

## FEASTING IN RAGS AND TAGS.

London's Very Picturesque Celebration on the 31st of December.

Portly, pompous London—that portion of it known as the "city," the wealthiest corporation in the world, lends itself to a strange ceremony every year. It would be intensely funny if it were not so dignified and so kindly. Celebrations down in the square mile called "the city" mostly mean aldermanic feasting. The lord mayor, who is also an alderman, gets \$20,000 a year and spends as much again, chiefly in giving and eating prodigious dinners. The other aldermen and the sheriffs likewise fulfill their chief official functions by banqueting on every possible occasion, and the ancient Guildhall, the stately historic home of the city's highly ornamental and gastronomic government, is famous throughout Christendom for the marvelous spreads that have been provided therein for kings, queens, premiers and visiting potentates.

In one way the Guildhall is true to its traditions at Christmas time, but in another it isn't—because for once, the city fathers look on while others eat, and the guests, instead of being the richest, mightiest folk of the day, are the littlest, poorest and most helpless that can be gathered in all the sad byways and alleys of Whitechapel.

This banquet is no ordinary affair, for the "city" has a tremendous dignity to maintain and an unbroken record dating from away back before America was discovered of doing nothing common. So the rugged urchins from all the dens that are sometimes grouped under the general title of Whitechapel are treated with the same exact and punctilious ceremony that is occasioned by a royal visit. The result was the most picturesque holiday entertainment of the year.

The guests are always 6,300 in number, carefully chosen by relief societies from the hungriest of all the hungry children in London. You don't have to be good to get an invitation; you only have to prove that a big Christmas dinner would come handier to you than to almost any one else. Twelve hundred of the children have to be more or less able bodied, are gathered under the noble old rafters of the Guildhall and the other 5,000, who are cripples or too ill to come, have their dinners sent around to them in hampers.

The banquet begins this year as usual at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of Dec. 31. But there is a queer little touch of ceremony at noon on the same day. At the stroke of 12 on the last day of each year alderman Sir William Treloar, who conceived the idea of this banquet and who raises most of the \$20,000 necessary to pay for it, turns up with the lord mayor of that year at the door of the Guildhall and Sir William formally hands to the lord mayor a thick packet of envelopes. Each of these contains a long list of names of the cripples who are to receive the hampers—22 of them in all—for which the delivery men are driving up the list. The lord mayor hands to each man his list and says officially and formally, "God speed to you." The same formula is repeated to every man. The dinners might taste just as good if this ceremony were omitted, and it would save the busy lord mayor a good deal of bother, but the bit of sentiment is never lost on the people who witness it.

As becomes the headquarters of the best fed corporation in the world, one of the features of the Guildhall is its great kitchen, where delicacies have been cooked for kings and premiers since time out of mind. It might be maintained that the chef of the Guildhall kitchen is far and away the most important member of the municipal government. Even the cooks at Windsor cannot do a Christmas dinner of beef to such a nicety as those in the Guildhall. Yet these grave potentates attend as spectators to the preparation of the repast for the little army of the unwashed as they did a few weeks ago to preparing the city's feast for King Edward and Queen Alexandra. There is no turtle soup, to be sure, but the roast beef and the plum pudding are enough to make a millionaire's mouth water.

Everything is ready to be served plump and hot when the children are admitted. At that time the great hall where so many monarchs have sat is a tumultuous mass of wringing humanity. Some of the children have their faces washed in honor of the occasion, but so many ceremonies to be observed, so many would appear that every one of the 1,200 had been fasting, voluntarily or otherwise, for a day or two before. The sights and sounds when this army falls upon its food are something that the infant denizens of no American slum can hope to compete with. Eighteers are almost as eager for tickets of admission to the galleries, whence a view may be had of this wondrous scramble, as the children themselves are for invitations to the feast. The portions served are generous—roast beef, potatoes, cabbage, milk and Christmas pudding enough to cope single handed with the appetite of an ordinary child. But second helpings are the custom with the Guildhall guests and attempts at a third round have been known. The total makes 1,000 pounds of meat and over 700 pounds of plum pudding.

