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A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HOW THE DAY IS CELEBRATED AMONG THE NATIONS. ITS ADVENT WELCOMED BY SWINGING BELLS, FRIENDLY MEETINGS, SOCIAL REUNIONS AND DIVINATORY RITES.

NEW YEAR'S DAY goes back into the realm of antiquity, far back of Christmas, as all peoples, however they may have differed as to the length or the date upon which the new year should begin, have united in this, that it should be properly celebrated. From time immemorial well artists, sculptors, poets and especially these versatile fellows, the manna makers, have with one accord personified the outgoing year as a gray bearded veteran quite ready to be gathered to his fathers, while the New Year, a robust, curly-haired cherub, advances gayly to take its place. Notwithstanding the great English poet laureate sings:

Toll ye the church bell and slow,
And tread softly and speak low,
For the old year lies a-dying,
"Tolling" is quietly drowned in the merry chimes that welcome the new incumbent. Le roi est mort! Vive le roi!

The advent of the new year has always been a time of rejoicing, not only with the Greeks and Romans, but with the nations still older. Vagaries were the ways in which the festival was kept, but in this they were all agreed, that a time of new life had come, that old quarrels must be forgotten, old debts cancelled and everything possible should be done to create a feeling of "good will toward men."

As New Year's is celebrated its importance has reached us through France, which was in turn indebted to the Latins. In France it is still the most important day of the year in the way of friendly meetings and appointments and social and family reunions. The typical Frenchman on this day always dines at home with his parents, if he has any, and no outside attraction is sufficient to lure him away from the performance of this ritual duty.

Among the Chinese their New Year's is the great day of the year, when all business is suspended, and the most lavish hospitality prevails. On New Year's Day the children of the Wallachs and the trans-Danubian Rumanians take olive branches and go from house to house to compliment the neighbors with their good wishes, which are not altogether disinterested, as they expect to receive in return some little present. On the second day of the year every stranger entering a house is required to throw in the fire small quantities of salt, which are placed in cups on the table for that purpose. He must then go to the henhouse and place an egg in the nest for the hen to sit upon. If the hen consents to perform her duty the guest is considered a fortunate person, and is feted in that house until evening. This custom is called "the hen's foot."

Like all other Eastern Christians, the Greeks adhere to the old or Gregorian calendar, and their year begins twelve days later than ours. January 1 is dedicated to St. Basil, who appears to have been a native of Caesarea, in Cappadocia. In Asia Minor, and also in Epirus, children go from house to house singing odes in honor of the saint, which, however, are generally extended to cover some newly turned compliments to the occupants, wishing them "a good year" and requesting largesse. St. Basil is always represented in these songs as a schoolboy, whose touch quickens intimate objects with new life.

and the highest of the officials three times, according to the Russian fashion.

In the streets the people kiss each other, whether acquainted or not. The favored ones who have been kissed by the Czar are permitted to kiss the hand of the Empress as well. The ceremony of hand-kissing was suppressed for a time, but was re-established a few years ago under the reign of Alexander II. On New Year's Day at breakfast, dinner and supper, the guests, standing about the table, touch glasses, drink the health of the Emperor, and offer good wishes to each other.

In England and America the happiest revels for children are over before January 1, but in Scotland they are just getting under full headway. This custom doubtless arose from the fact that the old Calvinists held in detestation the "Popish" celebration of Christmas, and it became supplanted by "Hogmanay," usually held on New Year's Eve. This euphonious name is doubtless derived from the old greeting, "Au gul menez" ("To the mistletoe go!") The festival is distinctively a juvenile function, and they prepare for it weeks beforehand by memorizing songs and making "guisers" costumes.

Housewives lay in a stock of oatmeal cakes and bake a store of "bridles," which they hand out to the children when they come to the house door to claim their "hogmanay," crying:

"Get up, good wife, and shake your feathers,
And dinna think that we are beggars;
For we are bairns come out to play—
Get up and gie's our hogmanay."

This custom of the hogmanay is alluded to in that most delightful book, "Sentimental Tommy." Sometimes several guisers go around in a mild sort of theatrical entertainment before an appreciative audience gathered beneath the smoked rafters of the great farmhouse kitchen. Among the old customs we of to-day still cling most fondly to is the one of ringing the church bells at midnight, heralding the birth of the new year.

