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Handsome triple plated hand engraved Teapots, Cakestands, Fruitstands, Butters, creams, Spoon holders, molasses, sugars, castors, Paradian and other articles both ornamental and Porcelain and alarm clocks and other articles both ornamental and useful. Call in and inspect the ware.

GET A CARD.

Purchase you overcoat for Men, Boys and Children. Suits, Pants, Hats, Capes, Underwear, Shirts, Collars, Cuffs, Ties, Suspenders, Gloves, Mits, Overalls, Jackets, Sweaters, Umbrellas, Trunks, Valises, Telescopes, Watches. Chains, Charms, Rings, Pins, Brushes, Pocket and Bill-books, Purses, etc. and when your purchase amounts to \$15 .oo you get your choice of any of the above articles.

Our Stock is complete, And Styles correct.

Quality the best, And prices the lowest.

D. A. HECK,

No 121. N. Main St.

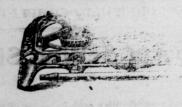
FELT BOOT

We bought a very large quantity of Felt Boots and Overs AT A GREAT BARGAIN and we have determined to allow our customers and the people, generally, have the benefit of our good

Mens' will go at 1.75 ALAND, Boys' as low as 1.25

While we have a quantity that would last most dealers two winters, don't delay, at these prices they will go fast. Remember the place.

AL. RUFF & SON.



The place to buy GAS COOKING STOVES AND BURNERS. GAS LAMPS FIXTURES, HOSE, WATER FILTERS, BATH TUB ENAMEL etc, is at

107 East Jefferson Street.

Shop! Harness

Harness of all Kinds Made to Order,

Repairing a Specialty, AND PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

BLANKETS AND ROBES.

CASH PAID FOR HIDES.

No. 111 East Cunningham St., (The old Times Office.)

FRANK KEMPER, Agt.

Glove Sale!

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 17, 18. We will have a Special Kid Glove Sale-including our well-

known "Perfection" and "Boston" Gloves-at 89 cents.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 19, 20, 21. Special 19 cent Sale

25, 35, and 40c handkerchiefs at 19c. 25, 35, 25, 50c and \$1.00 Windsor ties at 19c.

25 and 50c four-in-hand ties at 19c.

25 and 35c birds at 19c. 50 and 75c wings at 19c Childrens 25 and 30c underwear at 19c Ladies 25c vests at 19c. Sweeping reductions in Millinery.

M. F. & M. MARKS,

113 to 117 S. Main St.

DIAMONDS | RINGS, EAR RINGS, SCARFIPINS, STUDS. WATCHES GENTS' GOLD, LADIES' GOLDA GENTS' SILVER, LADIES' CHATLAIN. JEWELRY | Gold Pins. Ear Rings, Rings, Chains, Bracelets, Etc

SILVERWARE Tea Sets, Castors, Butter Dishes and Everyt that can be found in a first class store. RODGE? BROS. 1874 | KNIVES, FORKS, SPOCNS TRIPLE PLATE.

GRIEB, JEWELER.

No. 139, North Main St., BJTLER, IPA.,

THE GUT TY ON is often adad, What Paint shall we use? THE ANSWER: If you are looking for covering

your money's worth, you must buy

THE SHEAWIN-WILLIAMS PAINT. Wears Langest, Most Economical, Full Measure

Our prices are for "best goods" first, last and all We are in the business to stay and S. W I stays with us.

J. C. REDICK, 100 N. Main St.

Tired Women

Nervous, weak and all worn out-will find in purified blood, made rich and healthy by Hood's Sarsaparilla, permanent THE DYING YEAR.

But expectations all have fled,
The promises are broken, too,
The hopes lie withered, crushed and dead—
Not one of all but proved untrue.

So come and go the passing years
That bear us to the silent sea,
But bright with smiles or dim with tears,
They come in love, dear Lord, from thee.
—Christian Work.

"It's a sinful, wicked waste of time,"

said Mrs. Vane, "when the quilting is

so behindhand and there's such a deal

"But life isn't all for work," plead-

have a loaf of homemade cake and some

"Stuff and nonsense!" said Mrs.

Vane, who was one of those aggravating

women who make up their minds on

pride themselves on adhering to their

word. "I've said no, and I mean no.

When I was a young girl I wasn't set-ting my cap at every fellow that came

along."
"Mother," cried Muriel, in an agony

Mother, Cried Marker, in a goody of wounded pride, "do you mean to say that I do such a thing?"

"You think a deal too much of the beaus anyway," said old Mrs. Vane, screwing up her thin lips. "And I'm going to break up that sort of thing. See if I don't!"

