

THE CASE OF THE NEW YEAR TWO VIEWS AND A VERDICT



By ROBERT DONNELL.
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View of Mr. Grouch

THE years are all a bore to me,
And I confess I cannot see
Why any one should celebrate
A mere new figure on the slate
Of Time. The days just drag along;
They're full of woe and pain and
wrong.
With only here and there a streak
Of pleasure. Seven make a week,
And thirty days a month we call,
Twelve months a year, and—well,
that's all.
THE PESSIMIST.

View of Mr. Grin

THE years are all a joy to me,
For in them each and all I see
So much of beauty and delight
Surviving all decay and blight.
It makes my heart a shrine of song
As God's good years just glide
along.
I'm very glad to be alive,
Three hundred days and sixty-
five,
And so I celebrate with cheer
The coming of another year.
THE OPTIMIST.

The Verdict

DON'T look so gloomy, Mr. Grouch!
Your visage hurts a fellow—ouch!
No use to wear a face a mile
Or so in length. Do try to smile!
Just take a glance at Mr. Grin
And get his viewpoint—now, begin!
This world of ours is middling fair;
There's lots of space and light and
air
And many other pleasant things
Enjoyed by common folks and kings.
Since life appears so dark to you
Just get the sunshine point of view,
And I say ten to one you'll find
The world is comfy-like and kind.
At any rate, if I'm the judge
My verdict's this—and I won't
budge
An inch to either side. I say
It pays to smile—just any day.
So, Mr. Grouch, you lose your
case;
Your sentence is a year's disgrace.
And as for you, good Mr. Grin,
The court hereby decides you win.

VERBAL PITFALLS.

Traps That Await English Speak-
ing Tourists in Portugal.

THERE ARE NO TOES THERE.

But, Then, One Has Twenty Fingers
to Make Up the Loss, Fingers of the
Hand and Fingers of the Foot—Oddities
of the Verb "to Walk."

The Englishman or American in
Portugal who thinks in his own lan-
guage and tries to speak in the lan-
guage of the country he is visiting is
a great smile producer.

For instance, you never marry any-
body in Portugal unless—strange para-
dox—you happen to be a priest. You
marry "with" your beloved Maria, and
the priest marries you both. In the
same way you never dream about any-
body, but always "with" them.

When the landlady at your boarding
house is ladling out your soup you
call out, "Arrive." You are telling
her to arrive at the stopping point—in
other words, that you don't want more
than she has put out. When you see
a child that you want to fondle at the
other side of the room you say to her,
"Arrive here." And the child prompt-
ly "arrives."

In England when we speak of walk-
ing we refer to a certain use of the
legs. But the Portuguese verb "to
walk" has many more significations.
In Portugal not only do the people
walk, but also the carts and cars walk,
the trains walk, a balloon walks, and
a boat walks. Stranger still, the hands
of a clock walk round the face! A
clock, by the way, never goes; it
"works."

Unless you are very intimate or very
rude you never say to your fair partner
at dinner, "Will you have some
bread?" etc. You inquire, "Will your
excellency have some bread?" or, "Will
the lady have some bread?" the "lady"
meaning not some other lady, but your
fair partner herself.

In spite of winter you are never cold
in Portugal unless you are a corpse.
You are "with" cold. In the same
way you are occasionally "with" heat,
"with" headache, "with" hunger or
"with" thirst. When you have occa-
sion to discuss the weather you say,
"It 'makes' cold." "It 'makes' fog,"
etc. On your way home from an en-
tertainment you tell your companion
that it "makes" dark.

If speaking of her husband a wife
says he is a "fame" man. She merely
means that he is a man of peace and
justice.

The word "house" means more than
with us. Your buttons share your own
privilege of living in a house. The
buttonholes are called "houses of the
buttons." The squares on a chess-
board are also "houses." You don't
say, "I'm going to shave." You say
"I'm going to 'do' the beard." Neither
do you say on the way to the bar-
ber's, "I'm going to get my hair cut,"
but you say, "I'm going to cut my
hair."

When you are in Portugal you have
twenty fingers, but no toes. If you
want to make a distinction you
say "fingers of the hand" or
"fingers of the foot." Instead of
telling the servant to set the table
you tell her to "put" it. When you
go to the theater you "assist." You
don't mean by that that you "come
on" nor even that you do a little scene
shifting. You mean that you are there.

Residents in flats who meditate mak-
ing a holiday in Portugal will be re-
lieved to hear that no one plays the
piano there. They merely "touch" it.
Neither do they ring bells. They
"touch" them also. But they "play"
stones, meaning that they throw
them, and a ship at sea "plays" when
it pitches and tosses.

Be careful how you tell your land-
lady that you intend to dine out or
she may think, with a shrug of the
shoulders, that you intend dining
"outside"—i. e., in the garden. In an-
swer to the kind inquiries of your
friends don't say that you are well.
say that you are "good." Be careful
in your use of words. Some words
similar in form are widely different in
meaning, as an American missionary
once discovered to his cost when
preaching in Brazil, once a Portuguese
colony. His subject was "The Prodi-
gial Son," and he gravely informed his
hearers that when the young man re-
turned home his father killed for him
the fatted beetle! But he had merely
made a mistake in one solitary vowel.

A "sleeping" bridge means a bridge
that is immovable (not a drawbridge).
Stagnant water also "sleeps." So do
trucks or trains that wait anywhere
during the night. When they laugh in
Portugal they "untle themselves to
laugh," and when they cry they "un-
make themselves in tears." A persist-
ently unfortunate man says, "I am so
unlucky that if I fell on my back I
should break my nose!"—London An-
swers.

Hopeful Names.

Two bright looking colored boys
about seven years of age, laughingly
accosted a lawyer on the street. The
man stopped and asked the boys their
names.
"Johnsing" was the reply. "We're
twins."
"Well, what are your first names?"
insisted the amused questioner.
"Mah name," answered one, "is Soed,
and his name," pointing to the other,
"is Saleratus. Maw done lose 'all' de
others, and she give us names she find
successful in raisin'."—Newark Star.

Greatness is its own torment.—Theo-
dore Parker.

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