

**BOTH WERE SURPRISED.**

BY ELISA ARMSTRONG.

It was New Year's day, and Miss Harriett Singlebody was so unusually absent-minded that she forgot to call the attention of her brother to the fact that he was almost half a minute late to breakfast.

"This is New Year's day, I believe," he remarked, as he buttered his first muffin.

"So the calendar says," returned his sister, who had just discovered that she had forgotten to put sugar in her tea.

"The day for making good resolutions and putting them into execution, eh?"

"Well, er—yes."

"Does it ever seem to you, Harriett, that the house is very quiet?"

"Why, yes, of late it has seemed so."

"And we are growing older every day."

"Speak for yourself as to that. I am an entire year your junior!"

"Well, the fact is, that I have always had an aversion to pets. In fact, I believe I have always said that I would



"WHAT IS THAT AWFUL NOISE?"

never have one in the house. This prejudice you have shared. I now feel that it is wrong to cherish such feelings against poor dumb brutes. I—how should you like a nice quiet pet?"

"Why, Isaac, the very idea. I, too—"

"Fearing that you might object, I—"

"Oh, not at all. I—how did you find out—"

"I decided to surprise you. You will find in the library—"

"Why, have you seen it, then? I meant it as a surprise!"

"Meant what as a surprise? Isaac Singlebody, what are you talking about, if not the fine Angora cat I have put in the library as a surprise for you?"

"Good gracious, Harriett, I—I was thinking of the handsome poodle dog I have put in the library as a surprise for you!"

"Mercy on us, Isaac, what is that awful noise? Is it an attack by Indians, a cyclone, or what?"

"It is not an attack by Indians, neither is it a cyclone," returned Mr. Singlebody, with the calmness of despair.

"That awful noise you hear is merely our two pets scraping an acquaintance!"



He—Just one kiss, please. You know it's New Year's eve.

She—What good will that do? You'll want another.

He (eagerly)—No, I won't. I promise you.

She—Then you can't have it.—Bay City Chat.

The Swearing-Off Vice.

Bilkeys—I'm going to swear off on the 1st of January.

Silkeys—Oh, pshaw! I thought you were going to break all those bad habits.—Chicago News.

Her Good Resolution.

I now resolve, as firm as wax, I will forsake all evil tracks; Nor drive in nails, whate'er my rush, With husband's silver-handled brush.—Chicago Record.

A NEW YEAR SERMON.



Freddy—Angelina, this is New Year's day and I have sworn off smoking cigarettes.

Angelina—Then, Freddy Noodles, you may consider our engagement off. I have no confidence in a man who commences swearing off at your age. You will be a total wreck before you are 21; so trot away; there's a good boy.—N. Y. Truth.

Wear Well shoes are warranted to be precisely as represented. You make no mistake in that store.

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—and—  
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We have always shown an unusual beautiful line of goods during the holidays, and our stock this year is thoroughly up to date. Many new designs in Fancy Work and Sterling Silver Jewelry.

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