,
Whereas their little fancies sprung the subject to
pursue.
They asked me if I'd traveled far, if chimneys in-
jured costs,
An' where my span of reindeers was, an' if they'd
like some oats,
An' told me, with a childish greed for Christmas
gathered peif,
If I would throw the presents down, I needn't come
myself;

An' there I hung for quite awhile, with fury
in my heart,
Until they brought a mason in, who took the bricks apart;
An' though they made the children stop, an' sent 'em off to bed,
I knowed what they was thinkin' of an' what they prob'ly said,
An' when the mornin' did appear an' breakfast time occurred,
They set around the table there forbid to say a word;



A-sufferin' so to laugh at me, afraid that I'd be
gruff,
An' longin' for their presents, too—I knowed it well
enough.
An' then a tear come in my eye, an' like a fond old
dunce
I went an' dug the presents out an' give 'em all to
once.
An' then I says, "If Santa Claus is what you call 'a
fake,'
These pr'tty things he brought fur you is real an' no
mistake."

An' then they up an' danced around an' kissed me,
one by one,
An' hugged me harder than the blamed old chimney just had done,
An' with a thousand looks of love incumbered me with thanks
An' made me like 'em more an' more in spite of all their pranks.
An' one, the prettiest of the whole, who always took my part,
She smiles an' says: "It's Gran'pa Steb. We know him by his heart!"

AN EPISODE.

CHRISTMAS OF THE JOLLITY THEATER STOCK COMPANY.

(Copyright, 1924, by James L. Ford.)

Three weeks before the holidays, and the outlook for a merry Christmas was a gloomy one, at least so far as the members of the stock company of the Jollity theater were concerned. Salary day had come and gone, and as yet the ghost had shown no disposition to walk, and it was because of the nonappearance of that most welcome specter of stage-land that the rumor had started and was rapidly gaining ground that Messrs. Hustle and Hardup, proprietors and managers of the Jollity theater, were "in a hole again."

The piece which occupied the boards had proved a flat failure, and receipts at the box office had fallen in consequence to a plane never before reached in the history of the house. Moreover, no new play had as yet been put in rehearsal, and an atmosphere of unmistakable gloom and apprehension pervaded the region behind the footlights and weighed heavily on the spirits of every one there, from Pearl Livingstone, the talented emotional actress who played the leading female parts, down to little Kitty Sullivan, who was only 7 years old and was in the depths of despair because for fully three weeks she had been out of the bill. In short, every member of the company was in a condition of mingled uncertainty and curiosity in regard to the future of the playhouse and the prospects of its managers, who as yet had given no sign of their intentions and had, in fact, been invisible to the members of their artistic staff ever since the last day on which salaries became due.

On this particular night, which happened to be one of storm and rain, two or three of the principal actors had gathered together for a serious talk about the situation, when Tom, the programme boy, appeared suddenly before them in an almost breathless condition and exclaimed: "Mr. Freelanee is back from Chicago. He's in the office with Mr. Hustle. They've got both doors locked."

"Mr. Freelanee!" cried Miss Livingstone, her face lighting up with joy, precisely as it does in her scene in the second act where her lover comes back from India, or rather as it did light up in that scene before the business became so bad. "Are you sure it was Mr. Freelanee, Tommy?"

"Sure!" rejoined Tom, with emphasis. "I seen him meself when he come in." "Then, Tom, you be sure and see him when he comes out and tell him that I am particularly anxious to see him back here as soon as the curtain goes down on the second act. Here's a quarter for you, Tom, and you'd better keep it as a curiosity, for it's getting to be a very rare sort of bird in the Jollity theater preserves."

"Thank you, mum," said Tom as he pocketed the coin, with a grin.

"I fancy I see a gleam of light on the distant horizon," remarked the venerable Mr. Borders in a tone similar to that which he assumes in the great melodrama called "The Ocean Blue," in the scene in which he is discovered sitting on a raft in midocean on the lookout for a passing sail. "In the meantime," he added, "I think we had better wait and hear what Billy has to say before we take any further action in the matter."

Up to that moment they had taken no action whatever, but the phrase sounded well, and so Mr. Borders employed it.

Now, Mr. William Freelanee, called by his intimates Billy, was and is today one of the best known figures in the theatrical affairs of the town, and, as every member of the stock company knew, he had on more than one previous occasion come to the rescue of his old friends, Messrs. Hustle and Hardup, and that, too, when they were in even more deplorable financial straits than they were at the present moment.

It was his reputation as a mascot fully as much as his remarkable talents which caused the whole avant scene to brighten up at the news of his presence in the theater, for playfolk are notoriously superstitious and have an unbounded and childlike faith in the efficacy of a mascot as well as in the destructive qualities of a "jonah."