Although the poetic figure of the old gray-haired sexton pulling his bell with might and main in the belfry tower has been supplanted by the fin-de-siecle individual who, snug and warm, sits at a keyboard and reels off the music with as much ease as though playing "Money Musk" in the parlor, the sentiment lingers and, listening to the mellow chimes cleaving the frosty air, one hears the singing in unison of:

"Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrow lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace."

THE OLD AND THE NEW

The New Year came to the Old Year's door
When the sands were wasting thin;
And the frost lay white on the Old Year's hair,
And his hand grew chill as he slipped the latch
To let the New Year in.

And the New Year perched in the Old Year's chair,
And warmed by the Old Year's fire,
And the Old Year watched him with distrustful eyes,
As he stretched his hands to the fading blaze
Of a kindling of dead desire.

And the Old Year peered, as Old Year's will,
Of summer and vanished spring,
And then of the future, with glad advice,
Of love and sorrow and sacrifice,
That the seasons round could bring.

And the New Year listened, and warmed his heart,
In the bloom of the Old Year's bay;
But he gave no heed of the thorns that lay
In the bud and bloom of a coming day,
And, nodding, he dreamed at last.

The New Year came to the Old Year's door
And the Old Year talked till the New Year slept,
Then left in the night he softly stepped,
And forth in the New Year he crept.

Only a Night.

Only a night from old to new!
Never a night such so much wrought!
The Old Year's heart all weary brought,
But said, "The New Year rest has brought."

The Old Year's heart its hopes laid down
As in a grave, but, trusting, said,
"The blossoms of the New Year's crown
Bloom from the ashes of the dead."

The Old Year's heart was full of greed;
With selfishness it longed and ached,
And cried: "I have not half I need,
My thirst is bitter and unslaked."

"But to the New Year's generous hand
All gifts in plenty shall return;
True loving it shall understand;
By all my failures it shall learn.
I have been reckless; it shall be
Quiet and calm and pure of life.
I was a slave; it shall go free,
And find sweet peace where I leave strife."

Only a night from old to new!
Never a night such changes brought.
The Old Year had its work to do;
No New Year miracles are wrought.

Always a night from old to new!
Night and the healing balm of sleep!
Each morn is New Year's morn come true,
Morn of a festival to keep.
All nights are sacred nights to make
"Confession and resolve and prayer";
All days are sacred days to wake,
New gladness in the sunny air.

Only a night from old to new;
Only a sleep from night to morn.
The new is but the old come true;
Each sunrise sees a new year born.

CANNOT AID MR. GOMPERS

Appeals of the Labor Leaders Continue Their Case Before the Courts and the President Has No Power to Assist Them.

Washington, Special.—In an official statement issued at the White House Saturday in regard to presidential interference in the cases of President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell and Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, now under sentence for contempt of court, attention is called to the fact that the cases are still before the courts and that no matter what the President's opinion may be as to the justice of the sentence imposed he cannot take any action looking to pardon or express any opinion as to the merits of the cases.

The text of the statement follows:

"Various appeals have been made to the President to interfere by pardons in the case of Mr. Gompers and his associates. Those making the appeals are unaware of the fact that the matter is still before the courts. It is a civil suit between private parties and there has been no way by which the government could have interfered even if it had desired to do so. Whether the President does or does not think the sentence of Mr. Gompers and his associates excessive is not at present of consequence because he cannot take any action or exercise any opinions while the case is pending before the courts. When the decision is made then the President can promptly consider whether the terms of imprisonment are excessive or improper."

The President has already instructed the Department of Justice to keep him fully informed as to the progress of the case so that in the event of its becoming proper for him to act he may have at his disposal all of the facts which will enable him to decide whether there was justification for some punishment, whether the sentence is or is not altogether too severe. But at the present the President has no more to do with the case than with the case of the \$20,000,000 fine imposed by Judge Landis on the Standard Oil Company, which is also on appeal and concerning which the President has also been repeatedly asked to interfere by well meaning persons who did not know that he could not interfere while the matter was still before the courts on appeal."

The Evacuation of Cuba.

