FOR YOUNG FOLKS

A Sleepy Time Story About New Year's Resolutions.

MANY ARE SOON FORGOTTEN

Strange Dream About Old Father Time and His Young Successor—Rather Sad Tale of Promises Made and Broken—Time For Skates.

Little Ned and Polly Ann were talking about New Year's resolutions, when Uncle Ben appeared. Tonight, he said, I am going to tell you about

BROKEN RESOLVES.

It isn't any use to make the resolution unless you intend to keep it. I had a dream the other evening. I thought I stood in the palace of old Father Time. In one hand he held his scythe, and in the other the hourglass with which he measures the length of the year.

I noticed that almost the last grain of sand had run out of one end of the glass into the other, and so I was not surprised when he cried in a loud voice:

"It is finished," and a sorrowful old man stepped up and took the old hourglass away from Father Time.

"That's the old year," one of the court people whispered to me.

"Poor old fellow, he's leaving us. We shall never see him any more," some of those in the hall murmured. "He did some good things and was a jolly, good friend, but here comes the New Year. See how much handsomer and cleverer he is."

A charming young man was stepping up to the throne of Father Time handing him another hourglass.

"I have here some young friends that I would like to introduce to your majesty," the youth said. Then I noticed a long line of little creatures standing behind him.

"These are the new year's resolutions of my new subjects," [illegible] the New Year [illegible]. "They are to be my little servants [illegible]."

"Ah, indeed!" Father Time said dryly. "I hope they [illegible] faithful lot than [illegible] year. [illegible] I think you are going [illegible]."

And every one [illegible] at every one of the little resolutions that [illegible] suddenly pale.

"Why," exclaimed the New Year, "that's little [illegible] resolve, [illegible] hang his hat on the hook in the hall."

"He's forgotten," the little resolve moaned. "I'm a broken resolve." And the poor little thing faded away before our eyes.

"Every time a resolve is broken there is less chance of a strong, healthy resolve taking his place next year. If the children knew this perhaps they would be more careful," Father Time said kindly.

"I'll mention it to them, your majesty," I cried. And then I opened my eyes. I had been napping in my easy chair by the sitting room fire.

A Seasonable Sport.

When old Boreas gets busy we have ice and snow and of course coasting and skating. The young miss in the pictures is a skater, as you can see. But she is not expert enough to go on single runners, so she wears double

Photo by American Press Association.

A WEE BIT OF A SKATER.

runner skates, those that help little folks to stand up more easily. The little girl's name is Florence Williams.

Roar Meat.

The tigers paced their cages getting hungry for their food
And the manners of the lions were distinctly rough and rude.

"What do they feed them, auntie?" asked a trembling little mite.
"Raw meat," said auntie, pointing to a keeper just in sight.

As he came the din grew louder, and the rafters rang the more.
The little wide eyed boy looked wise. "Oh, that's what makes them roar!"

—Philadelphia North American.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS.

Fill Whatever Job You Hold to the Best of Your Ability.

"In climbing the ladder of success what have you learned that you could pass on as aid to other struggling young men?" [illegible] H. P. Davison of J. P. Morgan & Co. "Did you conceive any slogan [illegible] and bend everything to getting there?"

"No," he replied emphatically. "Whatever job I had was to me always the very best job in the world, and I tried to fill it. I made no elaborate plans for the future. If I had any system in my labor it was first to do my own work, second, to teach the fellow below me how to take my place; third, to learn how to fill the position ahead of me.

"Boys and young men should not imagine that their work is so unimportant that nobody takes note of how they do it. It does not take long to find out whether a boy is on his toes watching how he can best be of help in a situation or whether he merely sits down and waits to be told what to do. The simple virtues of willingness, readiness, alertness and courtesy will carry a boy farther than mere smartness.

"Perhaps it will not be out of place for me to describe an incident which may carry a lesson for the young men you are anxious to help. One day when I was teller a customer offered me a very fine gold pen. I went right into the office and asked if this man had any loan from the bank. I explained that he had asked me to accept the gift. The bank promptly acted, and it was not long before the fellow was in bankruptcy. The simple course I took saved the bank a good deal of money." B. C. Forbes in Leslie's.

EQUINE ARTFUL DODGERS.

Deafness and Lameness That Were Just Pure Bluff.