Just as the curtain fell on the second act Mr. Freelanee appeared behind the scenes and received the rapturous greetings of the company. Then Miss Livingstone took him by the arm, detached him from the little group which surrounded him, led him gently but firmly into her dressing room, placed him on her sine trunk, and standing before him

with folded arms said, "Billy, what's going to happen?"

"My dear," replied Mr. Freelanee persuasively, "everything is all right, and I just left Hustle for five minutes to come back here and tell you so. We are going to put on a new piece, and there's a part in it that's simply great—out of sight, in fact. We are not quite sure who'll be cast for the part because it's a very heavy emotional one, and if we put a woman in it who didn't know how to read lines she would go all to



pieces and the bottom would drop out of the whole play. I thought I'd speak to you about it because Hardup has caught a new 'angel' and said something to me about Kitty Bracebridge."

"If that wolf puts her foot in this theater"—began Miss Livingstone, but Mr. Freelanee interrupted her by placing his hand over her mouth and saying: "Wait for me after the curtain goes down, Pearl, and I'll talk to you about it. Shadrach's waiting in the office, and I've got to give him a 'jolly' so as to get the costumes out of him, but I'll be back here after the last act."

In spite of the storm outside and the dispiriting atmosphere within the performance given that night by the Jollity stock company was a notably brilliant one, for the news had spread that there was to be a speedy change of bill, and hope was once more in every member's breast. Mr. Freelanee invited Miss Livingstone out to supper just as she was on the point of declaring that she would not go on again unless she received every cent of the back salary that was due her, and before they left the restaurant she had meekly agreed to study the great emotional role which had been intended for Miss Bracebridge and to say nothing more about back salary.

The next morning, in accordance with a call posted in the stage entrance, the company assembled to hear the new play read by the gifted Mr. Freelanee, and such was that gentleman's elocutionary power that when he laid the manuscript aside expressions that ranged from mere satisfaction to rapturous enthusiasm were heard on every hand, and there was scarcely an actor or actress present that did not feel confident of a personal success in the new production.

The reading over, Mr. Freelanee took Miss Livingstone, Mr. Borders and one or two other rebellious spirits aside, and as he expressed it in a subsequent interview with Mr. Hustle, "stiffened their backbones" with the assurance that everything was all right and that the piece was to be done on Christmas eve in order that they might have a really merry Christmas on the prospects of its success. After that, he assured them, their back salaries would pour in upon them in a perfect avalanche.

As Mr. Freelanee was leaving the theater he felt some one tugging at his coat, and on looking down saw little Kitty Sullivan standing beside him and saying, in earnest tones, and with a sad, wistful face, "Billy, isn't there any part for me in the new piece?"

The child called him by his first name because she had always heard him spoken to in that way by other members of the company, and Billy rather encouraged her in the idea because it sounded funny to him to hear himself addressed in such familiar terms by an infant of her size.

Kitty was a veritable child of the avant scene, and had been an actress from her very earliest infancy. She was now about 7 years of age, and was just beginning to comprehend the difference between the real things of life, such as houses, trees and streets, and the painted imitations of stageland. And yet it was only two years and a half ago that she beheld the ocean for the first time, and it is related of her that on that occasion she stood with Billy's hand tightly clasped in hers, watching the waves as they broke upon the beach, and finally turned to her companion and said in her serious way, "Billy, how do they work 'em?"

And now she was here beside her old friend, with her small, pathetic face upturned, and inquiring earnestly if

there were a role for her in "The Giant's Causeway."

"See here, Kitty," exclaimed Mr. Freelanee, touched by the child's grief, "I'll tell you what I'll do for you, and what's more, I wouldn't do it for any one else in the company. Are you listening?"

"Yes," said Kitty, turning her head around.

"Well, I'll write in a part specially for you, and that's something that an author like Sardou or myself rarely does for any one except a Bernard or a Duse. Now, run along and be here to-morrow at 11 for rehearsal."

The child darted away, wiping the last tear from her cheek as she ran, and Barney said approvingly, "That's the best deed you'll ever do in your life, Mr. Freelanee, and, mark my words, the child'll bring good luck to the house."

How Billy succeeded in persuading the economical Hardup that the piece would prove a failure unless a child were introduced into it and how he contrived to write the part in for her that very night are matters that had best be left to conjecture, but the very next day Kitty received the typewritten copy of her lines, and rehearsals of "The Giant's Causeway" were carried forward under Mr. Freelanee's direction with the energy and spirit that mark all of that gentleman's undertakings.

The opening night, Dec. 24, found the house well filled with an audience which made a favorable impression on the venerable Mr. Borders as he looked out through the proscenium the curtain, while behind the footlights feverish excitement and anticipation prevailed.

