

I've awung the circle of the sun.
I've given all that Life bestows,
I've dealt Fate's cards to friends, to foes.
I've touched you each with joy and care,
Drawn wrinkles here, smoothed wrinkles

And if I've frosted temples gray, I've made warm lips to kiss away The chill. Tho' Death, tho' strife I've visited—I've granted Life.

I'm Time. I've robbed your cradle dear, Yet I ask you—your dying Year. Have I not fills I it? Answer free, If I've robbed you have not you cheated me? Have not you sought to kill me—Time? Have not you wasted me—God's gift sub-Misspent me, mocked me, wished me on

my way, Loathed and reviled me-prayed another day. And when I granted it, mocked that one, Are we not quit at evens-I and you?

Tis Kismet-Fate. Old World, good-by, My cycle's done-I faint-I die.



Oh, World! dear World-at last my dream

is true,
Through all eternity I've longed for you,
Impatent of the years 1 had to wait,
Each nerve aquiver, lest I be too late.
And now I'm here—and all of you are

or my brief reign. Yet, also, I am thine, for use—abuse—but treat me as you may mber this-I'll give and take away. I'll tell you now what I'll both give and take.

I'd take a life from out you here and there. I'll given a lover true—a sweetheart fair. Haif of your fondest hopes I'll steal away, I'll grant a grain of wisdom day by day. And the, perchance, I should take Peter's

With lavish hands I'll shower it on Paul, I'll amite some of you with an iron giove. I'll norse some others with my tenderest

I'm noth your queen and slave. I now This night is yours. Tomorrow you'll repay.

Bring forth the jesters. Fill the cup of You're waited me forever. World, I'm



I shall not swear off smoking now.

Not swear to mend my ways:
I shall hot swear of penning prose
Or writing merry lays.

For what's the neet Top know right well. The strongest of us fall. I'm going to start New Year right— I abail not swear at all.

A New Year's Wish.

To become an expert at forgetting, just to forget all the unkind acts, the feep wrongs, the mean worm bitter disappointments-tast let them go, forget them- the memory will beme suick and alert to remember th things worth remembering, the mind given to beautiful things, worth white things, and to remember always that I am in the presence of God, this is my desire for the New Year.

Good-by, Old Year,

Peace to its ashes! Peace to its embers of burntout things; fears, anxieties, doubts all gone! . L see them now as a thin, thus smoke hangbright heavens of the past ear, vanishing away into utter h impress. Not many hopes deceived. not many illusions scattered, not many anticipations disappointed, but love falfilled, the heart comforted, the soul enriched with affections -- Longfeilow.

## cold spell gets back on the job, fresh, frozen optimist will be one of the delicacies of the season.

By GENE MORGAN.

NYBODY who says the world is growing less superstitious must be talking through the ear-daps on his cap. Every year about on his cap. Every year about lanuary I old Superstition shows itself like a hydra-headed monster in a laundry basket.

To be sure, we no longer take out without any previous training, or ex-

To be sure, we no longer take out insurance against ghosts, and if we perience in sending spirit messages saw a hobgoblin we'd want to know collect, instead of paying the boy your why the hotel bellhop had grown those self. whiskers. But there is one kind of suwhich we seem to be giving year 1915, A. D., you are going to keep puragement all the time, and perstition which we seem to be giving that is the New Year prophecy.

It's safe to prophecize that in the

On January 21 the Coal Bin Will Be

Empty.

made them in an earnest, sincere, try-

again spirit, instead of in the usual,

cast that you'll keep out of debt, that

forth, you step out on the right foot,

with your eyes to the front. Decide

that when old Dame Fortune meets

you you'll be plugging along the

straight and narrow path, and then

and crop fallures in Helgoland.

in the winter time.)

good enough for me.)

day!)

The 1915 Boy.

cats and dogs, however, had better

"I will not (Oh, gee, that's enough. They say the good die young, and I

want to live until I catch that red-

headed boy on the next block who

stuck his tongue out at me yester-

Running Ahead.

suburban home to his office, was very

desirous of seeing another man on an

Important matter; and he knew that

that man was likely to be on a cer-

stopped on his way by the man him-

to work out God's plans doubtless

often makes it difficult for blm to

that God has set.

keep out of this neighborhood.)

