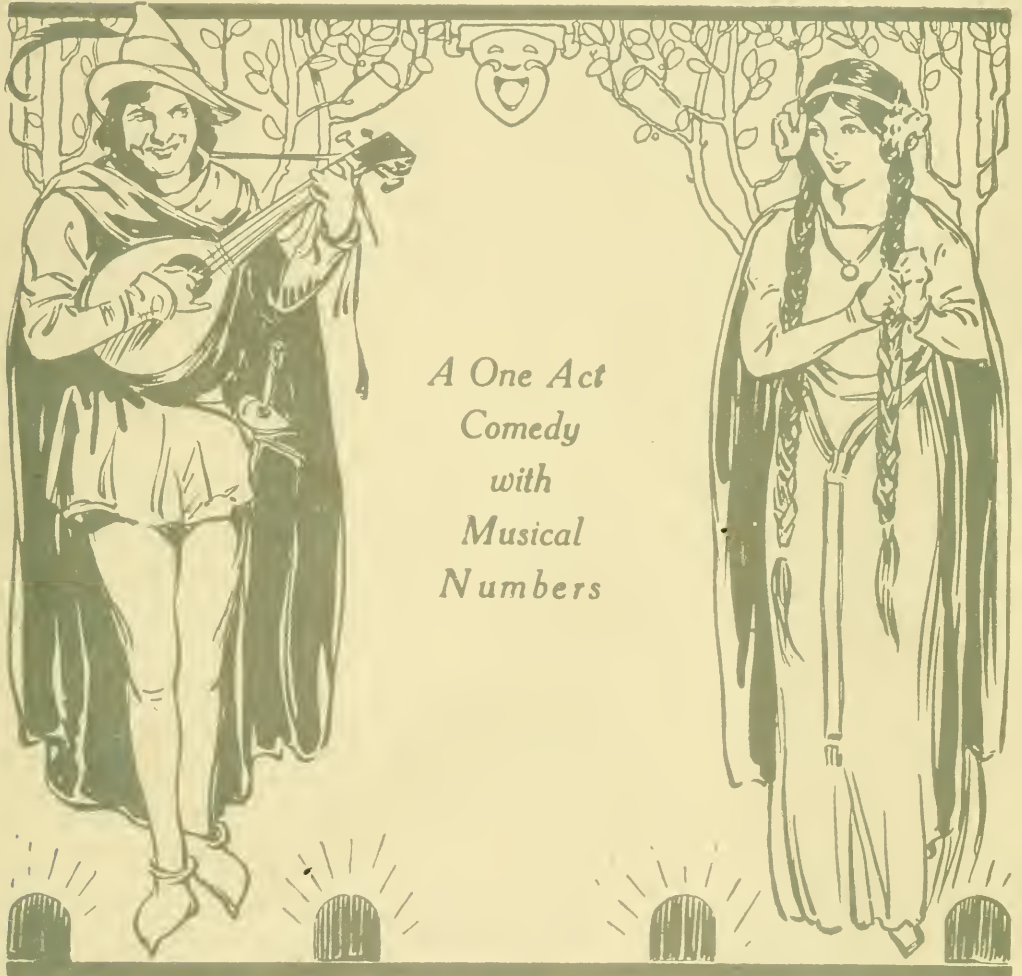


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CHARACTERS

(Named in Order of Appearance)

ADELAIDE
BEATRICE
CONSTANCE } *Three girls in charge of rummage sale*

MRS. PERKINS *A rich, miserly old woman*
MRS. SMITH *A poor woman of the neighborhood*
MRS. ASTOR ROCKEBILT *A lady with a dog*
AN ICEMAN *"A very nice man"*
TWO TRAMPS *Weary wanderers*
A POLICEMAN *One who "beats it" in times of trouble*
A SCHOOLGIRL
MRS. SUGGS *and her SON*
A FAT BOY
SUNSHINE OF TINPAN ALLEY
A SCHOOLBOY
AUNT ELIZA RAY *A colored woman*

TIME: *The present*

PLACE: *A vacant store on Tinpan Alley*

TIME OF PLAYING: *Thirty minutes*

NOTE: ADELAIDE, BEATRICE, and CONSTANCE will be helped in their dialogue if they will notice that their names are alphabetically arranged, and their speeches usually follow one another in alphabetical order.