As for Kitty, she had become so wrought up over her role—the longest one she had ever been entrusted with—that she seemed in danger of losing her balance and forgetting every one of the lines that she had, by diligent study, crammed into her small head. She was standing in the first entrance, with her hand clasped in that of Mr. Freelanee, when her cue came, and as she walked out on the stage, the ideal of childish loveliness, a murmur of delight ran through every part of the crowded house.

"They're going to foreclose the mortgage on the old mill tomorrow night, and if that child lives I am a beggar," said the polished, cigarette smoking villain, and then a youngster in the parquet set up a pitiful howl of despair, which was followed by a general ripple of movement that might have proved fatal to the piece had not Kitty gone on with her lines with the coolness and gravity of the born and experienced artist, which she was displaying there by a presence of mind which won for her, on her exit, the first real applause of the evening.

Kitty Sullivan was, as the eminent dramatic critic had observed, an old hand at the business, despite the fact that she was but 7 years of age, for she had been born and brought up on the stage and was as much at home in the presence of a great audience as an ordinary child is before a nursery. As the piece went on she realized that she was making a hit—a far greater one than she had ever made before—and, young



HE FELT SOME ONE TUGGING AT HIS COAT, as she was, she was enough of an artist to appreciate the importance of keeping a restraint on herself and not overdoing her role.

She was looking forward to a certain scene in the last act—a scene which she had rehearsed with much delight, and in which she firmly expected to make a great impression. Billy, who had been waiting with some anxiety for the same scene, came down and took a seat in a proscenium box, and as the child stood in the wings waiting for her cue she saw him smiling encouragement to her. The scene represented a barren, wavy

washed rock near the coast of Ireland, and on this rock was standing the virtuous heroine, just where she had been left by the villain. The lights grew dim, the moon arose from beyond the scene, and the Philadelphia quartet, stationed behind the scenes, warbled plaintive Irish melodies.

"Must I die here alone?" moaned the heroine as the tide rose higher and higher about the rock on which she stood and heavy clouds began to gather above her head. And just at this moment, a rowboat, propelled by childish arms, came swiftly around the rocky point at the left of the stage, and Kitty Sullivan, throwing aside the oars, stood up in the boat with her foot on the prow and exclaimed in a clear, infantile treble, "I have come to save you for the sake of old Ireland!"

Commonplace as it was, with its old, well worn melodramatic effects of soft music and moonlight, nevertheless the situation had taken a strong hold on the audience, and the sudden appearance of the sweet faced child, who had charmed every one during the earlier portions of the play, sent a distinct thrill through the entire house, and then came such an outburst of spontaneous applause as had not been heard in the Jollity theater for many a year.

Even Billy Freelanee felt a touch of a magnetic current with which the atmosphere was charged, and might have



KITTY MAKES A HIT. had been heard to remark half audibly, "The kid's knocked 'em good this time, sure, for a thing's got to be good if it gets me."

And as the audience dispersed that night it seemed to Mr. Freelanee, as he stood alert and watchful in the lobby, that there was but one name on every tongue, and that Kitty's sweet face and infantile art had made their way into the very heart of an always fickle public.

"You were right about her, Billy," said Hardup.

"I told you the young one would bring us good luck," said old Barney at the stage door.

"The idea of making such a fuss over a 7-year-old brat! That shows what act is coming to in this country!" exclaimed Miss Livingstone as she swept through the drafty passage, leaving an odor of sealskin, tuberoses and moist powder behind her.

The members of the stock company had their Christmas dinner in the wardrobe room between the mutinee and the evening performance, Messrs. Hustle and Hardup footing the bill and Mr. Freelanee presiding, with Miss Pearl Livingstone on his right hand and the venerable Mr. Borders on his left. And it is a matter of record that no toast offered that evening was drunk with heartier applause than was the one proposed by Mr. Freelanee to Kitty Sullivan, "the mascot of the Jollity theater and the founder of this feast."

JAMES L. FORD.

Tom to Sue and Sue to Tom. "Can you guess, my sweetheart," queried Tom of Sue, "Can you fathom by love's art what I'll buy for you?" Pretty Susan bowed her head, made a pretty frown.

Then in accents sweet she said, opening eyes of brown: "Why, certainly not. But I'm dying to have Christmas eve come so that I can find out. I know it will be something frightfully expensive—something that will cost lots more than you can afford. You men are so reckless with your money!"

Poor Tom next day ran in debt for a diamond pin, and he hasn't paid up yet, for he's "afraid of 'em."

And he says that if he ever asks Sue such a question again it will be after he has arranged in advance for a year's board in the nearest insane asylum.

By the way, Sue gave Tom a piece of neckwear that cost 75 cents.