Edouette calls for the lapse of half an hour from the time the banquet comes on till the ceremonies begin, but 15 minutes would do as well. At 5:30 the lord mayor and his lady, followed by a gorgeous procession of city officials, enter a solemn, stately march up and down between the long rows of tables. It is part of the game that his lordship should be in full sail, so to speak. His crimson robe is quickly snatched out "God Save the King." As the procession goes on down the aisles the lord mayor periodically chants "Happy New Year to you, little brothers and sisters," to which the children have been instructed to answer back with due formality. "The same to you, sir, and your ladyship." It has now become part of the ritual that these responses shall alternate occasionally with "Hurray for our aldermen," "Long live Sir William."

The procession paces on and on slowly up and down the aisle for 15 or 20 minutes, that the full idea of the municipal majesty may sink into the most being of even the smallest child, and perhaps to enable a few of the more lusty ones by dint of much cheering and wriggling about to find room for another mouthful or two. After the children are dismissed their

mothers are introduced into the hall to feast on what remains. It is difficult to tell which is the more gracious, the gaunt, pinched, grimy faces of the children anywhere from 3 to 14 years old, or the haggard, faded women, many of them young but none looking as if she herself had ever been a child.

The final ceremony comes when yet a third series of guests is entertained. After the mothers have gathered up their baskets of fragments, the boxes of pieces which circle the day after about the turrets of the Guildhall are called down for the crumbs which have fallen from the children's tables. For yards and yards around the stone pavement is blanketed in gray with the birds. Their final fluttering skyward is the last number on this annual program with which the Guildhall closes its year.

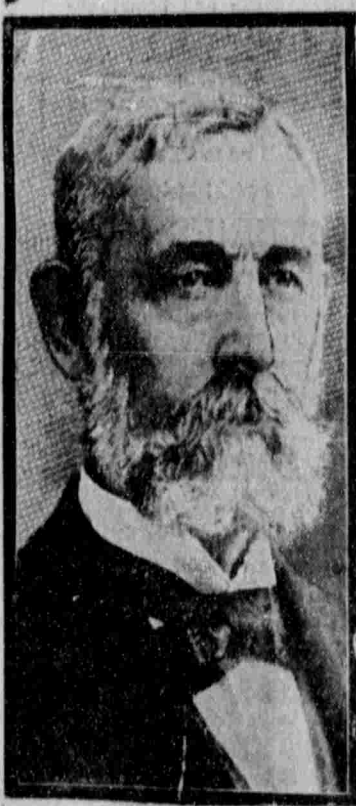
Sir William Treloar, who makes all this quaint Christmas entertainment possible, is known all over London as "the children's alderman." It takes a lot of hustling season after season to raise the funds for the feast, and it took a lot of persistence in the first place to persuade the corporation that its previous Guildhall could be used without loss of dignity for guests at the uttermost social extreme from those usually entertained there.

But without the systematic preparation which the Ragged School union makes for this peculiar feast, even alderman Treloar and the lord mayor and lady may never be at sea. The union is a federation of nearly all the societies through which London seeks to aid poor children. Most of these societies have queer names that are significant of the English attitude toward the poor. There is a touch of the some coldness about them that there is in the Guildhall feast—an accentuation of the difference between the classes. Among these organizations are the Battered Mission, the Goose club, the Crotch and Kindness League, and—observe this name—the Guild of the Poor Brave Things.

But London is generous, even if it is a little condescending, and the Ragged School union, which was organized nearly 60 years ago has really done a wonderful work in improving the condition of the children of the slums and especially in helping along little cripples. It is establishing reading rooms, work shops, gymnasiums and schools, helping poor women in the care of their babies, and is doing a tremendous amount of Christmas work outside of the Guildhall banquet. What with the work of these affiliated societies and the king's appropriation for Christmas dinners, there was scarcely a family among the poorest of London's poor this year that did not get a generous helping of Christmas pudding.

The late Lord Shaftesbury spent most of his spare time in making this Ragged School

### DRYDEN WARNS



Senator Dryden is president of The Prudential Insurance company and his views are particularly important because he represents in the Senate, New Jersey, in which state most of the great corporations and trusts have been chartered. He warns all his colleagues to go slow, lest in trying to remedy conditions which may injure the leading industries of the country, they are those dependent upon them, as investors and wage-earners, may be in turn injured.