It was with difficulty that Muriel

Vane, naturally a high tempered girl,

checked the indignant retort that rose to her lips. Surely, surely, it was not

right that she, a girl of 18, who was earning her own living by teaching in the district school, should be treated

like a child of 8; that her tyrannical old mother should place no confidence

to Mrs. Vane's behests, and now she felt that the moment for just rebellion had come. She felt that she could not live any longer in this cramped, night

gardly sort of way, with the very lumps

of sugar for her tea meted out to her, one by one, and the pippin apples for her lunch dealt sparingly forth, as if each one were molded in gold. Mrs. Vane took her lamp away at 9 o'clock

every night. She dictated to poor Mu-

riel as to the very color of her dresses

and the number of vards which she

might purchase for them; in fact, the girl scarcely dared to think for herself. Could she live thus always? she asked

silk dress and bought a new ribbon

and baked a great, golden New Year's

cake filled with plums and studded all through with translucent bars of citron

and herself bargained with the groces for two pounds of real Java coffee with

as little adulteration of Rio, Maracaibo

and chicory as he could bring himself

"I can use the china that my grand

mother Vane left me in her will," thought Muriel. "That, at least, is

mine, although mother would never allow me to unpack it!"

Was it right that she should?

See if I don't!"

of sewing to be done."

And there he stands, decrepit, wan, Who came to me a merry elf, A few sands more he will be gone, And with him gone part of myself.

is the Only True Blood Purifier

Prominently in the public eye today. It is sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Hood's Pills are tasteless, mild, effective. All druggists. 250.

■ASHIONS, ASCINATING ALL ABRICS.

> OUR stock tables are filled with every new style and every becoming design in the materials of Cloths- curly head, "but I'm going to receive dom, that good form company in the parlor on New Year's demands, and good taste day. Why shouldn't I? Every other girl can suggest.

IT is not our goods alone that are attractive. Our low prices add to the combination. That is why

Economical People

are our best customers. WE don't try how cheap Just for this once! It's only one day we can make clothes (that | in the year. Do, mother!" is easy) but how good we can make them to give you the best value possible at the least possible the least possible grounds and then

It's All In Th Making



Poorly Made Clothes always look cheap while those well made have an elegant appearance. The clothes we make are put together thoroughly. No slop slop work is tolerated. Try us, and see if we do not answer this description.

Cutting Your Cloth to suit the size and shape is a good thing to push along. also

Cutting Your Cioin to said the size and shape is a good thing to push along, also the cutting of our prices to suit the demands of the public. You'll be astonished at the low prices at which we are making up our large and elegant stock of Exercica and Demestic Woolens. Call

 $C_{\cdot}^{A_{N_D}}D_{\cdot}$

Underwear.

QUIUUUUUUUUUUUU

All grade of underwear at very

Largest stock of hats and

furnishings for gentleman in the

country. An inspection will prove

Colbert & Dale.

242 S. Main St., Butler, Penn'a

ing but the most

goods only for cash.

One price to all. It

will do you good to

see our line of \$7,

\$8,\$9,\$10,\$12,\$16&\$20 Overcoats

BUTLER, PA.

120 S. MAIN ST.,

this to any ones satisfacture.

BURTON'S

NEW

STORE

She was busy decorating the walls of the little parlor with laurel leaves and long, dark green trails of prince's pine on New Year's eve, when her mother ommunummo

Wear

Wear

Points

Thorough protection

Ho irritation—

Hon-shrinkable

Perfect fitting

Moderate prices

All in Jaros Hygienic

Underwear. 'Muriel," said she, "I want to send

some dressed chickens and a peck of those golden pippins to your Aunt Dora at the lighthouse. Jenkins' boy is ready with the boat, but he's such a limb that I don't, for the life of me, dare to trust him with the apples and the bag of hickory nuts. I want you to go and ask Aunt Dora for the pattern of the new bedquilt—the 'Philadelphia pavement,'

"Very well, mother," said Muriel in the old submissive way. "But isn't it rather late?"

"Pshaw!" said Mrs. Vane. "Why, the sun is an hour high yet. You'll be back long before dark if Jenkins' boy is spry with the oars."

Aunt Dora, Mrs. Vane's only sister,

was a worthy scion of the family tree—tall, masculine and hard featured. She had always taken the entire charge of white Reefs lighthouse, even although the official appointment was conferred upon her husband, and when one day that public servant departed this life, things went on precisely the same. Muriel was not fond of her Aunt Dora, and her Aunt Dora regarded her as a "poor, chicken hearted creature—Vane all over." But Muriel did feel sorry for the lonely old woman, and she thought that even a pair of fowls and a few applesthis unwonted manifestation of sisterly feeling—were worth carrying to White Reafs. So she made haste to don her

wadded cloak and little fur edged hood, and to draw on the scarlet woolen mit tens, which she herself had knitted dur ing those long, dreary winter evening when she and her mother sat in silence opposite each other, for Mrs. Vane never invited any company, and gave her neighbors but scant welcome when they came of their own accord.