MRS. ROCKEBILT should speak affectedly, using a *very broad a*.

COSTUMES

ADELAIDE, BEATRICE, *and* CONSTANCE: Street costumes, including hats. (Should dress as young ladies.)

MRS. PERKINS: Old-fashioned clothes, with freakish hat decorated with large red bow (or, if preferred, dilapidated feather).

MRS. SMITH: Poorly dressed, with shawl over head. (Carries large baby doll.)

MRS. ASTOR ROCKEBILT: Elaborately dressed in stylish street costume and furs. (Carries real or toy poodle.)

ICEMAN: Dark-colored shirt and overalls. (Carries ice-tongs.)

TRAMPS: Hobo make-up. Patched and torn clothes. For one, old felt hat with ragged brim; for other, battered straw hat, with brim gone except for visor-like piece in front. Patched trousers. Jaws blackened to give appearance of half-grown beard; noses red. (Each carries small tin can, top cut to serve as handle.)

SCHOOLGIRL: School dress. (Carries number of books.)

POLICEMAN: Dark blue suit as closely resembling policeman's uniform as possible; helmet. Star badge. (Carries club.)

MRS. SUGGS *and* SON: Shabby clothes. (Son about three years old.)

FAT BOY: Ordinary clothes, sufficiently large to allow of enough padding to give appearance of extraordinary stoutness.

SUNSHINE: Cheap, gaudy clothes. (Girl about twelve years old.)

SCHOOLBOY: Ordinary school suit.

AUNT ELIZA RAY: Shabby clothes—red sweater and red stockings suggested. Bandana on head. (Carries large clothes basket.)

PROPERTY LIST

On stage three tables serve for counters—one in center back, and one on each side, placed at angle allowing best view. Across stage stretch lines to hang clothes on. Two chairs, R. and L., near tables. A pail and long-handled dipper near entrance.

On table No. 1 (ADELAIDE'S): Dollar bill; cards and pencils; baby cap; pair skates; bookstrap.

On table No. 2 (BEATRICE'S): A quarter; a ball; clothes for fat boy to purchase.

On table No. 3 (CONSTANCE'S): A dime and a nickel; card for tramp; money for iceman; pair of very small trousers; small blanket; hair ribbon.

On each table there should be several articles brought in by the girls. The colored woman is to select something from each table.

An automobile horn will be needed off stage.

A small piece of ice should be provided for the iceman to bring in.

SONGS

- 1 The Rummage Sale—air, Yankee Doodle—Adelaide, Beatrice and Constance.
- 2 I am an Iceman—air, She Is Ma Daisy—by the Iceman.

- 3 Give!—air, Give, Said the Stream—by the two Tramps.
- 4 On the Beat—air, London Bridge—by the Policeman.
- 5 My Bonnet—air, My Bonnie—by Mrs. Perkins, the three girls and the Policeman.
- 6 A Silver Lining—air, Solomon Levi—by the whole company.

SYNOPSIS

Three girls interested in charity hold a rummage sale in a vacant store in Tinpan Alley. Mrs. Perkins, a rich, miserly old woman whom they have vainly tried to interest in their charity, comes to see how they are getting on. She sits down and removes her hat, placing it on the counter behind her. Thinking it a part of their stock, one of the girls sells the hat, unnoticed by its owner. When the latter discovers that fact, her lamentations attract the attention of a passing policeman, who enters. She demands payment for the hat, announcing her intention of remaining on the scene until the girls have sold enough goods to give her the amount she asks.

When Mrs. Perkins is able to collect her money she departs, discarding an old purse from her handbag, and suggesting to the girls that they sell it. She adds that they are welcome to anything they can get out of it. A subsequent examination discloses a ten-dollar bill which has slipped inside the lining. The girls rejoice, then question their right to keep the money. Mrs. Perkins suddenly returns and demands that they give her ten cents additional, to cover the carfare spent by her "to help them in their work." They give it, and allow her to leave, but conscience impels them to call her back and show her the ten dollars found in her purse. Mrs. Perkins, impressed by their honesty, and the generosity that shames her selfishness, donates the ten dollars to their cause.