### ONLY A SUGGESTION.

But It Has Proven of Interest and Value to Thousands.

Common sense would suggest that if one wishes to become fleshy and plump it can only result from the food we eat and digest and that food should be nutritious and rich forming food, like eggs, beefsteak and cream. In other words the kinds of food that under flesh are the foods which form the greater part of our daily bills of fare.

But the trouble is that while we eat enough and generally too much, the stomach, from abuse and overwork, does not properly digest and assimilate it, which is the reason so many people remain thin and under weight; the digestive organs do not completely digest the food forming beefsteak and eggs and similar wholesome food.

There are thousands of such who are really confirmed dyspeptics, although they may have no particular pain or inconvenience from their stomachs.

If such persons would lay their prejudices aside and make a regular practice of taking after each meal, one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets the food would be quickly and thoroughly digested, because these tablets contain the natural peptones and diastase which every weak stomach lacks, and by supplying this want the stomach is soon enabled to regulate its natural time and vigor.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets digest every form of flesh-forming food, meat, eggs, bread and potatoes, and this is the reason they so quickly build up, strengthen and invigorate thin, dyspeptic men, women and children.

Invalids and children, even the most delicate, use them with marked benefit, as they contain no strong, irritating drugs, no cathartics nor any harmful ingredient.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is the most successful and most widely known remedy for stomach troubles because it is the most reasonable and scientific of modern medicines.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by every druggist in the United States and Canada as well as in Great Britain, at 25 cents for complete treatment.

Nothing further is required to cure any stomach trouble or to make thin, nervous, dyspeptic people, strong, plump and well.

union a powerful federation, and the present era and centuries continue the work, although the presidency of the union has passed from their family to the marquis of Northampton—Chicago Tribune.

### THE NEWSPAPER OF THE FUTURE

Chicago American—The age of the book and periodical is fast disappearing, declares the Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor of Plymouth church Brooklyn.

Before many years he believes the daily paper will have so reduced the sale of books and magazines of every kind that the two latter will cease to be printed.

"I look forward to the day, not so far distant as it may be imagined, when everything of interest will be published in the daily papers. The magazine article of the future will be printed chapter by chapter in the morning daily paper."

The time will come when the news of the paper will be so condensed that the business man may get the news of the country with his breakfast. He may read the first or the third chapter of the newest article of fiction and a description of the leading international question on his way down town in the car, or alight, or whatever mode of conveyance is in use at that time.

"The newspapers are progressing in every way. To be a newspaper man means to be a college graduate, and the newspaper man must be reserved and silent, but teeming with knowledge of the world's events."

"The time will come when there will be one publication—the newspaper. In it will be everything of interest, everything that will add to the knowledge of man."

### Paper Patterns.

"In the Banner Pattern you will find beauty and comfort well combined." The only first-class low-priced paper pattern.

## WHAT IS HOME WITHOUT A DAD?

I happened in a home last night, and over the door saw the legend, worked in letters of red, "What is Home without a Mother?"

Across the room was another brief desire: "God Bless Our Home."

Now, what's the matter with "God Bless Our Dad?" He gets up early, lights the fire, boils an egg, grabs his dinner pail, and wipes the dew of the dawn with his boots while many a mother sleeps. He makes the weekly handout for the benefit of the grocer, milkman, butcher and baker, and his little pile is badly worn before he is home an hour. He stands off the sheriff and keeps the rent paid up. If Heber needs a new pair of boots, "cause he's just walking on the ground," he goes down into his poke and comes up with the price of a hard day's sweat. If Mary needs a new ribbon for her hair, mother yawns for a new wrapper, and the baby yowls for a rattle, down goes dad again and up comes the coin. But if he buys a new pipe for a quarter because the old one is getting sort of strong, he is warned that smoking is an expensive habit and that men have smoked up blocks and farms and happy homes. When circus time arrives, dad comes up with the price, and ma goes out with the neighbors, and Alfreda sparks her beaux

in the parlor. Dad's clothes ain't none too good, and grime will stick on, and so he sits in the kitchen with the kids. If there is a noise in the night he is kicked in the back and made to go down stairs and find the burglar and kill him. Mother dars the socks—yes, she does; but dad bought the socks in the first place, and the needle and yarn afterward. "Mother does up the fruit, but dad bought it all, and just cost like the rascal." Dad buys chicken for the Sunday dinner, carves it himself, and draws the neck from the ruins after everyone else is served. "What is Home without a Mother?" Yes, that's all right. But what is home without a father? Ten to one it is a boarding house, father is under a slab, and the landlady is the widow. Dad, here's to you! You've got your good points, and they'll miss you when you're gone.