The true New Year prophet is a cheerful soul. If he ever has any good news concerning the future, he carefully nibbles at the hard ground with a pickax and buries it. Bad news, calamity, disaster, catastrophe, misfortune, these are the staple groceries in which he prefers to deal. And he has such a clever way of making good,

The New Year prophet wears crepe to work every morning while he is putting his forecast in order. He also wears a long, sad face and murmurs ever and anon that the worst is yet to He does this in order that the world may grow pale and weep and shudder. He just loves to show us a road time.

The way the New Year prophet makes good on his predictions is to promise every kind of bad luck there is, from famine to earthquake, and from plague to war. As this globe of ours has been enjoying a steady diet of these things since the year one, the New Year prophet rarely goes wrong. but just waves his printed predictions upside down and warbles, "I told you so." He is a sure-thing player, and rarely takes a chance that is not a sixty-to-one shot.

For instance, he is safe in forecast ing a typhoon in the Pacific ocean, which will destroy shipping, but he wouldn't dare to predict that James Jones will pay me that ten dollars he owes me before the first of next April. He finds it advisable to foresee a famine in China—any old thing can hap-pen in China—but under no circum-stances would be venture the belief that I will surely keep all the good resolutions I made on the evening of December 30.

If I thought the pay was steady and the bours not too long for indoor work. I believe I should like to take up the work of making New Year prophecies. For the benefit of enter-prising employers, looking for bright young men at this kind of work, I the professional New Year prophet is have made up a few sample prophecies for 1915. It makes no difference how I did it, whether by crystal gazing or by scientific methods. However, I accomplished it without the aid of a medical almanac or other weapons.

For instance, I predict that: In January the days will be a little longer, and ice will be cheap. On Jan-



Murmurs Ever and Anon That the Worst Is Yes to Come.

uary 21 the coal bin will be empty. and father will chop up a parlor chair tain ferry boat. Hurrying for the The month of February will take boat lest he miss his man, he was nly 29 days to pass a given point." The weather will be extremely unset self who had been quietly waiting for tled, and when it is not stormy the him. His eagerness to catch that air will be quite calm. In spite of the boat was carrying him past the very cold spell cherry trees will bloom man he wanted to see. Our eagerness around February 22 in all cands store windows.

March will come in like a lamb keep us in touch with those plans. afraid of waking the baby, and will go, out like a leonine monster who has just overheard someone say he is getting fat. Rain checks will be issued in case this condition is reversed There will be some warm weather. which will cause optimists to throw ande their overcoats and shed their thick, prickly underwear, When the C. Amswerth,

ABE MARTIN ON NEW YEAR! thro, a banquet, or at least till th' Thoughts by a Philosopher About the Man Who Swears Off-Has Hard

Time for a While, Sometimes when a feller who kindrink or leave it alone gits t' lookin back o'er th' year jest closint an' sums up all th' things he's done or undone, all th' energy an' money he's wasted an' all th' things he's missed or neglected in that regretted time, th' past looms up tike a piece o' tar soap. Then he quietly resolves t' bid good by th' social cup an New Year's day, boy on th' corner misses his laviat. little dreamin' o' the colossal struggle jest around th' corner.

fortifyin' Limself with a stimulant on yentin's 15-cent drink that he's muffed over occasion has purty tough eledding while in th' hands o' friends, an' how for a while after he swears off. Ther's his little children miss th' peppermint the ordent of bugint a new hat or attendin' a bonquet. Th' feller who less drink or leave it alone allus smells Helpi

"Gentleman offers to exchange a bow hat, an hell often thing water wagon he it only exercise for weeks when there a banging some fellows were it.—Ale Martin, in shead. Sometimes be'll set often conscious in the martin, in the set of th

last syllable of an address on "Th Weddin o' th' Occans" has died away in th' eigarette smoke. But how a feller's whole style o'

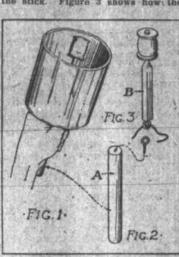
the depth of one's character. Perc

pitchin' changes when he once git thoroughly established on th' water wagon an' begins t' talk natural fer th' first time since th' first haby come! How his patient wife misses his glowin' account o' th' day's earnin's when he used t' stall thro' th' evenin How his associates miss his decided views on ever queetion that comes up! How th' one-legged news generosity! How he kicks on th' gro cery bill! How his waistcoat pockets Th' feller who has long been used t' bulge with sofars, each one repre drops ifmt used t' fall from his over-cost as he flung it careleasly across

Toy Noise Producers and How to Make Them.