"Jenkins' boy" was ready with the boat, a small, ferret eyed youngster with an intensely freekled face and furtive, sidewise glance, which Muriel always distrusted; and as they glided out over the water, already dyed with the orange reflection of sunset, in the direction of White Reefs lighthouse, Muriel leaned her chin in her hands and thought of Mr. Clifton.

What would her mother say if she knew it all-that Paul Clifton loved her —that he was coming to ask for her at the maternal hands the very next day. "It will be of no use," she thought dly. "Mother will say no. She dewho only wants me because his house keeper has struck for higher wages and he thinks a wife would be better econo-my. But we can wait, Paul and I. We will wait."

And then they ran up alongside the tall, spectral cylinder of the lighthouse, for the tide was high and landing was comparatively easy, and Muriel sprang lightly out of the boat, looking up at the fiery eye in the lantern above.

Tommy," said she. "Steady with the boat now! I'll be back in one minute." So the orange glow had burned down into a deep red radiance, and the dusk shadows off the New Year's eve were creeping over all the glassy surface of

Aunt Dora never was anywhere else. Her own society, little as other people cared for it, was all sufficient for her-

"Oh, it's you, is it?" said Aunt Dora, as unconcerned as if she lived on dry land and was in the habit of seeing company every hour in the day. She was darning stockings by her own espe-cial little lamp, and the teapot already simmered on the hob for her tea. "Anysimmered on the nooto her tea. Anything the matter? Because I couldn't
leave the light if it was ever so"—
"No, nothing is the matter," said
Muriel. "I have brought you a note from my mother. Something about the pattern of a bedquilt, I believe. And some chickens and apples and a bag of

ANEW YEAR ROMANCE fresh hickory nuts." Aunt Dora read the note once, twice, three times over. Then she regarded Muriel in a sinister fashion from under "You may talk as much as you please," said Muriel Vane, nodding her her thick, black brows, while the girl played unconsciously with the cat

"Humph!" said she. "Yes, I'll go and get the pattern!" and get the pattern:

She was gone some time—half an hour, at least, as it seemed to Muriel, and when she came back, the girl started up. "It is nearly dark," she said. "I

must make haste home."

"Well you needn't be in such a flurry" said Aunt Dora, with a grim
chuckle. "I've sent the pattern by Tomed Muriel. "And Mr. Clifton is coming all the way from the city in his sleigh to see me. Oh, mother, please let me my Jenkins. He's half way to shore by red apples and real cream for the coffee!

this time."

Muriel uttered a little shriek. 'And how am I to get home?'' she

'You ain't to get home at all," said Aunt Dora. "You're to stay and spend the New Year with me. That's what ar mother said in her note.

"But I shall not!" exclaimed Muriel, stamping her foot vehemently. "I must go home! I expect company tomorrow."
"Sit down and be easy—do!" said
Aunt Dora. "Must is for the king. I'd like to know how on earth you're to get home, with only one boat at the steps, and that padlocked tight, with the key snug at the bottom of my pocket!" And Aunt Dora laughed a hard, dis-onant laugh that was like the croak of

For a moment Muriel gazed wildly around like a newly caged bird, then she burst into tears and sobs. "It is all a stratagem of mother's!" she cried, wringing her hands. "I might have known it! I might have

known it!"

And that night at the White Reefs lighthouse, with the melancholy sea lapping the foot of the tower and the wind whistling around the steady glow of the beacon, was the dreariest that Muriel ever spent in her life.

whatever in her sense of right and deli-cacy. Up to this time she had rendered the tribute of an unwilling obedience "You ain't good company tonight," said Aunt Dora, glancing at her nice ever and anon between the stitches of

cried Muriel. "You and mother!"
"Humph!" said Aunt Dora. "It's all
for your own good. You'll thank us one of these days. Girls oughtn't to have But Muriel only wept on and refused

to be comforted.

She went down to the foot of the tower, the next day, and sat there, her cloak wrapped about her shoulders, listlessly gazing out on the sparkling floor "With one man in it? Is it herself. coming here, I wonder?"