In the course of the play an iceman, two tramps, and a number of customers are introduced. Other customers may be added if desired. Or the less important ones called for may be omitted.

RUMMAGE

SCENE: *Shop on Tinpan Alley.*

Enter ADELAIDE, BEATRICE and CONSTANCE, with baskets and bundles. They look around critically, and begin arranging articles brought, hanging some on lines.

ADELAIDE. Well, this is n't so bad! I think the room is quite large enough, don't you, girls?

BEATRICE. Oh, yes! It seems to me we are lucky to get this place. You know, the agent said he would n't charge us any rent for it.

CONSTANCE. I hope we shall make lots and lots of money! so we shan't feel all our work has been for nothing. If the people in this neighborhood *don't* buy, it won't be because they don't need things!

ADELAIDE. What shall we do with all our money, when we get it?

BEATRICE. Do with it? Why, think of all the people in the world who need things! Think of—er—think of the—er—why, think of all the little savages in Africa that have no—er—no nice, warm clothes—no furs!

ADELAIDE *and* CONSTANCE [*raising hands in horror*]. No furs! Oh, Beatrice!

CONSTANCE. And think of all the little Eskimos that have no ice cream and no fans!

ADELAIDE and BEATRICE [*laughing*]. *No ice cream! No fans!*

ADELAIDE [*as CONSTANCE joins in laugh*]. *And just think 'of all the little heathen on the South Sea islands that have never seen any moving pictures!*

BEATRICE. *No movies!*

CONSTANCE [*still laughing*]. *That's good! [While still arranging articles, girls sing.]*

GIRLS [*to tune of "Yankee Doodle"*].

Oh, yes, a rummage sale we'll have,
To get the money faster.
Anything from a house and lot
Down to a mustard plaster.

CHORUS

ADELAIDE. Tra la la, you dollar bill!
[*Raises hand, with bill.*]

BEATRICE. Tra la la, you quarter!
[*Raises hand, with coin.*]

CONSTANCE. Tra la la, you dime and jit!
[*Raises hands, with coins.*]

ALL. Come, by sale and barter! [*Drop hands.*]

GIRLS [*sing second verse, point alternately to left and right*].

We've summer hats and old doormats,
Lingerie and laces;
Baby caps and fine rat-traps;
Coal scuttles and cracked vases.

CHORUS

[BEATRICE drops a ball, which rolls to L. She follows, picks it up, looks L, as though out of window.]

BEATRICE. Look, girls, look!—who is that coming across the street?

CONSTANCE. If it is n't old Mrs. Perkins! I went to see her and asked her to help us, but she would n't give us a *thing!* She never helps *anybody!* And just think of all the money she has!

ADELAIDE. Would n't you be ashamed to be so stingy?

BEATRICE. She always says, "The Lord helps those who help themselves."

CONSTANCE [*indignantly*]. When I think of the thousands, and thousands, and—

ADELAIDE and BEATRICE. Ssh!—Here she comes! Here she comes!

Enter MRS. PERKINS.

GIRLS. Good-morning, Mrs. Perkins.

MRS. PERKINS. What was that you were saying about thousands?

ADELAIDE [*confused*]. Oh—er—we—er—have thousands of things to sell! [*Waves hand toward counters.*]

MRS. P. Oh!—Well, I thought I would come in to see how you are getting along. I hope you will do well. You know, the Lord helps those who help themselves.—Is n't it warm! Have you any ice water?

BEATRICE. No, Mrs. Perkins. We have water [*pointing to pail near entrance*], but no ice. We could get you some ice, though.

MRS. P. I think you ought to have some. You can pay for it out of the money you've taken in, you know.

CONSTANCE. But we haven't taken in any money yet, Mrs. Perkins.