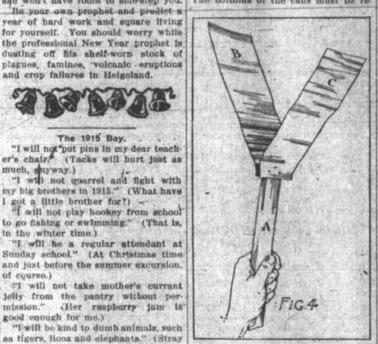
NO one objects to a moderate amount of noise in welcome to the incoming new year, and I am sure that you will agree with me that the following are splendid noise produc ers. Each will require but a few minutes' time to make.

The bell rattle shown in Fig. 1 % nade with a tin can, a common thread spool, two short sticks and two screw eyes. The tin can forms the bell portion of the rattle, and a short piece of broomhandle, or other stick whit tled round, fastens to it for a handle This handle stick (A, Fig. 2) is se cured to the bottom of the can by piercing a hole through the tin and screwing a screw-eye from the in-side of the can down into the end of the stick. Figure 3 shows how: the



tongue of the bell rattle is prepared. The length of the tongue should be equal to the inside depth of the can Cut a stick of this length and whitautomatic way, like giving a fence its the down one end to fit the hole in annual whitewash. It's safe to fote- the thread speel you have obtained; then screw a screw-eye into the other you'll increase your bank account and end (Fig. 3). Fasten the tongue in that you'll get your gilt-edged license place with a piece of string, passing for health and happiness-if, instead the string through the screw-eyes in of growing dreamy-eyed and wonder-tongue B and handle A, and tying tog what the New Year may bring them loosely with firm knots. This completes the rattle.

The odd-shaped rattle shown in Fig. 4 requires a short stick for handle A, and two tin cans out of which straight and narrow path, and then to make the wings, pieces B and C. she won't have room to side-step you. The bottoms of the cans must be re-



moved, and the sides opened out. Tack the pieces to opposite sides of the stick handle

By holding the handle in the post tion shown in Fig. 4, and shaking from side to side, the tin wings will flap back and forth and make a splendid crackling, crashing noise.

If you have never tried pulling upon a string rubbed with resin, you canno appreciate what a loud shricking sound is produced in this manner



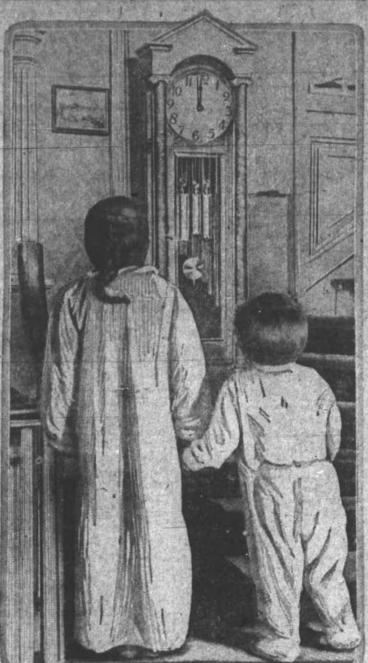
Figure 5 shows the idea adapted to a toy that is quickly put together. Get an empty tip can, a piece of heavy wrapping paper, a piece of stout wrapoing twine, and a piece of rosin. Double the wrapping paper, pierce a hole through its center, stick the end of the cord through it and tie a large knot on it (Fig. 6). Then tie the paper over the open end of the can, as shown in Fig. 5, and trim off the projecting edges. To operate, pull firmly on the string, at the same time allow ing it to slide through your hand. (Copyright by A. Neely Hall.)



The Days of the New Year. To take each day just as it comes t more good of every passing bour more guestion what the max wi

the felt me to see that all the homely care when fully met and simply done, brin peace; or see not seek for joy outside myself, For that which springs within will never

# Waiting for the New Dear



### A New Year's Prayer

By DAVID CORY

God grant that I the new year through May strice with heart and soul to de Those things which are most good and true.