Nearer and nearer came the boat, rocking lightly on the surface of the waves, and presently Muriel started up, hand to her, as he came ever nearer and

he called out, as the boat touched the stone steps. "I am the enchanted knight come to rescue you from the prison tow-

said Muriel, with sparkling eyes and velvety cheeks dyed with crimson. "Your mother was entirely noncommittal," said Clifton gayly. "I could learn nothing whatsoever from her ex-cept that you were well and were not receiving company. But I was fortunate enough to meet Tommy Jenkins, who, for the consideration of a silver quarter, ignominiously turned state's evidence And here I am, my sweetheart! Will

you come with me?"
"Of course I will," said Muriel, springing lightly into the boat. "But "To be married," said Mr. Paul Clif-

ton. "It is high time that this system of tyranny was broken up. My little Muriel must be mine and mine alone henceforward. Do you not agree with And Muriel answered:

Aunt Dora got to the window just in

time to shriek an ineffectual summ to the pair in the fast receding boat. "It's no use," said Aunt Dora, drawing a long breath. "When a girl is in love, she is neither to hold nor to bind. I've done the best I could. Mehitable can't blame me!"

Two hours later Muriel walked into

the old brown roofed house on the shore leaning on Paul Clifton's arm. "Mother," said she to the amazed Mrs. Vane, who fully believed that she was "dreeing her weird" in the solitary lighthouse tower, "I am married! And this is my husband. Will you forgive us, please? For I am so very, very hap-py today that I do not want a living

soul to be at variance with me! And so Muriel signed her declaration of independence, and became Paul Clif ton's wife upon this glorious sunshin New Year's day. And Mrs. Vane and Aunt Dora were compelled to confess themselves outwitted and to accept

"Fate is fate," said Aunt Dora grim "And I wash my hands of the whol

oncern," said Mrs. Vane.

But Paul and Muriel were seren happy. And what mattered aught else—New York Ledger. Christmas Bells Ring Joyful Tidings to All

the Earth.

There is no holiday in all the long calendar of the months that is so uni versally and so enthusiastically cele-orated as Christmas. All men everywhere take heart of grace and smile a cheerier smile as the music of the Christmas bells falls upon their ears. Whoever will look back to his young days cannot help remembering what a strange, mystic time Christmas was. ent that typifies the good will and sung at midnight in the open, frosty air. who were they? Unseen and unknown,

who were they? Unseen and unknown, we almost deemed them beings of a ferers. The sacred mistletoe was regardfairer world sent down to make Christmas delightful. If we had known in those days that these men who broke the silence of the starry night to tell us what "the herald angels" sang were what "the herald angels" sang were what "the herald angels and the limit to the kiss beneath the walk to the kiss beneath the walk to the kiss beneath the saliente herald angels and the manner of using it is to the high bunches with long satin ribbon loops the little winders, so as to insure the fight gift going to a right child or grown up person. Any one can make the large colored spiders at home, or of marriage. From this the transition was but slight to the kiss beneath the specially in some picturesque nook or corner. Underneath the manner of using it is to tle high bunches with long satin ribbon loops and ends, matching in shade the hue of the berries, and place them over pictures or proure them from any large toyshop, was but slight to the kiss beneath the colored spiders at home, or proure them from any large toyshop, or firellace, the space may be banked. mortals given to the smoking of tobacco cabalistic bough. This traditional sa-and the drinking of porter, all our re-mantic dreams would have ended there known, has endured through the ages,

WATCHING THE OLD YEAR OUT.

An old fashioned "watch night" in antil recently one of the institutions of this country. The keen, frosty air of the early evening bore upon its crystalline and twinkling depths the sound of numerous strings of sleighbells converging at the church. The well loaded cutters and the crowded sleighs hissed through the creaking snow, that stamped off with loud emphasis at the porch door, announced the arrival of each load. The interior of the church, heated to almost a point of discomfort by big stoves, still retains the decorations put up when the Christmas tree did service before its removal. The usual chatter and gossip soon subside. A solemn hush falls over the assembly, and when the first hymn uplift of tone than usual. The prayer is more fervent than usual, and the anthem that follows it is more like a dirge. The young elder, who is present, preaches an address, the tones of which fall on all hearts with a sadness that begets repentance. No such theme as this finds expression at any other portion of the year, "We all do fade as a leaf," and then he closes with Longfellow's mournful words:

mini Words:

Howl, howl, and from the forest
Strip the red leaves away.

Would the sins that thou abhorest,
O soul, could thus decay
And be swept away!

Kyrie eleison! Christie eleison! More singing, more prayers, all instinct with earnestness, and then a shrill

Year. "Tis midnight's holy hour, etc Another Tennyson's "Old Year," then comes a breathless waiting, and the bell strikes, when a joyous "Amen!" is fol-lowed by a burst of song that every one

ced girl recites Prentige's "Dying

joins in. - Chicago Tribune. New Year Fairies In Wales. Among the Welsh people fairies are known by the name of "y tylwyth teg," which means the fair folk or family, and are believed to have remarkable privileges on New Year's eve, at which time they are said to be rampant and to possess unusual power. They are thought to have a great fondness for children, and woe betide the fond mother who has in any way offended the tylwyth teg during the now dying year. Let such a mother watch carefully and unceasingly at the cradle where her darling lies sleeping on New Year's eve, for if she fails to do so the malicious fairies will come in her absence and steal away the child and susbstitute for it a "plentyn neuid," or changling, who, though it may at first be the exact counterpart of the stolen little one, will soon alter into a frightful looking, shrunken, puling brat, not unfrequently becoming idiotic. -New York World.