MRS. P. [*sitting down*]. Well, I will wait until you do take in some. [*Removes hat, and places it on counter behind her, L.*]

ADELAIDE. Girls, let's each take a table, and mark the things. Here are cards and pencils. [*Passes them; girls begin marking goods.*]

Enter MRS. SMITH *with baby.*

MRS. SMITH [*to* ADELAIDE]. Have you any baby caps?

ADELAIDE. Yes, I'm sure we have. [*Searches. Woman passes to center table.*]

Enter MRS. ROCKERBILT, *carrying dog.*

MRS. ROCKERBILT [*to* CONSTANCE]. Have you anything I can wrap my darling doggie in? These streets are simply a disgrace to the city, and I shall write to the President about them as soon as I get home! I came over to Tinpan Alley to look up a servant, and my poor little Fido ran right into a nasty puddle! I am afraid my precious pet will take cold. [*Auto horn sounds outside.*]

CONSTANCE. I saw a little blanket here somewhere. [*Searches. MRS. ROCKERBILT crosses to ADELAIDE'S table, R; MRS. SMITH moves to CONSTANCE'S table, L, both examining articles.*]

ADELAIDE *and* CONSTANCE. Here it is! [*Each seizes article sought. ADELAIDE puts cap on dog's head, while CON-*

STANCE wraps blanket tightly around baby. Customers indignantly snatch articles off and throw them to floor. ADELAIDE and CONSTANCE rush for them, collide, make exchange, and hand right articles to customers. BEATRICE moves to CONSTANCE'S table, takes up MRS. PERKINS'S hat, marks it and lays it down. Auto horn outside.

MRS. R. I must hurry! [*Pays ADELAIDE, R, hurries out.*
MRS. SMITH, LC, pays CONSTANCE. MRS. PERKINS rises, looks over woman's shoulder, then crosses to R and sits in chair, side to audience. MRS. SMITH turns to table, L, picks up MRS. PERKINS'S hat and tries it on.]

ICEMAN [*off stage*]. Ice! I-i-i-e-e!

MRS. P. [*running to entrance*]. Here! Here, iceman! [*To GIRLS*] Now you can buy some ice. You have some money.

[MRS. SMITH, who in pantomime has asked BEATRICE price of MRS. PERKINS'S hat, and bought it, goes out.]

Enter ICEMAN with tongs.

MRS. P. Are you an iceman?

ICEMAN. Yes, ma'am, I'm the nicest man you ever saw!

MRS. P. Well, these young ladies wish some ice.

BEATRICE. Yes, please let us have a small piece. Ten cents' worth will do. [*Exit ICEMAN.*] This water is perfectly fresh. [*Goes toward pail.*]

Re-enter ICEMAN with ice in tongs.

BEATRICE [*pointing to pail*]. Just put it in this pail of water, please. [*ICEMAN puts ice in pail, then advances to C front and sings one verse; GIRLS singing second verse.*]

ICEMAN [*to tune of "She Is Ma Daisy"*].

I am an iceman,
 A very nice man,
 And I always give good measure,
 So my life is full of pleasure.
 I'm an iceman,
 A very nice man,
 Yes, I am a perfect treasure of an iceman.

GIRLS. He is an iceman,
 A very nice man,
 And he always gives good measure,
 So his life is full of pleasure.
 He's an iceman,
 A very nice man,
 Yes, he is a perfect treasure of an iceman.

[*While GIRLS sing, ICEMAN picks up pail and dipper, goes first to MRS. PERKINS, then to each girl in turn, and each takes drink. ADELAIDE at R table, CONSTANCE C, and BEATRICE L. BEATRICE pays ICEMAN, and he goes out.*]

Enter TWO TRAMPS.

FIRST TRAMP [*to MRS. P., who turns her back*]. Lady, will you please be so kind as to help two poor, lone, hungry men who are very thirsty? [*Extends can.*]

SECOND TRAMP [*to GIRLS, extending can*]. Just a little, ladies—just a little! [*TRAMPS advance to center front, lean wearily together, extend cans to audience and sing one verse; GIRLS singing second verse.*]

TRAMPS [*to tune of "Give, Said the Stream"*].

