

What of the Checks?



Let me entreat one thing of thee and I will adventure to promise thee a good year. The request is in itself reasonable and may to thee be eternally profitable. It is only this: duly to prize and diligently to improve time for the blessed and it was given for and is yet graciously continued unto thee by eternal God.—REV. JOHN SHERMAN (1613-1685).

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

WHAT of the checks that you and I are going to draw on the Bank of Time in 1922—if we keep on drawing checks through the year?

"There's nothing new under the sun," according to a very old saying. It's true, too, in a sense. But in another sense it most certainly isn't true. For there is something new every time New Year's day comes around.

There are several things that are new at New Year's beside the New Year. There's a new chance. There's a new responsibility. There's a new balance in the Bank of Time. There's a new bank book. So, what will the check stubs show at the end of the year?

Rev. John Sherman had a right to make his "reasonable request," if practicing what one preaches gives that right. His "three score and ten" were busy years. He was born at Dedham, Essex, England, and before he was twenty-one he was an A. B. and A. M. of Trinity college, Cambridge, a minister of the Church of England and a Puritan on his way across the Atlantic to the Massachusetts Bay colony. There was no church for him, since the only three in existence—Boston, Salem and Watertown—had efficient ministers. So he was one of the "original planters" of Wethersfield, Conn., and a "watcher," 1634-40. Then he was one of the founders of Milford, New Haven plantation. Next he was a magistrate representing Milford in the New Haven colony and also charged with the duty of dividing land. Meanwhile he preached wherever opportunity offered.

In 1647 he became the minister of the Watertown church. There he preached till his death in 1685. Church and state were pretty much the same thing in those days, so the village affairs kept him a busy man. He found time, however, to publish for many years an almanac, for which he made all the astronomical calculations and wrote the text. He was also the first fellow and overseer of Harvard university. Incidentally he also found time to marry twice. Cotton Mather in his "Magnalia Christi Americana," says he had 26 children; this is a misstatement, but he did have 16. His epiphany in Latin on the tombstone in East Waltham, Mass., thus sums up his life:

Let us hope that the "reasonable request" that this early Puritan put to himself was to him "eternally profitable." In any event, he stands forth as a fine sample of a sturdy American pioneer family that has given four immortals to the nation—Roger Sherman, one of the framers of the Declaration of Independence; General W. T. Sherman; Secretary of State John Sherman; Vice President James S. Sherman.

Certainly his request is one that is always reasonable. And it is one that was never more reasonable than now. The year 1922 is a year when every good American should endeavor "duly to prize and diligently to improve time." It is a year with a challenge. It is a year with a promise.

Though in folly and in blindness And in sorrow still we grope, Yet in man's increasing kindness Lies the world's stupendous hope.

And it is a reasonable request to every red-blooded, thinking, patriotic American. Such a man knows that nobody can stand still; that he has either to progress or fall back. The progressive man accepts responsibilities as the measure of his capabilities. He never shirks them, for he recognizes in them the price he must pay for advancement.

Competition is going to be keen this year. The dollar is going to be hard to get. Men who have been getting twice what they were before and have had lots of money to spend are going to feel the pinch. It looks as if everybody who works for a living will have to work a little harder. It may be that life will seem hard. But what of it? Life has always been hard—perhaps it was meant to be. Anyway, it is something that has got to be lived and mastered. It's the business of men "to greet the unseen with a cheer" and "to advance on chaos and the dark." Of course all of us cannot have a hand in the big things that must be done in meeting the challenge of 1922. But if all of us do the little things we may, 1922 will indeed be the "Happy New Year" of our greetings.

To save a little money,
To praise a little more;
To smile when days are sunny
And when the lamp is pour;
To pay less heed to sinning
And more to kindly thought;
To see beyond the winning
Just how the fight was fought;
To be a little kinder,
A little braver, too,
To be a little blinder
To trival things men do,
To give my hand to labor,
Nor whimper that I must;
To be a better neighbor
And worthier of a trust,
To play the man, whatever
The price at stake;
God grant that I shall never
These New Year pledges break.

Anyone looking for something to do in the way of helping along can help bolster up the morals of his community. The war has done what all wars do. And the leeches on society are always active at such times. Just now we are facing all sorts of loose living and the public at large apparently feels little concern. Any man or woman can at least help by setting a good example.

A good American can help just now by putting his respect for the law strongly in evidence. For the law is the law. If it is a poor law, it should be changed. But until it is changed, it should be obeyed—whether it relates to the shooting of game birds or to the use of liquor or to the speed of automobiles or to murder or to anarchy. Many people who would hotly resent the charge that they are anarchists take delight in evading the laws and in making sport of the laws.