Debts Settled on New Year's. On New Year's eve in Japan handfuls of beans are thrown about the rooms and over the threshold to exorcise evil spirits who may be about.

Before the new year the merchants endeavor to get in all the money that is owed to them and to pay or settle their own debts. As a consequence many things can be bought very cheaply at the end of the year, for ready money is the great desideratum. Men carrying trays of something looking like white worms go through the streets crying, "Soba, soba!" the Japanese form of macaroni, which, eaten with soy sauce, is a fa-vorite delicacy with the coolies and jinriksha men. For their little customers these men make all sorts of figures of devils, gods and animals from this paste. - Exchange.

French Canadian Jour de L'an. A child prostrate before its father askng for his blessing on a New Year's among the French Canadians of the province of Quebec, and undoubtedly retained by French Canadians now resident in New England and other parts of this republic. The head of the family rises early New Year's morning, renews the fire on the hearth and in the stoves, and, seating himself in an within the shadows of the Yule log, watches the embers and awaits the first of his offspring to ask for the paternal sing on the glorious "jour de l'an.

Read the Bible New Year's Morning. In many a Welsh household the first ing that is done by each member of the family on rising on New Year's morning is to consult the family Bible with a view to learning from it what the coming year has in store for the person seeking the information. This is done by reading the first verse upon which the eye falls, and the verse in question is believed to foretell in some ray the good or ill fortune, the happiness or unhappiness, during the just be gun new year of the person making the

New Year Bells.

Of all sounds, of all bells most sol-emn 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. I begin to know the worth of that regretted time, as when a person

The old year is dead, and heary haired time High in the belfry is tolling his knell From the phantom rim of a magic bell, and the world is swayed by its mystic chim

npt and inspire them. The thought. On this New Year's eve from the earth dross freed,
one mighty vibration upward rolls,
and hushed are the voices around the throne,
s the Great Creator receives his own.
—Detroit Free Press.

How the Greek Celebrates Christmas. It is more than likely that many of

ur Christmas customs were born in Greece, more particularly the decora-ions, lights and games. Here ghosts and hobgoblins are rampant between Christmas day and Epiphany, and chillren are often frightened into unwilling obedience by the tales. As the pious Greek fasts for a month before Christmas the feast of that day is very welcome to him, though it consists principally of macaroni and strong cheese. On the island of Chios there is in use strange sort of Christmas tree, which s sometimes simply a pole adorned with fruits and flowers, carried by a tenant farmer to his landlord as a pres-

The mystic mistletoe bough then as Santa Claus; but, oh, how we wish there

SIAMESE NEW YEAR.

parting Year-A Night of Terror. The Siamese "Choola Sakarat," or remonth of March. The Brahmin astrolo-ger, whose sole duty it is to point-out en in Chambers' "Popular Rhymes of Scotland," such as: the aspect of the sun, moon and stars, heralds the approaching full moon by setting in motion all the multitudinous

year. Debts have been closed, merchandise disposed of and a traffic of buying and selling suspende three days previous to the expected

The announcement made by the many tongued instruments is received by the vast population that inhabits the valley watered by the beautiful Menam rive with fear and trembling, for they firm y believe that this is the witching ho when the very atmosphere of the w is alive with gods, demous, genii an hobgoblins, and forthwith the anxiou superstitious people hasten to frustratheir evil designs. They bind unsp cotton thread, consecrated by the pries round their doors and windows, as the sacred thread is supposed to prove an effectual barrier in keeping out the malicious spirits. This done they place by the doors of their houses and huts platter containing a pig's head and bottle of arrack, as a conciliatory repa-for the wandering ghosts that may de-sire to regale themselves during th night, after which the whole city, lik the snail, draws in its horns and no cor sideration will tempt a mortal soul t venture out of it until sunrise the nex

At sunset every family offers to its own household genii an oblation of candies, perfumed tapers and roasted rice. As for the royal palace, 7,000 balls of unspun cotton, of seven fibers, consecrated by 27 priests, are reeled round and round the walls, and from sunset until dawn a terrific and continuous cannonading is heard from all the forts of the city to rout the evil spirits that infest the departing year.
But once this dreadful night is passed,

morning.

the terror sticken inhabitants, with a long drawn sigh of relief, prepare to welcome the new year. Dressed in many colored silks, they repair first to the temples to offer praise and thanksgiving for their deliverance and to make handsome gifts to the priests, and not until they have propitiated Buddha and Buddha's earthly representatives do they think of their own merrymaking.-Ex