Give, said the little can,
Give, oh give! give, oh give!
Help this poor hungry man
Another day to live!

[*Leaning against each other, swing cans in time as GIRLS sing.*]

GIRLS. Give, said the little can,
Give, oh give! give, oh give!
We'll help a hungry man
Another day to live!

ADELAIDE. Let's send them to the Associated Charities!
[TRAMPS *fall on each other's necks.*]

BEATRICE. They help *everybody!*

CONSTANCE [*writing on card, and giving it to TRAMP*]. Here,
take this to the Associated Charities office, and you will
get everything you need!

TRAMPS [*humbly and gratefully*]. Thank you, kind ladies!
[*Stagger out, each holding to the other's collar.*]

MRS. P. [*rising to leave, crosses to table, L*]. Why, where is
my hat? Where is MY HAT?

ADELAIDE. Where did you put it, Mrs. Perkins?

MRS. P. Right on this table [*tapping table emphatically*],
and it's gone!

BEATRICE. You put it there [*indicating*], Mrs. Perkins?
[MRS. P. *nods.*] Did it have a red bow on it? [MRS. P.
nods.] I am awfully sorry, Mrs. Perkins, but I didn't
know it was your hat, and I sold it.

MRS. P. YOU SOLD MY HAT? [*Eagerly*] How much did
you get for it?

BEATRICE. Fifteen cents.—Oh, I'm so sorry! Oh! [*Weeps.*]

MRS. P. *Sold my hat for fifteen cents?* Why, that was a perfectly good hat that I bought in New York only five years ago, and I paid three dollars and seventy-nine cents for it! [*Weeps. Loud moans from girls.*]

Enter POLICEMAN and ICEMAN.

POLICEMAN. Here, what's all this fuss about? [*To ICEMAN*]
Who's the old lady?

ICEMAN. She's the one that put the "age" in "rummage."

MRS. P. Are you the policeman on this beat? [*POLICEMAN advances to C front and sings one verse; GIRLS singing second verse.*]

POLICEMAN [*to tune of "London Bridge"*].

I'm the policeman on the beat,
On the beat, on the beat,
And when there's trouble in the street [*Pause*]

[*Spoken*] I beat it! I beat it!

GIRLS. He is the policeman on the beat,
On the beat, on the beat.
And when there's trouble in the street [*Pause*]

[*In loud aside*]

He beats it! He beats it!

POLICEMAN. What's the trouble here, anyway?

MRS. P. [*tearfully*]. Trouble enough! I have lost a perfectly good hat that I bought in New York only five years ago for three dollars and seventy-nine cents. I put it right

on this table here, and the girls sold it—sold it for FIFTEEN CENTS! And I want it back! [*As she speaks, her indignation increases. Exit ICEMAN, hastily.*]

GIRLS [*looking at one another in dismay*]. She wants it back!
[*MRS. PERKINS walks to C front and sings one verse; POLICEMAN singing second verse and GIRLS third.*]

MRS. P. [*to tune of "My Bonnie"*].

Bring back, bring back,
Bring back my bonnet to me, to me!
Bring back, bring back,
Bring back my bonnet to me!

POLICEMAN [*shaking stick*].

Bring back, bring back,
Bring back her bonnet to Mrs. P.
Bring back, bring back,
Bring back her bonnet to—
[*Points to MRS. P. Crash on piano.*]

GIRLS. We cannot, cannot,
Bring back her bonnet to Mrs. P.
We cannot bring back
That bonnet to Mrs. P.!

MRS. P. Well, then, you will have to pay me for it. I want what it cost me—three dollars and seventy-nine cents—and a dollar more for mental anguish. You don't know how I am suffering! [*Walks back and forth, wringing hands.*]

ADELAIDE. See how much we have, Beatrice.

BEATRICE [*after counting*]. We have two dollars and thirty-five cents.

CONSTANCE. We shall have to give her two dollars and forty-four cents more!

POLICEMAN. And when there's trouble in the street—I beat it! [*Exit.*]

MRS. P. Well, I'll just sit right here until I get it! [*Sits R.*]
I want four dollars and seventy-nine cents before I leave this place. The Lord helps those who help themselves.