We all know, of course, the livery nag who pretends to be deaf. You tell him to "get up" and he getteth not up; you cluck [illegible] and he accelerateth not. [illegible] Is he deaf? Not he. You know by a certain rolling of his eye and weight [illegible] ears that he hears you perfectly well. His deafness is pure bluff. It is like the lameness which some shrewd old nags sometimes put on [illegible].

With horses [illegible] to be lame when he is not? [illegible] certainly will. Two or three [illegible] the Nomad was driving [illegible] road in Vermont, when the animal suddenly began to [illegible] could not go off a slow walk. It was very serious, for a [illegible] miles had just been [illegible] a man on the road [illegible] horsemanship, the Nomad [illegible] to his door and submitted the animal to the expert's examination. The man looked at the horse's feet, examined his legs, looked him over thoroughly. "Did the horse go all right when you started out?" he asked. Yes, the horse had gone all right for three or four miles. "Well," said the expert, "this horse is shamming; there is nothing the matter with him."

Then he advised some plain language to Dobbin, advising him with some sharpness to cut it all out and go along as he ought to. The Nomad touched the horse with the whip, and he trotted on to the end of the journey without the slightest limp. Nomad in Boston Transcript.

Swearing on the Bible.

The method of swearing by the Bible came into use at a very early period, practically with the establishment of courts of law in Christian countries. It was the ordinary method of swearing when America was settled by Europeans and was naturally adopted here. Oaths were common before the Christian era, and any form may be used that conforms to the religious belief of the person to be sworn. Hebrews are often sworn on the Pentateuch, keeping on their hats, and their oath ends with the words, "So help me, Jehovah." A Mohammedan is sworn on the Koran. Philadelphia Press.

He Made the Sale.

"Yes, the [illegible] is cheap enough. Why do you want to sell it?"

"You won't give me away?"

"No."

"Well, it's because I'm the only man in this neighborhood that doesn't move in high society, and I'm lonesome." Chicago Tribune.

Sample.

"George didn't keep his engagement with me last night," said the girl who was betrothed to him.

"I'd give him a piece of my mind," said her mother.

"Just a little sample of married life," suggested father. Cleveland Leader.

A Biting Sentiment.

You have to be careful even about paying compliments. Bill Mixer, who used to write ads for a tobacco house, got himself in bad when he started writing copy for a butter concern and wrote "Guaranteed not to bite the tongue." Boston Globe.

A Real Autocrat.

"Here's the photograph of a famous maitre d'hotel. He has a stern and haughty look."

"Hasn't he, though? I dare say that fellow wouldn't [illegible] for any tip less than a $[illegible]." Birmingham Age-Herald.

Car on the Brain.

"Do you know how to handle an emergency?"

"Is that going to be one of the new makes?" Baltimore American.

The feeble howl with the wolves, bray with the asses and bleat with the sheep.—Roland.

Japanese New Year Souvenirs

All Japanese merchants distribute colored prints to their patrons at the beginning of the year. The characters inscribed on the left of the print are the name of the merchant, his street address and the nature of his business. The picture generally is intended to express good wishes for the patron and a hope of prosperity for the proprietor. In carrying out this purpose an elaborate symbolism is used.

The stork (in Japan) is supposed to live 1,000 years, the turtle 10,000 years. Hence they both express a wish for long life. The pine tree is always green, therefore it is a symbol of eternal good fortune. The fan is the symbol of increasing good fortune, as time passes good fortune increases as a fan opens out. The palm tree blossoms in winter and is extremely fragrant. It has a very prominent place in Japanese life. There are seven gods of good fortune. These are always used in New Year greeting cards. These seven gods correspond to Billiken in this country, and recently Billiken himself has been popular in Japan.

The prints have two purposes. They convey good wishes to the patron and they advertise the merchant.

One especially artistic print given out by a dealer in household utensils contains a picture of a mounted warrior trying to cross a [illegible] river. The significance is that if you strive and persist in life you will in the end achieve fame. The characters in the [illegible] to this effect.

A Kobe liquor [illegible] gave out a picture showing [illegible] god of wealth in a very happy mood. He is going fishing, and [illegible] has caught [illegible] before him [illegible] as his face will show.