No English holiday was of much account that was not observed with flowng howl. On New Year's eve the was sail bowl was filled with spiced ale and drank in families, and poorer folk tied a bowl with ribbons and begged for money for ale to fill and refill the bowl,

Wassail, wassail all over the town;
Our toast it is white; our ale it is brown;
Our bowl it is made of a maplin tree;
We be good fellows all; I drink to thee,
In some parts of England the old year s "swept out" by men and boys with lackened faces, dressed to represent sweeps: in others it is "burned out

with bonfires. Sometimes it is rung out with muffled bells that are unmuffled and rung clear after 12 o'clock .- Inde-What Happy New Year Means A happy New Year! What does it mean? Are not these words often thrown out as a greeting without thought or

depth of meaning? Is it a year in which to ourselves come wealth and health, prosperity and friendship; one spent in the pursuit of fleeting pleasure and filled with self centered interest? No! Rather let the wish be to each and all, as the new year dawns with all its opportunities, that the days of 1896 ma be well spent—filled with thought and sympathy for those around; that in self forgetting and kindly deeds the happiness of others may be ever sought, and then most truly will each act rebound again in joy and blessing to the hea from which it springs.—Mand Booth.

New Year Means Progres

A new year, not simply another year. Many people may be said to live the same old year over and over again. Each succeeding year is the same unit added once more to the sum of life. There is the same task performed in the same spirit with the same motive; the same imperfections of character, the same failures of conduct. The times may change and progress hasten, but if we stand still, we live only the old year once again. A new year never comes to the contented ox; he simply grows old. It is not the lapse of time or the progress of civilization, but our progress which makes possible to us a new year -Josiah Strong.

For the Ensuing Year

May the new year, just opening to us, be signaled in public and in private life by the growth of noble ideas—of ideas that shall make men freer, truer better; that shall more and more reflec the incomparable teachings of the Holy Child whose nativity we have just celebrated, and whose spirit, imitated and obeyed, can redeem the time and crown mankind with blessedness.—Christian

How like a human birth the waking hour Of the child year! The weak and querulou

gale Mid tears of rain doth lift a kindred wail.

frail
As newborn limbs, lie prone, with only power
Given to endure what wind soe er prevail.
The baby lips that pout their hungering
Do not more wistfully the nurse invite
Than every spiral leaf bud yearns for spring.
And as the young blue eyes wax deep and

bright
while the soul greatens, so the glowing light
while the soul greatens, so the glowing light
liders by mern and eve its azure ring.

—Philadelphia Times. DISTRIBUTING GIFTS. The Spider Party Will Furnish Much

A "spider party" is a novel method of giving presents at Christmas to chil-dren and may be thus arranged: The guests, on arrival, are greeted by an enormous spider in the center of a huge web spun across the entire room, and from all possible nails and projections should be a maze of white cotton threads, each attached at one end to a large, brightly colored spider, at the end of which must be hung a little wooden winder. Each guest, in turn chooses one of the spiders, and, wind-ing up the thread, following all its intricacies, reaches at last a special insect inside of which has been placed the

Great amusement is produced by the according to the wishes of the hostess from bonbons and knickknacks or small ow granted a kissing charter to the toys to little articles of jewelry, neckcredness, the genesis of which is unknown, has endured through the ages, and today for man and maid to meet be party, which will cause much wonder and then. As we grow older we grow and today for man and maid to meet bewiser, and therefore a little sadder. We neath the mistletoe gives the right to a know, of course, that there is no real sacred kiss.—New York Herald.

party, which will cause much wonder and interest to be taken in the approaching party by her intended little visitors.

Scotch children of the poorer class in NEW YEAR PORTENTS

eve from door to door at the houses of wealthier families for a dole of oat bread, calling out "Hogamanay" or some of the local rhymes which are giv

Hogamanay, Trollolay, Give us of your white bread And none of your gray! gongs and temple bells in the city far and hard. The people, who are always ready, which for this signal, have call "nog-money," and Brand's "Popucall "nog-money," and Brand's "Popular Antiquities" gives this begging unts rhyme used by Scotch children:

Get up, gude wife, and binno sweir; Deal cakes and cheese while ye are here, For the time will come when ye'll be dead And neither need your cheese nor bread. As the children on these forays are swathed in great sheets formed into a deep bag or pouch to carry the oatcake they form quite a mumming and fantastic appearance on the by streets and lanes.—Independent.

New Year's In 1790.

New Year's day, 1790, was one of special interest to those who delight in tracing facts concerning this method of celebration. President Washington, then in the first year of his first term, lived at the Franklin House, in Cherry street, New York.

The city was then a little Dutch town of cobblestones and gardens, containing about 1,400 houses and 20,000 people, most of whom were tradesmen and mechanics of very limited means.