Havana, By Cable.—New Year's day will witness the beginning of the evacuation of Cuba by the army of pacification, which has been in possession of the island since the beginning of the provisional government. October, 1906. The first provisional regiment of marines, numbering about 900, will be among the first troops to leave. About half this regiment will sail from Havana on January 1st on the cruiser Prairie, which will return about the middle of the month and embark the remainder.

Headquarters and Companies A, B, C and D, twenty-eighth Infantry will embark on the United States transport Sumner at Matanzas, on December 31st. From there the transport will proceed to Havana and embark Companies F, G and H, stationed at Guanajay, and Company E, stationed at Guajay.

From that time on, the transports Sumner and McClellan will be employed in the embarkation at intervals of the remainder of the year. Battery B, Third Artillery, and the Fifteenth Cavalry, will sail on February 2d. The headquarters and Eleventh Cavalry, the mountain artillery and Fifth Infantry; the Eleventh Infantry, and the Seventeenth Infantry will leave Havana about February 27th for Newport News. It is the intention to have all of these appear in the inaugural parade at Washington.

This leaves only two companies of engineers and two battalions of the Seventeenth Infantry. These troops will embark April 1st, which will complete the evacuation.

The embarkation of the troops will be effected with as little ceremony as possible. The purpose, in deferring the departure of a portion of the Seventeenth Infantry until April 1st has been the subject of considerable speculation, but it is believed that this will be agreed upon at a conference between Governor Magoon and president-elect Gomez. It probably is for the purpose of keeping the barracks and quarters in good order until it is possible to turn over to the Cuban authorities a model camp.

Cubans, with the exception of a few who profess to fear that disorder will follow the evacuation of the island, are greatly pleased at the departure of the American forces as marking the complete establishment of independence. All show the kindest feelings toward the troops.

BRIEF CULLINGS OF NORTH STATE NEWS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

WORKED SLICK GAME

Two Strangers Fleec Colored People of Wilmington.

Wilmington, Special.—Two well-dressed strangers claiming to represent a Chicago mail-order house and taking many orders upon which they received part payment have just made a successful getaway with between \$400 and \$500 of the hard-earned money of the thrifty colored people and a few whites living in the vicinity of Scott's Hill, this county. Merchandise of all kinds was offered at unheard-of low prices, and the unsuspecting victims purchased liberally on the glittering promises of the salesmen. Their exposure came when they abandoned a horse and buggy from a local liveryman to the care of one of the victims, instructing him to bring it to the city for them. They had departed in the meantime. A telegram from the Chicago mail-order house states that they employ no traveling agents, selling from catalogue by mail only.

More New Charters.

Charters of incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State last week by the following concerns:

The Eagles Club, of Charlotte, for social intercourse, the incorporators being Adam Fisher, C. B. Frazier, D. B. Paul and others.

The Fenner-Avent Stock Improvement Company, of Rocky Mount, with \$10,000 total authorized and \$1,000 subscribed capital stock. The incorporators are J. M. Baker, W. E. Fenner and H. M. Avent.

The Dacotah Cotton Mills, of Lexington, with \$150,000 total authorized capital stock, the company being permitted to commence business when \$125,000 shall have been subscribed. The principal stockholders are C. A. Hunt, George Montcastle and Joe V. Moffitt.

Husband and Wife Dead.

The news comes that Mr. and Mrs. G. Frank Burbank are corpses with no one to claim and care for the remains. Mr. Burbank was an optician located in Greensboro for many years but had gone West. Recently he returned to take up his profession in Greensboro. Mrs. Burbank stopped in a Durham hospital for treatment. She was getting on nicely till suddenly she died of heart failure Wednesday morning. When the news came to Greensboro to be given to him he was incapable of being aroused and was soon reported dead. He was addicted to dope and it is even surmised that it may have been a death compact between them formed the night before.

No money was found to bury them and no relatives have yet been found to claim them.

Ill and Froze to Death.

Thomasville, Special.—Thursday morning word was received here that a woman had been found dead about five miles west of this place. The coroner's jury found that the deceased was Mrs. Sarah Freedle. She was last seen about dark Tuesday evening one mile from her son-in-law, Phillip Eddinger's home and going toward his house. The investigation proved that she fell and was unable to arise and that after the snow had quit falling about 9:30 p. m., last night she crawled about 150 yards through the snow and finally froze to death. She was subject to attacks of vertigo and it was thought her falling was due to this as there was no proof of foul play. The deceased was about 70 years old.