God grant that I each morning start My daties with a cheerful heart, And cheerfully perform my part.

To wear a smile all through the day, To banish thoughts unkind away; And when my bediline comes, to pray.

To say my prayers with folded hands As night comes softly o'er the lands, To Him, who always understan

And when the bells on New Year's down Proclaim the bright New Year is barn, And I awake on New Year's morn,

I pray Him whisper, loss and sweet, To help me guide my wayward feet, Lest I forget my prayer to meet.

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR CUSTOMS

Celebrations of the Mummers in Olden Days in England-Tending to Revive Visiting.

On Friday, January 1, the mummers will mum-that's their way of ushering in the New Year. - How many of them know the beginning of the cusnocently enough, but by the seventh century it amounted to "diabolical paganism," outrageous, blasphen Rufflans rebbed and even murdered under the pretense of merrymaking. Not all was frightful, however. Rome slaves were waited upon by masters and the poor reaped veritable harvests, which was but natural, since it all came from the saturnalia of the Eternal City:

In England the mummers performed plays, spoke dialogues and imperson ated famous people, especially and warriors. Songs were sung both by the mummers and their entertain ers. Here is one;

In those days they loved, too, to

masquerade as suimals, bears and unicorns being especially favored dis-guises. Scott's couplet summed it

Who lists may in their mum Traces of ancient minstrelsy

At last this mumming came to be a menace as well as a nuisance, and the chaste Henry VIII made it a misdemeanor to wear a mask.

It was George Washington who made the day what it once was in this country. Said he: "Never forget the cheerful and cordial observance of New Year's day." The celebration grew and grew, until a generation or so ago, the scenes enacted at some receptions were simply disgraceful, society having progressed some since it was good form to imbibe until the imquietly slid under the table Of late years there has been a tend-

ency to revive visiting on the first day of the year. But it is all very aformal, and every hostess knows each and every one of her guests, thich was not always the case when

ess who, in a lull, left the line and went over to the punch how! in the back parlor, saying to a man she didn't know: "What is your name? I don't think I know you." He told her. She didn't remember it, so she asked him with whom he had come. He said he had come by himself, whereupon she ordered him out. Imagine her chagrin the next day upon receiving from this man a letter she had written to a relative in a neighboring city asking that he visit there whenever he should be in the city. to be reminded by him that he had sent his letter of introduction and received cards, which he also inclosed. In the holiday rush she had simply forgotten the new name.

THE NEW YEAR'S EVE FATES

How Curious Maidens Can Find Out What Is in Store for Them-An Italian Custom,

Every maiden wonders what the fu-Every maiden wanders what the fu-ture has in store for her, and this is helchtens and makes more black their

31st of December, and you will dream of the man you are to marry. Or let her take her hymn book to her Or let her take her hymn book to her bedroom blow out the lamp, open the Judges, R. V. vv. 16-19. These were mark a hymn (in the dark), put it under the pillow and sleep on Next morning when she reads the hymn she will find its text will indi-

cate the event of the year. On New Year's eve the Italian maiden places in one corner of her bedroom a thimble, in another water, in a third seles and in a fourth a riog. Upon waking in the murning, if she eves the ring first she will be married that year; if she sees the water first the year will be unlucky; if the thimble, fortune will smile on her;

if the ashes, she will die. On New Year's eve, if a maiden wishes to know her fate during the coming year, she must go into the open air with a psalm book in one hand and a piece of silver in her mouth. She must allow the book to fall open, and if it opens at the death psalm she will die; if it opens at the bridal psalm she will marry, and whatever else it opens to will indicate her

On New Year's eve, while the clock is striking twelve, repeat three times: Good St. Anne, good St. Anne, Send me a man as fast as you And you will be engaged in a year.

WAY TO RID OF THEM.



Mray Crawford-Wake up, dear! t was the fashion to have as many as possible and any man counted one. he'll Take thost uncless Christmas An amusing story is told of one host presents your triends sent you.

low them through the period of the ludges, the days of the monarchy under Saul, David and Solomon, and the divided kingdom in the times of Eli-jah, Ames, Hesen and Jonah, down to the time of Duniel during the capflyity. I. Another Generation, vv. 7-10. During the days of Joshua Israel served Jehovah, but his influence did not last long after his death. Ever and anon God must needs raise up a Joshua to lead his church. We

**LESSON FOR JANUARY 3** 

GOD'S PATIENCE WITH ISRAEL.