The president had lived among them several months, but most of them had

held aloof through the awe inspired by his great character and his high office. But on this New Year's day a great number of them put on their best cocked hats, their Sunday wigs and all their best clothes and called upon the president.— Philadelphia Times.

To meet a red haired person on first getting up indicates a dull day in business, and if such a one cross your door on New Year's day you will have an unlucky year. While making a trade, if

a cross eyed person looks at you, it in-dicates that the bargain will be unprofitable. To hear a cricket chirp is good luck, and it is always a welcome sound under the hearthstone of the farmer's A New Epoch. As the sun completes his annual rev-lution through the heavens by touching

the southern solstice, and then com-mences his return to northern latitudes, man is compelled to recognize a new epoch in his own career and is reminded to pause a moment for earnest reflection in order to gather wisdom from vanish ed months and to forecast the signs of the future. - Christian Work.

nese, like the Chinese, reckon their age from that date. A child born 24 hours before New Year's day is called 1 year old on that day, so that it is the birthday of all the Japanese people. - New

The first of the year is really a sort of

double festival in Japan; for the Japa-

If you can make love and charity in your heart chold with the last song the their sings New Year's day, you car make up your mind that you are a prett good man after all. - Kearney Journal

A song of the season.

I love no rost but a nut browne toste
And a crab layde in the fyre;
A little bread shall do me stead—
Much breade I not desyre.
No froste nor snow, no winde, I trowe,
Can hurt mee if I wolde.
I am so wrapt and throwly lapt
Of jolly good ale and olde.

prayer
That God would shed a blessing on their heads
—Selected.

The connection of mistletoe with Christ-The connection of mistletoe with Christmas is a very curious one, says Robert Blight in the Philadelphia Press, and far from being a general one. Literature is perhaps mainly responsible for it, in that allusions to a custom, in a great degree purely local, have made a large number of persons interested in the plant. It, moreover, seems to me that the custom of using it in Christmas decorations depends on two considerations—first, its evergreen habit, and, secondly, the veneration in shire, in England, and in those of Nor-

shire, in England, and in those of Normandy, apple trees may be seen covered with mistletoe to such an extent that in winter time, when divested of their natural leaves, they present a mass of green in the leaves of their parasite.

The reasons mentioned have no doubt done much to secure for the mistletoe the place which in recent times it has held in Christmas festivities, but it is not so universally honored at Yuleide as the holly. In fact, its popularity is purely local, and its use as an ornament, in places where it does not grow, is due rather to an antiquarian sentiment than to any feeling that its presence at the rejoicings of

that its presence at the rejoicings of be season is necessary. You may have a very merry Christmas without any mistletee at all, but to the majority of the people a Christmas without a spring or two of holy would scarcely seem to be Christmas at all. Even that rare old plant, the ivy green, cannot compete with the holly as a necessary part of domestic adornment for the Christmas morry gatherines. hristmas merry gatherings. Still mistletoe has a certain am

sentiment attached to it, and therefore the mistletoe bough finds a place in the farm-houses, mansions and castles of the districts of England where it grows and in the dwellings of the wealthy where it can be purchased, while here a spray is bought just for the sake of old memories. The Christmas Messag Cold must be the heart that has no re sponse to this great Christmas sentiment, barren indeed the home into which no recognition of the Christ child enters,

no thought of that inestimable gift that has made all mankind brethren. To the poorest and humblest of us this Christmas message speaks. The wise men required guiding of a star, but to the watching hepherds the angel spoke face to face, and shepherds the angel spoke face to face, and there is a Christmas sentiment in all these gay streets and jostling crowds that the wise men of our own day are not always the first to understand.

In a few days more the evergreens will have faded, and we shall be going about our business with all the stern realities of the new year before us. But we shall carry something over from this great holi-carry something over from this great holi-

it green, a new impulse of faith and love that will keep the world still growing brighter and better because of Christmas

The English holly is finer in quality than that grown on American shores, says the St. Louis Republic. The leaves are a better green and the berries larger, and before the holiday season sets in great hampers of it are shipped from the English parts to delight American eves and hearts.

ANCIENT SUPERSTITIONS REGARDING THE WEATHER.

The Twelve Days Succeeding Christma Supposed to Be Indices For the Ensuing Year Curious Customs and Beliefs of

Many Lands. The 12 days from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6 have long been recognized as indices of the weather during the following year. The ancient texts referred to distinctly assert this, a Sauscrit proverb running thus, "The 12 nights are an image of the year." Another text from the same sources evidently refers to the same period, "The Rhibhus (storm demons)

sleep for 12 nights and days in the house of the sun god Savitar." In northern Germany it is said that as the weather is during each of the 12 days, so it will be during the corresponding months of the year to open.