### Saved at Grave's Bristle.

"I know I would long ago have been in my grave," writes Mrs. S. H. Newsum, of Decatur, Ala. "If it had not been for Electric Bitters. For three years I suffered untold agony from the worst form of indigestion. Water-brash, Stomach and Bowel Dyspepsia. But this excellent medicine did me a world of good. Since using it I can eat heartily and have gained 35 pounds." For Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles Electric Bitters are a positive, guaranteed cure. Only 50c at Z. C. M. I. Drug department.

## Tremendous Cut on Cotton Fabrics and Household Linens.

# Z. C. M. I. SPRING SALE!

MONDAY Morning, bright and early, Z. C. M. I. commences its usual Spring Sale of Staple Cottons and Household Linens—an event looked forward to by wise, thrifty and consistently economical housekeepers as a grand, money-saving opportunity, because they know from past experience that when the Great Store gives a sale, it means Real Reductions from Regular Prices. This sale will take in all Cotton Fabrics such as Gingham, Cheviots, Seersuckers, Bleached and Unbleached Muslins, Calicoes, Cretonnes, and Cotton Flannels, Outing Flannels, Sheets, Pillow Cases and Sheetings; and all Household Linens—Towels, Table Linens, Napkins, etc., etc. All at a saving of 25 TO 50 PER CENT and just at a time when you are planning your purchases for your season's supply of these goods. Read every line that follows; there's money in it.

## A Great Cut in Cotton Flannels.

Only One Dollar's Worth to a Customer.

Household C. Unbleached Cotton Flannel, only (a yard) . . . . . 5c  
"C" Unbleached Cotton Flannel . . . . . 6½c  
D. D. Unbleached Cotton Flannel . . . . . 7½c

Indian Head bleached and unbleached . . . . . 8½c  
H. and J. D. bleached Cotton Flannel . . . . . 10c  
K. bleached Cotton Flannel . . . . . 12½c  
M. bleached Cotton Flannel . . . . . 14c

### BLEACHED MUSLINS.

Fruit of the Loom, 8½c  
Lonsdale at . . . . . 8½c  
Hope at . . . . . 7½c  
Liberty at . . . . . 6½c  
Goodnuf at . . . . . 5c  
One Dollar's Worth Only to a Customer.

## Ladies' Cloth and Flannels

GREATLY REDUCED.

85c and \$1 Ladies' Cloths go at . . . . . 65c  
20c Flannelette Waistings go at . . . . . 15c  
813 and 10c Outing Flannels go at . . . . . 7½c

12½c Outing Flannels go at . . . . . 9½c  
12½c Guinea Hen Flannels go at . . . . . 7½c  
All French Flannels will be sold at just HALF PRICE

## SHEETINGS.

PEPPERELL.

42-in. bleached for . . . . . 10½c  
46-in. bleached for . . . . . 12c  
6-4 bleached for . . . . . 15c  
8-4 bleached for . . . . . 19c  
9-4 bleached for . . . . . 21c  
10-4 bleached for . . . . . 23c  
8-4 unbleached for . . . . . 17c  
9-4 unbleached for . . . . . 19c  
10-4 unbleached for . . . . . 21c

36-inch Punjab Percals only . . . . . 12½c a yard.  
27-inch Bates Seersuckers only . . . . . 12½c a yard.  
Newport Cheviots, double fold, only . . . . . 12½c a yard.  
Clarion A A Cheviots put down to . . . . . 10c a yard.  
Wm. Pen Cheviots put down to . . . . . 8½c a yard.  
All Silkolines will be sold at . . . . . 10c a yard.  
All Quilt Sateens will be sold at . . . . . 20c a yard.  
All Egyptian Cretonnes will be sold at . . . . . 12½c a yard.  
Our Entire Line of Calicoes at . . . . . 5c a yard.

