

The Old Year and the New



To all—good-by. My task is done. I've swung the circle of the sun. I've given all that life bestows.

I'm Time. I've robbed your cradle dear. Yet I ask you—your dying Year.

Misspent me, mocked me, wished me on my way, Loathed and reviled me—prayed another day.

'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.

For my brief reign. Yet, also, I am thine. For use—abuse—but treat me as you may.

I'll take a life from out you here and there. I'll give—a lover true—a sweetheart fair.

With lavish hands I'll shower it on Paul. I'll spite some of you with an iron glove.

I shall not swear off smoking now. Nor swear to mend my ways.

I shall not swear of penning prose Or writing merry lays.

For what's the use? You know right well! The strongest of us fall.

I'm going to start New Year right—I shall not swear at all.

Good-by, Old Year. Peace to its ashes! Peace to its embers of burnt-out things.

To become an expert at forgetting. Just to forget all the unkind acts, the deep wrongs, the mean words.

Good-by, Old Year. Peace to its embers of burnt-out things; frowns, anxieties, doubts—all gone!

Help! Gentleman offers to exchange a Christmas present for something else.

NEW YEAR PROPHETS

BY GENE MORGAN. ANYBODY who says the world is growing less superstitious must be talking through the ear-flaps on his cap.

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 pickaxe and buries it.

The New Year prophet wears crepe to work every morning while he is putting his forecast in order.

For instance, he is safe in forecasting 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.

If I thought the pay was steady and the hours not too long for indoor work, I believe I should like to take up the work of making New Year prophecies.

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

uary 21 the coal bin will be empty, and father will chop up a parlor chair.

The month of February will take only 29 days to pass a given point. The weather will be extremely unsettled, and when it is not stormy the air will be quite calm.

March will come in like a lamb afraid of waking the baby, and will go out like a leopine monster who has just overheard someone say he is getting fat.

Murmurs Ever and Anon that the Worst is Yet to Come.

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March will come in like a lamb afraid of waking the baby, and will go out like a leopine monster who has just overheard someone say he is getting fat.

There will be some warm weather, which will cause optimists to throw aside their overcoats and shed their thick, prickly underwear.

ABE MARTIN ON NEW YEAR

Thoughts by a Philosopher About the Man Who Swears Off—Has Hard Time for a While.

Sometimes when a fellow who kin drink or leave it alone gets 'lookin' back over the year just closed, an' sums up all the things he's done or undone, all the energy an' money he's wasted an' all the things he's missed or neglected in that regretted time, the past looms up like a piece of fat soap.

Then he quietly resolves 't bid good-by 't the social cup an' New Year's day, little dreamin' o' the colossal struggle jest around 't corner.

The fellow who has long been used 't fortify himself with a stimulant on over occasion has purty tough sleddin' for a while after he swears off. There's the orden o' buyin' a new hat or attendin' a banquet. The fellow who kin drink or leave it alone allus smells like a Deer Creek distillery after he buys a new hat, an' he'll often faint or weeks when there's a banquet ahead. Sometimes he'll set clean

FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

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 producers.

The bell rattle shown in Fig. 1 is made with a tin can, a common thread spool, two short sticks and two screw-eyes.



On January 21 the Coal Bin Will Be Empty.

made them in an earnest, sincere, try-again spirit, instead of in the usual, automatic way, like giving a fence his annual whitewash.

The odd-shaped rattle shown in Fig. 4 requires a short stick for handle A, and two tin cans out of which to make the wings, pieces B and C.

The depth of one's words is just the depth of one's character.

The 1915 Boy. "I will not put pins in my dear teacher's chair."

"I will not quarrel and fight with my big brothers in 1915."

"I will not play hooky from school to go fishing or swimming."

"I will be a regular attendant at Sunday school."

"I will not take mother's currant jelly from the pantry without permission."

"I will be kind to dumb animals, such as tigers, lions and elephants."

"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 yesterday!"

Running Ahead. It is easy to miss God's plans by hurrying after them too fast.

It is sometimes a duty to move swiftly, but even then let us be sensitively alert that our swiftness shall not cause us to miss the goal that God has set.

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There's a banquet, or at least 't's 't last syllable of an address on "The Wedding o' the Oceans" has died away in 't cigarette smoke.

But how a fellow's whole style o' pitchin' changes when he once gets thoroughly established on 't water wagon an' begins 't talk natural for 't first time since 't first baby come!

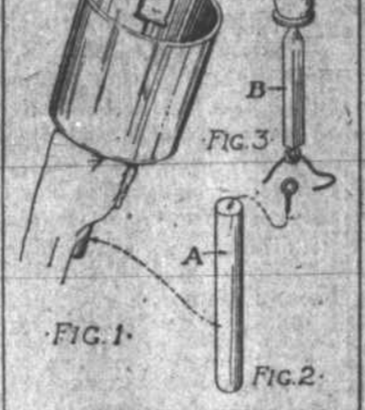
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This handle stick (A, Fig. 2) is secured to the bottom of the can by piercing a hole through the tin and screwing a screw-eye from the inside of the can down into the end of the stick.



tongue of the bell rattle is prepared. The length of the tongue should be equal to the inside depth of the can.