A like belief exists to this day in Lancashire and Northamptonshire, England, and a very old writer (1590) records the current notion in his day that the 12 days served as an index of the coming year's weather. It was said in one English port that if the wind law hard on the fifth night (Dec. at sea would be in great peril the

The inhabitants of the Vosges in antains restrict this prophesying period to that of our holidays, from Christmas to New Year's, and are willing only to say that these six days indicate the character of the weather for the succeeding six months.

In one part of our own country it is said that "the first three days of Janu-ary rule the coming three months," while in another place the 12 days are said to be the "keys of the year. Of New Year's day itself we have the authority of a very old weather prophet—the author of the "Shepherd's Kalendar"—for the generally ominous portents to be drawn from the weather on that day, "If New Year's day in the morning open with dusky red clouds, it denotes strife and debates among the great ones and many robberies that year." More recently it is said of this day, "If the morning of New Year's day is red, it portends foul weather and great need." While of the second day of the year it is said, "As the weather it this day as it will be in Second by "I have been said to be a second by the sec

is this day, so it will be in September.' In the "Book of Presidents" (prece dents), 1614, Jan. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are set down as unlucky days. Another chronicle says: "January.—Of this first month, the opening day, and seventh, like a sword will slay." The first day of the year is often regarded as the proper time to make certain divinations with reference to many

events affecting the future. In North-amptonshire the master of the family then tempts fate by opening the Bible with his eyes shut and obtaining from the passage first touched with his finger some indication of the events of the coming year.

Among the Wends young maidens hasten the advent of the chosen husband by going to the henhouse on New Year's eve, striking the perch right among the hens, while repeating to themselves the following doggerel:

If cackles the hen, You will have a man; If cackles the hen, Who knows when?

Certain observances are supposed to obtain luck for the year following. In one part of modern Greece all in the house go out early New Year's morning, then return to the dwelling bearing ing, then return to the dwelling bearing each a branch on which the leaves are well dried. These are cast on the open fire, each wishing at the same time good luck to the family. The drier the leaves, the greater the flame and the better the augury.

In the north of England new clothes

are put on for luck the first day of the

An odd ceremony is recorded of one locality in England. Bands of straw were put under the feet on New Year's day while at table. When the meal was finished, one person got under the table and another one sat on his back and drew out the bands of straw. These were taken to the orchard and bound round trees, which were thereby insured

In parts of France it is regarded as unlucky to lend anything on New

Year's day. care on the first day of the year. In Lan-cashire, England, it is said that if it do household that year; nor must any one be given a live coal, or even a lighted candle at this time, for the bad luck will then visit the recipient of the gift.

At Auspach the shadow thrown on the wall by the candles on the Christmas tree, on New Year's evening will, if any one is to die soon, represent his

shadow headless. In Roumania the New Year begins with a ceremony of blessing the waters, the priest performing a mass and sprinkling the streams with holy water while blessing them. -St. Louis Re-

Queer Welsh Beliefs.

In many parts of Wales to see one's shadow in the moonlight upon New Year's eve is believed to be an infallible year's evens believed to be an institute sign that the person seeing it will die before the expiration of the coming New Year, and there is also a popular superstition that if an unn should see her face reflected in water on New Year's eve it is an infallible sign that she is destined to live and die in a state of single blessedness.—New York World.

Three hundred and sixty-five spick, span, new, Beautiful presents for me and for you! Fill them with kindness and sunshine, my honey,
And you'll find these gifts better than playthings or money.

—Youth's Companion. Laurel and Ground Pine. Laurel and Ground Pipe.

Next to the mistletoe and holly the laurel and ground pine are most favored, the former's glossy leaves and green berries suggestive of good cheer and always forming an effective background when gay berries or mosses are used in addition. The ground pine coils easily and gracefully into wreaths and is invaluable for twining about staircases or pillars or for using in decoration on a large scale when boughs of spruce, hemlock and cedar are also

of spruce, hemlock and cedar are also much in vogue.—St. Louis Republic. Parisian confectioners and florists decorate their shops with some effort at symbolism on the fete days of the year. Last Christmas bonbonniers of donkeys, with panels of infant dolls, were displayed. The favorite cake of this holiday is almond, thinks wade and covered with floring

thinly made and covered with figures. Plum cake is seen in the north of France during the holidays. Another cake, "Penfant Jesus," cut out in the form of a child, is very popular with the children.— Christmas Song. Why do bells for Christmas ring? Why do little children sing?

Once a lovely shining star Seen by shepherds from afar Gently moved until its light Made a manger's cradle bright. There a darling baby lay Pillowed soft upon the hay, And its mother sang and smiled, "This is Christ, the holy child."

Therefore bells for Christmas ring;