Every thinking man must realize that this Twentieth century civilization is too complex to be sane, safe and sober. Medical philosophers are unanimous in declaring that we Americans live too hard and too fast; that our rapid ways are harmful both to the individual and to the race; that we should slow up. We are, to use the homely old phrase, burning the candle at both ends. Men try to succeed in business, to rule in politics, to be social leaders—all at the same time. To crowd dissimilar things together has become a national characteristic. Our vocations are often as wearing as our vocations; we play even harder than we work. Thus to crowd two or more lives into one is to borrow of nature. She is a hard creditor and she always exacts payment.

One cannot, of course, indict a whole people. There are still millions of sane, safe and sober people in America. But a society that demands or even countenances such recklessness is in need of reformation. It would be interesting—and startling—to know how many men and women put themselves in an early grave by going the pace that kills.

"Of all sounds of all bells, most solemn and touching, is the peal which rings out the old year. I never hear it without a gathering up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelve-month; still have done or suffered, performed or neglected in that regretted time. It begins to know its worth as when a person dies. It takes a personal color; nor was in a poetical flight in a contemporary poem when he exclaimed: 'I saw the skins of the departing year!'

"Every first of January that we arrive at, is an imaginary milestone on the turnpike track of human life; at once a resting place for thought and meditation, and a starting place for fresh exertion, in the performance of our journey. The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must be either very good or very bad indeed. And only to propose to be better is something; if nothing else, it is an acknowledgment of our need to be so, which is the first step towards amendment. But, in fact, to propose to oneself to do well is in some sort to do well, positively; for there is no such thing as a stationary point in human endeavors; he who is not worse today than he was yesterday, is better; and he who is not better, is worse."

So wrote Charles Lamb. Therefore let us make New Year resolutions, "duly to prize and diligently to improve time for the blessed end it was given for"—even if we break them.

FAYETTEVILLE TO BUILD RAILWAY

WILL EXTEND TO CAMP BRAGG ON ONE-SIDE AND TO MILL VILLAGE ON OTHER.

TO BE 20 MILES OF ROAD

Fayetteville and Raleigh Capital Furnishing the Financial Backing; N. A. Sinclair, President.

Fayetteville.—With Fayetteville and Raleigh capital furnishing the financial backing, the Cape Fear railway, incorporated, was organized here for the purpose of building a traction line from Fayetteville to Camp Bragg on the west and the mill villages on the south, and the company's application for a franchise was passed on its first reading by the city board of aldermen. The new company supersedes the old Cumberland Railway and Power company, and according to executive officers, plans to build at once twenty miles of railway, including the line to Camp Bragg that will fulfill Fayetteville's pledge to the war department by virtue of which the camp was made permanent.

The president of the new company is N. A. Sinclair, of this city. L. H. Couch, of Raleigh, was elected vice president; and A. C. Bradley, of Raleigh, secretary and treasurer. The board of directors is composed of John R. Tolar, Jr., Frank H. Stedman and A. B. McMillan, of Fayetteville, and L. H. Couch and J. Kemp Johnson, of Raleigh.

Immediately after organization was perfected by the election of the directors and executive officers, an executive committee was appointed to supervise the work of constructing and equipping the lines. This committee is composed of Messrs. Tolar, Stedman and Couch.

Goldboro.—Burglars entered the store of J. B. H. Smith, at Georgetown, a suburb, carried the safe some distance away, blew it open, got \$350, all that it contained, and made their escape. The safe of W. H. Griffin & Son, coal and wood dealers, in the south end of the city, was also blown open, but only \$5 in small change was found. Both cases are believed to be the work of professional safe blowers.

Gastonia.—With a membership of 75 cotton farmers of Gaston and adjoining counties, the Gaston County Webber Cotton Club, the long staple growing organization of the county, at an enthusiastic meeting held instructed the county agent to place an order for some 500 or 700 bushels of Webber long staple cotton seed, strain 49.4, representing the earliest and best of Dr. Coke's long staple.

Pinehurst.—Major of the leading surgeons of the country, including Dr. George W. Crile of Cleveland; Dr. J. M. T. Finney, of Baltimore; Dr. Stuart McQuire, of Richmond; and Dr. Charles M. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., who is generally regarded as the world's greatest surgeon, arrived at Pinehurst to attend the thirty-fourth annual session of the Southern Surgical Association.