The Sentiment Growing.

A Greensboro special says: Before adjourning the Superior Court grand jury recommended that Guilford's Representatives in the Legislature introduce and work for the passage of a law requiring that all criminals sentenced to death in North Carolina be executed in the State prison.

Very Bold Hold Up.

Charlotte, Special.—Charlotte had a very bold hold up Saturday night, the 19th, on North Graham street. In the store of Banks & Smith, near mid-night the proprietors and two clerks were about to close up for the night when suddenly a negro with a .38 calibre pistol, confronted them with and order to hold up hands, which they did under the sudden shock. The villain kept them covered while they took out the money drawer and hauled off with it. It contained between \$100 and \$200. The robber soon emptied the drawer of the valuable and valuable items.

Asheville Bar Temperate.

Asheville, Special.—As a result of a heated controversy, which almost threatened to disrupt the organization, the Asheville Bar Association, at a called meeting Wednesday, reconsidered the action taken at its regular meeting last Monday, which directed that wines and other beverages should be provided for the annual banquet of the association, and not only passed a resolution providing that no wines or liquors should be provided, but prohibit the members from providing their own wines or beverages for the occasion. This action was taken, it is said, owing to comment since the publication of the intention to have wine and beverages for use at the banquet.

Suicide With Shot Gun.

Burlington, Special.—Mrs. John Tom McAdams committed suicide at her home ten miles east of Burlington Sunday, the news of which has just reached here. She used a shotgun, tying a string to the trigger and placing the gun against her body, she pulled the string, the charge entering her abdomen and death resulting immediately. Bad health and consequently an unbalanced mind are given as the cause for the deed.

Mill Destroyed by Fire.

Asheville, Special.—The plant of the Tryon Hosiery Mill at Lynn, N. C., was almost totally destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$80,000. The company carried \$50,000 insurance on the destroyed property. About three hundred operatives were employed by the mill around which the little town of Lynn, two miles from Tryon, has grown up. The property was owned by the Wilcox family, who won Hogback Mountain. It is not known whether or not the mill will be re-built.

Veneering Plant for Maxton.

Maxton, Special.—Mr. J. J. Kincaid, who arrived here with his family from Salisbury last week, will the first of the year, begin the erection of a veneering plant with a view to working popular timber mainly, and he hopes to have the factory in operation within a few weeks. He has purchased the lot near the crossing of the Seaboard and Coast Line Railroads for his plant, and the A. C. Covington house and lot nearby for a residence.

Rowdy Negro Shoots.

Statesville, Special.—Lon Summers was fatally shot in the abdomen Thursday night at Elmwood by Richard Potts, another negro. Potts was drunk and was flourishing his pistol threatening to shoot somebody at the railroad station. After shooting Summers he escaped but was knobby by an officer at Statesville while telephoning to a friend at Elmwood.

Fire at Proximity Mill.

Greensboro, Special.—Fire in a warehouse of the Proximity Manufacturing Company Wednesday destroyed and damaged a quantity of cotton, warps and starch, the loss amounting to about \$50,000. It is covered by insurance.

State News Items.

The corner stone of the new grader school building at Lincolnton was laid on last Wednesday, with appropriate ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Harris, of Iredell county, celebrated the 64th anniversary of their wedding on Dec. 12th.

The Mills Campbell Lumber Company, at Newbern, went into the hands of a receiver last Wednesday.

Bleachery Will be Rebuilt.

It is authoritatively announced that the Kerr Bleachery and finishing mills at Concord will be rebuilt at an early date, the contract having been let to R. A. Brown's Sons.

This magnificent building was set on fire by lightning last July while the valley surrounding it was overflowed, rendering the fire fighters helpless to save it.

\$40,000 Fire in Norfolk.

Norfolk, Special.—The estimated loss by the fire in Barnard & Co.'s establishment, which occurred Thursday morning at 3:10 o'clock on Main street, will total \$40,000, and two-thirds of this amount is believed to be fully covered by insurance. The fire started in the rear of the building, and quickly swept the entire structure, unroofing it. Its peculiar situation made it hard to fight, and it could only be successfully done from adjoining buildings and from streams thrown in the front windows from Main street from the top of an aerial truck.