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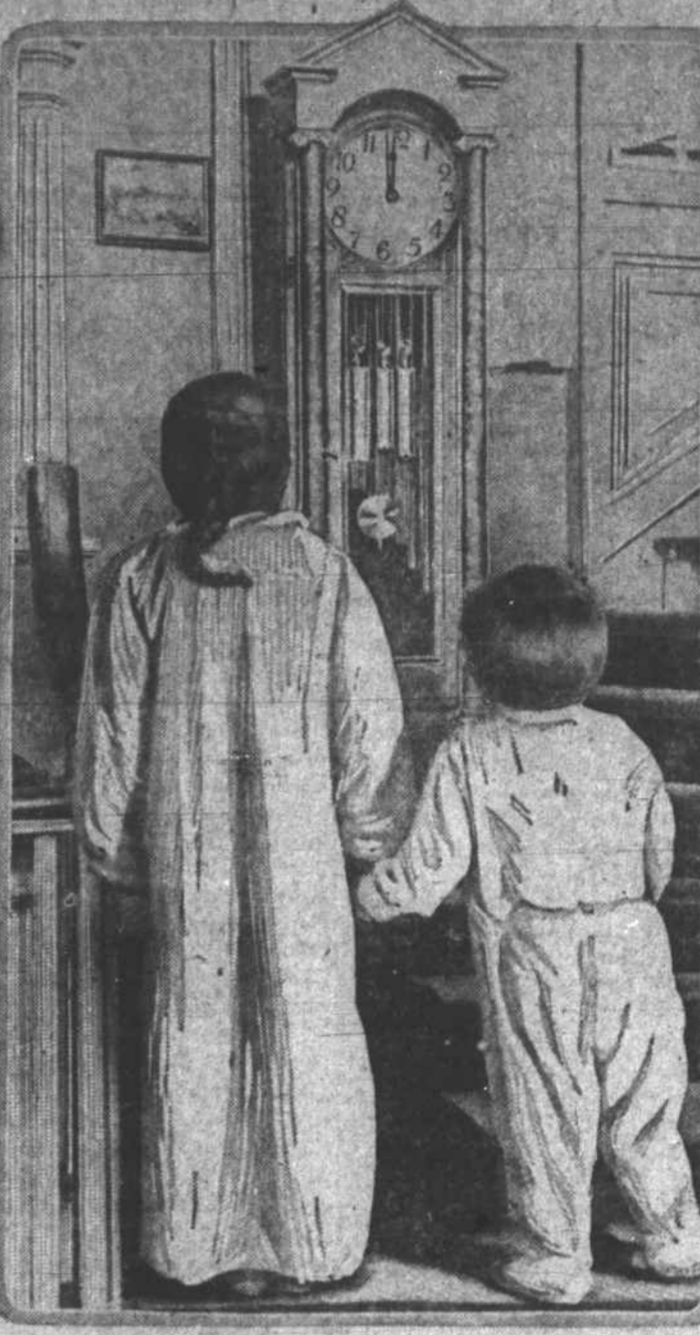
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Waiting for the New Year



A New Year's Prayer

God grant that I the new year through May strive with heart and soul to do These things which are most good and true.

HAPPY NEW YEAR CUSTOMS

Celebrations of the Mummies in Olden Days in England—Tending to Revive Visiting.

In those days they loved, too, to masquerade as animals, bears and unicorns being especially favored disguises.

At last this mummification 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."

Of late years there has been a tendency to revive visiting on the first day of the year.

An amusing story is told of one host who, in a lull, left the line and went over to the punch bowl in the back parlor, saying to a man she didn't know: "What is your name?"

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON FOR JANUARY 3

GOD'S PATIENCE WITH ISRAEL.

LESSON TEXT—Judges 2:1-5. GOLDEN TEXT—1 & 10 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely.—Hos. 1:4.

This year we again return to the history of the chosen people and follow them through the period of the Judges, the days of the monarchy under Saul, David and Solomon, and the divided kingdom in the times of Elijah, Amos, Hosea and Jonah, down to the time of Daniel during the captivity.

Another Generation, vv. 7-10. During the days of Joshua Israel served Jehovah, but his influence did not last long after his death.

They forsake the Lord, vv. 11-13. Backsliding Israel is a proverb. Over and over there was a return to true worship and just as often a forsaking.

How Curious Maidens Can Find Out What is in Store for Them—An Italian Custom.

THE NEW YEAR'S EVE FATES

God Keeps His Promises.

IV. And the Lord Raised Up Judges, R. V. vv. 16-19. These were men who felt the bitterness of the distress of their nation.

WAY TO RID OF THEM.

Mrs. Crawford—Wake up, dear! I'm sure there's a burglar downstairs.

The worship of Jehovah always taught and impressed moral and spiritual truth and required the confessing and forsaking of evil.

Presented by your friends and you.