Enter SCHOOLGIRL with books.

SCHOOLGIRL [*to ADELAIDE*]. Have you any bookstraps?

ADELAIDE. Yes, here is one. [*GIRL takes it, pays for it, and goes out.*]

MRS. P. Here, that money belongs to me! How much is it?

ADELAIDE. Only ten cents, Mrs. Perkins. [*Gives it to her.*]

MRS. P. I think you had better mark those things up a little. I don't want to stay here all night.

Enter MRS. SUGGS and SON

MRS. S. [*to BEATRICE*]. I want some pants for this boy.

BEATRICE. Here is a pair. [*Holds them up, then measures them against boy.*]

MRS. S. I guess they'll do. How much?

BEATRICE. You may have them for ten cents.

MRS. P. Twenty-five cents!

MRS. S. That's too much.

BEATRICE. I said ten cents.

MRS. S. I'll take them. [*BEATRICE wraps up package and hands to MRS. S., who pays and goes out.*]

Enter FAT BOY, followed by SUNSHINE.

[FAT BOY goes to center table, tries on very small vests, coats, etc., buys coat much too small for him and goes out.]

SUNSHINE [to BEATRICE, during preceding pantomime]. I want a hair ribbon.

BEATRICE. Here is a pretty one; do you like it?

SUNSHINE. Yes, that is pretty. I'll take it. [*Pays and goes out.*]

Enter SCHOOLBOY.

SCHOOLBOY [to ADELAIDE]. Got any skates?

ADELAIDE. Yes, here is a pair. Seventy-five cents.

SCHOOLBOY. I haven't got but fifty cents, lady.

BEATRICE. Well—I think we can let you have them for fifty cents. [MRS. PERKINS shows great disgust.]

SCHOOLBOY. Thank you, miss! [*Takes skates, pays, and goes out.*]

Enter AUNT ELIZA RAY, basket on head.

AUNT ELIZA. Good-mornin', ladies. I hopes you-all is doin' well wid yo' sto'.

CONSTANCE. Here's Aunt Eliza Ray! We are doing pretty well, thank you. How are you?

AUNT E. Mighty po'ly—praise de Lawd! I wants to git some things fuh mah chillun.

ADELAIDE. How many children have you, Aunt Eliza?

AUNT E. Honey, I allus fuhgits and has to count dem chillun! Lemme see—dere's Lillie Evangeline, an' Marguerite Hozanna, an' Benjamin Franklin, an' Marie Antomette, an' Pinkie, an' Adm'l Dewey, an' Abraham Linkum, and—er—Gwendolyn Ray,—dat's eight—and den dere's little Cæsuh Augustus Ray, an' de baby. Dat's ten, ain't it?

BEATRICE. What 's the baby's name, Eliza?

AUNT E. Oh, Dr. Brown, he done name de baby fuh me. [*Sets basket on floor, R.*] He say, "Mammy, here's yo' tenth. He mus' be name X Ray!"

[*GIRLS laugh. AUNT ELIZA selects articles, reaches down and draws handkerchief from stocking, unties handkerchief and produces money, pays, picks up basket.*

AUNT E. I mus' be gwine, ladies. Ef I don' git Miz Brown's clo'es to her right soon she'll be raisin' sand. [*Lifts basket to head, at R of C, and sings chorus of "Old Black Joe" as she walks slowly off.*

I'm coming, I'm coming, for my head is bending low;
I hear those gentle voices calling, "Old Black Joe."

[*After she is off, girls on stage, and all waiting off stage, hum same chorus.*

Re-enter TRAMPS.

FIRST TRAMP. Well, we had to come back, ladies.

ADELAIDE. You back here!

BEATRICE. We didn't tell you to come back!

CONSTANCE. Why didn't you go to the Associated Charities, as we told you to do?

SECOND TRAMP. That's what we did.

GIRLS [*greatly surprised*]. You did, and they didn't help you!