Maxton.—A colored boy, about 15 years of age, came to town with his head and face badly lacerated from contact with a maddog. It seems that the dog got him down and bit him severely. In addition to his other injuries, he was bitten through his gum, and two of his teeth were bitten out.

Asheville.—Theodore Taylor, 27, son of a prominent farmer of this section, was shot from ambush and instantly killed on the edge of the city limits, while returning home from a church service with his cousin and a girl in an automobile.

Morganton.—Herman Wall, Morganton fireman, was perhaps fatally injured when he was knocked from the truck by a ladder and hit the cement street. The company was responding to an alarm for fire.

Auto Wrecker Train.
Red Springs.—Atlantic Coast Line passenger train No. 64, in charge of Conductor Campbell and Engineer Rutledge, struck an automobile driven by Almo Gichrist, of Wagram, at the Red Springs off road crossing. The engine tender, express car and coaches ran into the siding 50 yards beyond the crossing and were derailed, the engine being buried in over two feet of mud.

The driver of the car was instantly killed. He was buried under the engine and badly mangled.

To Pen for Life.
Kinston.—Thomas Hayes last of the Walstonburg murder conspirators to go on trial, will spend the remainder of his life in prison for his part in the conspiracy to kill William Whitley, prominent farmer, last August. Whitley was shot to death on his farm. Hayes' counsel entered a submission of guilt in superior court at Snow Hill. Hayes charged with being accessory before and after the fact, was immediately sentenced to life imprisonment. It will be recalled that Mrs. Whitley was sentenced to life.

SUMPTUOUS FUR FABRICS; AMONG PRETTY FURBELOWS

THE weavers of fur fabrics, making cloths in imitation of pelts, have reached the pinnacle of success and are looking about for new worlds to conquer. They are continuing to make fur fabrics so like some natural skins that it is difficult to tell them apart, but they are also making novelties in furry materials to be used, as other cloths are, in suits. These fabrics are rich and warm, beautiful for midwinter, and above all, have the charm of novelty. It is only



SUIT OF GLOSSY FUR FABRIC

a step in advance to use imitation fur in suits, making skirts as well as the coats of this fabric, and that step has been taken by the designer of the very handsome model illustrated here. The glossy, black fur fabric used for this chic suit is a close imitation of broadtail and it would be a case of adorning the rose to put much in the way of decoration on it. Therefore the designer has allowed only a little elaboration in the narrow silk braid that is used with small silk buttons for making the coat fastenings. The skirt is plain and narrow and the story of the coat is equally brief. It is an in-



SOME PRETTY FURBELOWS

genious, short affair, rather snug about the hips but loose about the shoulders, and it fastens in a diagonal line from throat to hem. It is lapped over to the left at the bottom, fastening with a group of small buttons and silk cord and has a similar fastening at the top. The three-quarter-length sleeves are finished with bands of fox fur and a choker and muff to match equal the suit in richness. Altogether this ensemble deserves to be called superb and the coat and fur may further their usefulness by being worn with other skirts of plain cloth or with one-piece frocks.

The holidays bring out numberless pretty furbebows—some of them presenting claims to usefulness, many of them frankly frivolous and merely ornamental, but all of them enchanting. These accessories are beloved of the eternal feminine, for they add the telling touch of elegance, or perhaps a hint of splendor, to apparel that might be uninteresting without them. This particular season finds emphasis put on strands of beads, bandeaux

Julie Bottorley

TO Clean Doorstep or Porch
To make a stone doorstep or porch bright and clean, dissolve a tablespoon of washing soda in a quart of boiling water and scrub with a broom.

New Year Gifts

As to the New Year's gift custom, it is supposed to have been derived from the Romans, but is probably much older. Suetonius and Tacitus mention it. Claudius issued a decree forbidding the demanding of presents except on New Year's day. The Roman colonists in Britain found that the Saxons kept New Year's in the same fashion. Starting as a pleasant, friendly custom, it rapidly became an

abuse and a nuisance. The kings and feudal nobility of the Middle Ages practically leveled on their dependents for gifts. The presents varied according to sex and rank.

FEAST DAY FOR RUSSIAN CHILDREN

In the country towns of Russia New Year's is the great feast day for the children. Boys fill their pockets with dried peas and wheat and go in bands from house to house. People they

have any grudge against are doused with the peas, while they shower the wheat upon their friends. A curious custom also is festooning the hand-somest horse and leading him to the house of a nobleman. The pea and wheat shooters follow in droves. Both guests and horse are admitted to the parlor of the lord and the guests receive presents.

Berlin is to erect Europe's first skyscraper along American lines, a building 22 stories high.