LESSON TEXT-Judges 2:7.49. GOLDEN TEXT-1 gill heal their back-liding, I will love them freely.-Hoz. 14.4.

This year we again return to the

have another "Joshua"-Jesus-who is ever with his people and we do not need any earthly leader (Ps. 62:5; Phil. 2;12). Still God is working through human agents and in every crisis raises up his spirit-clothed leaders. No doubt this "another gen-eration" heacred Joshus as a hero but they did not follow in his obedience to Jehovah. It is easy to dismiss God's mighty deeds among men by calling them myths and traditions. or to deny the "accuracy of the rec-ords." Doubtless the brasiltes felt their obligations: to their neighbors. and fellow tribesmen, but they lost a realizing sense of their obligations to God. America today is charged with an altruistic spirit but seems lacking in a deep sense of that obligation to God which is primary. Sin of Idolatry. II. They forscok the Lord, vv. 11:13. Hackstiding Israel is a prov-

erb. Over and again there was a return to true worship and just as often a forsaking. For centuries Jehovah bore with, forgave, restored and punished this "stiffnecked" peo-ple, until the final overthrow and captivity burned into their consciousness the sin of idolatry. The reason for this was their disobedience in not putting cut of the land "the gods of the peoples that were round about them." Liberality of this sort always results in spiritual ruin. A nation's ideals about God not alone determine Its moral status but eventually its physical and temporal welfare as Their way was not evil in their own sight and doubtless they were considered very progressive, and their course an evidence of greater wisdon than that of their fathers, but it was "evil in the sight of the Lord." We do not understand that these israelites took up the worship of lead the sun god, with all of its abominations at once, but rather sought a combination, a compromise worship, which of course led to the inevitable forsaking of God. Verse 12 indicates the base ingratitude of such a course for he it was "which hrought them out of the land of Egypt" (Titus 2:14; 2 Pet, 2:1).

111. The Anger of the Lord, vv. 14, 15. There is no anger like that of outraged love. We are upt to forget the other attributes of God, those justice, heliness and purity and that God can not look upon iniquity (Habwhat she must do on New Year's day offenses. God's anger can "wax hot" to learn her fate:

Turn the pillow at midnight, the hands of the spoilers that spoiled hands of the spoilers that spoiled

them. God Keeps His Promises. "

men who felt the hitterness of the distress of their nation. God keeps to the letter his promises, both of blessing and of punishment, but "in wrath he remembers mercy." judges had higher aspirations than simply to judge, for they "saved" the dispensation of grace have one who is now the savior but who shall yet he the judge. That these righted leaders of the people had a difficult tank is suggested by verse 17. hearts of the people "went a whor-ing," lusted after the things represented by Baal and Ashtaroth, which history tells as were too vile to be enumerated. The judges secured for cording to the mercy of Jehovah. At the same time they were rulers, and as such secured for individuals their rights: Professor Beecher has calculated that the period of their administration was about three hundred and thirty-two years; from the death of Joshua, 1434 B. C., to the anointing of Saul, 1930 B. C. It is probable. that at times one part of the land was under oppression and other parts were enjoying security under its judge. It has been suggested that Israel, during the time we have been and now are studying, passed through four grades in God's school: (1) That in Egypt; training in bondage and contact with the highest civilization of the day. (2) That in the desert; training in faith, law and religious observances in the presence of peril and hardships. (3) That in the time of the ludges; training in self-government while in contact with enem and moral cylls. (4) That of the king. dom; training in the arts and in religious life as manifested temple, the priesthood and the prophets. Idolatry was fascinating, it had a false freedom, it appealed to every passion, and was the very antithesis of the Jehovah worship of pur-

The worship of Jehovah always taught and impressed moral spiritual truth and required the confeesing and forsaking of evil. judges were (lod endowed and did not prostlinte their citis." They were God-led, saw Israel's need and had courage, falth and real enough to show terast that the first thing they needed o do was to forsake the evil and return to a life of obedience to God.