[*TRAMPS look at each other sorrowfully, stand shoulder to shoulder and make motion of sawing wood, counting six mentally but making no sound, stooping lower at each count, until at sixth they topple over on floor as though exhausted.*

GIRLS. Help! Help!

Re-enter POLICEMAN.

POLICEMAN [*as TRAMPS jump up and exit hastily*]. Well, they saved me some trouble! How about that four dollars and seventy-nine cents, ladies?

MRS. P. Yes, I want my money. I have only three dollars and sixty-five cents here.

ADELAIDE. Count up, Beatrice, and if we have enough we'll pay Mrs. Perkins.

BEATRICE [*counting into MRS. PERKINS'S hand*]. Three dollars and seventy-five cents, four dollars [*etc., up to \$4.79*]. There it is, Mrs. Perkins, and I am very sorry that I made that mistake.

MRS. P. Yes, I guess you'll be more careful next time. My perfectly good hat, that I bought in New York only five years ago for three dollars and seventy-nine cents! [*Takes small purse out of handbag, tries to put money in it, but finding it too small, places money in bag, gathers up things and rises.*] Well, I am going. [*Throws small purse on floor.*] Maybe you can sell *that*! You are welcome to anything you can get out of it! [*Exit. GIRLS stand dejectedly looking after her.*]

CONSTANCE. Well, it is getting late, and we shall have to close up soon. We shan't have much left, after paying our carfare. *It's a shame!*

ADELAIDE [*picking up purse*]. Oh, well, never mind! You know the old saying. [*Sings to tune "Solomon Levi"*]

There's a silver lining, so they say, to every cloud of woe,
So look upon the brightest side, and let the other go.
Help where you can, and when you can, give aid to those who
 need,
And cheer your drooping spirits by a simple, kindly deed.

BEATRICE [*sarcastically*]. *Kindly deed!*

POLICEMAN. In-deed!

ICEMAN. You can't find much of a silver lining to that thing.
The old lady saw to that.

CONSTANCE. You are an optimist, Adelaide, but even you
can't find a silver lining there!

ADELAIDE [*examining purse more closely*]. Better still!
[*Draws out bill and holds it up.*] It has a paper lining!
A ten-dollar bill has slipped in behind the cloth lining!
What do you think of that, girls?

BEATRICE. But it does n't belong to us, does it?

CONSTANCE. Mrs. Perkins threw the purse away—said we
might sell it, and that we were welcome to anything we
might get out of *that!* [*To POLICEMAN*] Did n't she?

POLICEMAN. She did!

ICEMAN. She did!

ALL. She did!

Re-enter MRS. PERKINS.

MRS. P. I forgot something, girls. You know I had to pay
carfare to come down and help you in your sale, and I am
sure you will want to do the right thing, and give me
that much more, won't you?

[*A dead silence. ADELAIDE looks at other girls inquiringly.
They nod, and she advances to center, and gives MRS. P.
a dime. MRS. PERKINS goes out; they look at one another,
then hastily call her back.*

ADELAIDE. You *did* forget something, Mrs. Perkins. There
was a ten-dollar bill in that purse you threw away, and
we were just trying to make ourselves believe that it was
ours, because you said we could have anything we might
get out of the purse. Here it is. We know you did not
intend to give it to us, and we don't want it!

MRS. P. [*after taking purse, looking at bill, then standing silent a second, looking at each girl in turn, hands bill and purse back to ADELAIDE*]. Well, girls, since you are so honest about it, and I have n't helped you in your good work yet, I will give you this ten dollars. I have always said that honesty is the best policy, east your bread upon the waters, and the Lord helps those who help themselves!

[*Other characters file in, group is formed with children in center front, smallest ones sitting, MRS. PERKINS in center, POLICEMAN with hand on shoulder of each TRAMP, ICEMAN and COLORED WOMAN R, and others placed as desired.*]

ALL [*singing*].

There 's a silver lining, so they say, to every cloud of woe,
 So look upon the brightest side and let the other go.
 Help where you can and when you can, give aid to those who
 need,
 And cheer your drooping spirits by a simple, kindly deed.

Oh, let us be joyful, tra la la, la la la, la!