## SHEETINGS.

LOCKWOOD.

42-in. bleached for . . . . . 12½c  
45-in. bleached for . . . . . 15c  
50-in. bleached for . . . . . 17½c  
6-4 bleached for . . . . . 18c  
8-4 bleached for . . . . . 22½c  
9-4 bleached for . . . . . 25c  
10-4 bleached for . . . . . 27½c  
42-in. unbleached for . . . . . 11c  
45-in. unbleached for . . . . . 12½c  
9-4 unbleached for . . . . . 22½c

## SHEETS.

75c 72x90 hemmed for . . . . . 55c  
90c 81x90 hemmed for . . . . . 65c  
85c 90x90 hemmed for . . . . . 60c  
\$1.00 90x90 hemmed for . . . . . 75c  
85c 72x90 hem-stitched for . . . . . 65c  
\$1.00 72x90 Hem-stitched for . . . . . 75c  
85c 81x90 hem-stitched for . . . . . 65c  
90c 90x90 hem-stitched for . . . . . 75c  
\$1.15 90x90 hem-stitched for . . . . . 85c

## Pillow Cases.

17½c 42x36 hemmed for . . . . . 12½c  
20c 42x36 hemmed for . . . . . 16½c  
15c 45x36 hemmed for . . . . . 11c  
20c 45x38½ hemmed for . . . . . 16½c  
25c 45x38½ hemmed for . . . . . 20c  
25c 50x40½ hemmed for . . . . . 20c  
20c 42x36 hem-stitched for . . . . . 16½c  
20c 45x38½ hem-stitched for . . . . . 16½c  
25c 45x38½ hem-stitched for . . . . . 20c  
35c 50x40½ hem-stitched for . . . . . 25c

## Napkins.

\$18.50 Napkins 15.00 for . . . . .  
\$12.50 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 8.00

## Brown Muslins

INDIAN HEAD . . . . . 8½c  
HONEST WIDTH . . . . . 7c  
PRAIRIE QUEEN AA . . . . . 6½c  
EUREKA . . . . . 5c  
CHATOOGA . . . . . 4c  
One Dollar's Worth Only to a Customer.

## TOWELS.

15c Towels for . . . . . 10c  
25c Towels for . . . . . 20c  
35c Towels for . . . . . 25c  
40c Towels for . . . . . 27½c  
50c Towels for . . . . . 35c  
60c Towels for . . . . . 40c  
75c Towels for . . . . . 50c  
And so on up.

## Table Damask.

35c bleached Damask for . . . . . 25c  
50c bleached Damask for . . . . . 40c  
65c bleached Damask for . . . . . 50c  
75c bleached Damask for . . . . . 55c  
85c bleached Damask for . . . . . 65c  
\$1.25 bleached Damask for . . . . . 90c  
\$1.35 bleached Damask for . . . . . 1.00  
\$1.50 bleached Damask for . . . . . 1.10  
\$1.75 bleached Damask for . . . . . 1.25  
\$2.00 bleached Damask for . . . . . 1.50  
\$2.75 bleached Damask for . . . . . 2.00  
\$3.75 bleached Damask for . . . . . 2.75  
50c Brown Damask for . . . . . 35c  
60c Brown Damask for . . . . . 45c  
75c Brown Damask for . . . . . 60c  
\$1.00 Brown Damask for . . . . . 75c

## NAPKINS.

Fringed Check, Fringed Turkey Red, and Bleached Damask Napkins.  
40c per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 30c  
60c per dozen Napkins for . . . . . 50c  
75c per dozen Napkins for . . . . . 60c  
\$1.00 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 75c  
\$1.25 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 1.00  
\$1.35 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 1.15  
\$1.85 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 1.55  
\$2.25 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 1.75  
\$2.75 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 2.00  
\$3.50 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 2.50  
\$4.00 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 3.00  
\$4.50 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 3.50  
\$5.00 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 3.75  
\$6.00 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 4.50  
\$8.50 per doz. Napkins for . . . . . 5.00