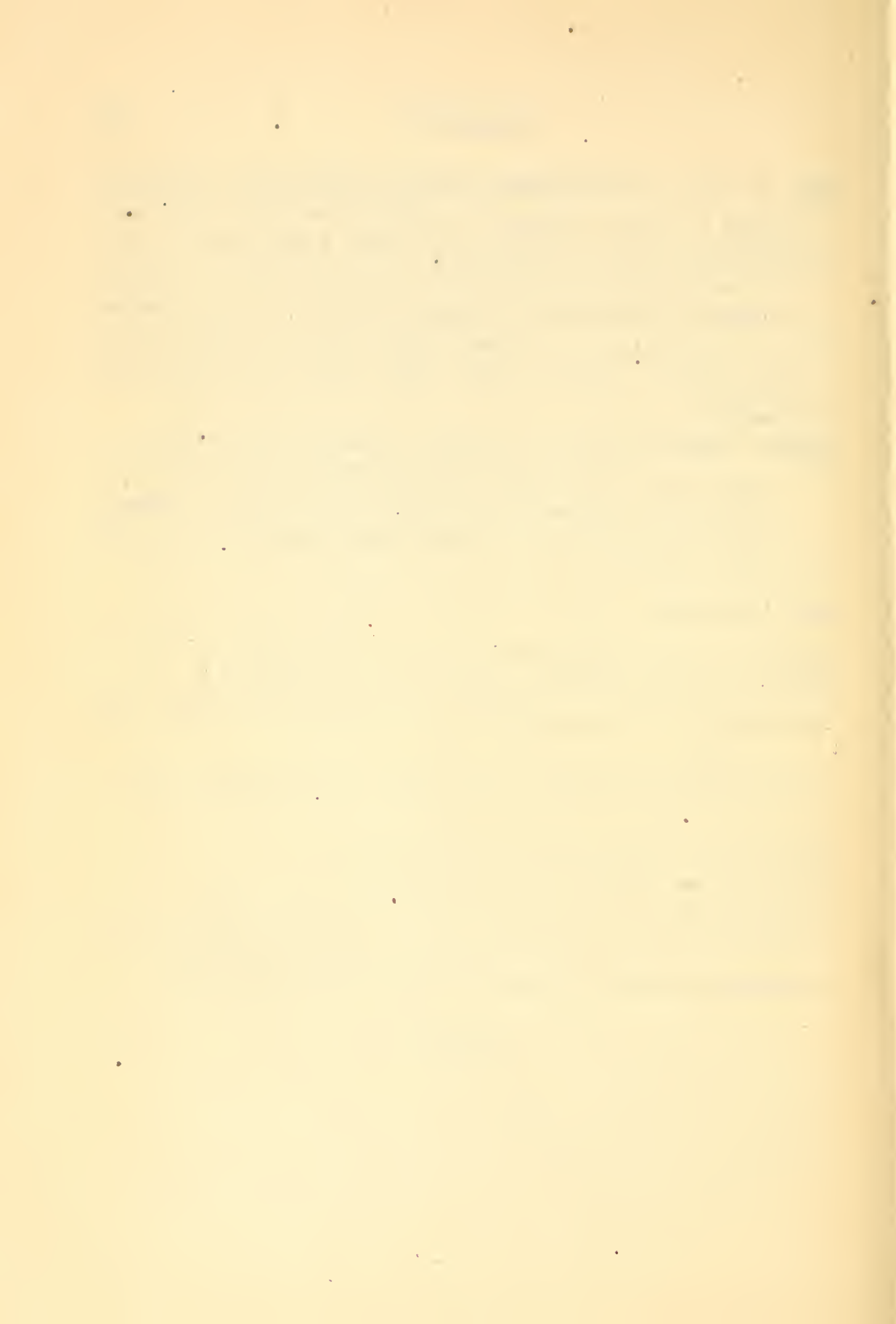
Oh, let us be joyful, tra la la, la la la, la!

All is well that ends so well, so here our money goes—

[*GIRLS jingle money.*]

Furs for the little Africans and fans for the Eskimos!

CURTAIN



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