From a Kobe dealer in rice cakes came a card showing an attendant [illegible] bath [illegible] the [illegible] The [illegible] on the [illegible] plum [illegible] to come and [illegible] At New Year's it is customary to play battledore and [illegible] for a game. New York Sun.

Roman New Year Like Our Own

The Romans dedicated the first day of the year's first month and the whole ensuing month to the god Janus, from whom it derives its name of January and whom they represented as a man with two faces, one looking backward, the other forward, implying that he stood between the old and the new year with a regard to both. Throughout January they offered sacrifices to Janus upon twelve altars, and on the first day of that month were careful to so regulate their conduct that their every word and act should be a happy augury for all the ensuing days of the year.

Ovid and other Latin writers of that age allude to the suspension of all litigation and strife, the reconciliation of differences between friends, the smoking altars and the white robed processions to the capitol upon the first day of Janus or New Year's day, as we now call it. They also tell of the exchanging of visits, the giving and receiving of presents or strenae, the masquerading and the feasting with which in their time the day was celebrated throughout the Roman empire. The modern gentleman who puts on his swallow tailed coat and his white necktie today and sallies forth to visit his lady friends will be surprised to learn that the Roman dandy, attired in a new shirt and toga, went out upon precisely the same errand more than 2,000 years ago.

From the very birth of Christianity the participation by Christians in the festival observance of New Year's day was vigorously opposed until, about the fifth century, the 25th of December had gradually become a fixed festival commemorative of our Lord's nativity, whereupon the 1st of January also assumed a specially sacred character as the octave of Christmas day. As such it still holds a place in the calendars of the various branches of the eastern and western church, but only as a feast of subordinate importance.

For the New Year.

Out of the city [illegible] and cries
I send you a dream of delight to the eyes.

Out of the [illegible] of the winter time
I send [illegible] from the young [illegible].

Out of [illegible] and the trouble of night
I send you a song of the dawn's delight.

For all things die to arise [illegible],
Save pain and sorrow, the [illegible] dow of pain.

And beyond the reach of the rack and the rod
There remaineth a rest for the people of God.

—Edmund Gosse.

OUR SECRETARIES OF WAR.

Only a Few of Them Had Any Practical Military Experience.

The first secretary of war of the United States was Henry Knox, who was born in Boston July 25, 1750, of Scotch Irish parentage. Knox was the chief commander of the artillery throughout the Revolution and was secretary of war both before and after Washington assumed the presidency, being one of the few soldiers appointed to that position.

His successor, Timothy Pickering, had also seen active service, and James McHenry, the third to hold the post, had been a surgeon in the Revolution. Samuel Dexter, the next in line, was a lawyer, but Henry Dearborn, Jefferson's secretary of war, had had much military experience. William Eustis, appointed by Madison, was a physician and gave way to a military man, John Armstrong. James Monroe and William H. Crawford were lawyers, and since their time most presidents have apparently considered a legal education the best qualification for a head of the war department.

U. S. Grant, who held the war portfolio for a brief period in 1867, and William T. Sherman, whose tenure of office was equally short, were the only distinguished military men to hold the post within the last half century.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

STORY OF THE PENNY GIRL.

Likeness on the Old Cent Was That of Sarah Longacre.

In 1835 the government of the United States made an offer of $1,000 for the most acceptable design to be placed upon the new one cent coin soon to be issued. Some Indian chiefs traveled from the northwest to Philadelphia to inspect the mint, whose chief engraver was James Barton Longacre, who invited them to his house.

The engraver's daughter, Sarah, ten years old, greatly enjoyed the visit of her father's guests, and during the evening, to please her, one of the chiefs took his feathered bonnet and war bonnet and placed it on her head. In the company was an artist who immediately sketched her and handed the picture to her father. Mr. Longacre, knowing of the competition for a likeness, [illegible] the [illegible] the sketch for the prize offered by the government. To his delight, the offer was accepted and the face of his daughter [illegible] upon the cent.

The face of Sarah Longacre [illegible] into more hands [illegible] homes, more stores, [illegible] than any other coin in the United States, if not in the world.—Pittsburgh Leader.

Disraeli and Gladstone.

Mr. Shaw Leslie, an Irish author, tells the following:

"My grandfather witnessed an effective piece of play in the house during a duel between Disraeli and Gladstone. During a heated flight of oratory Gladstone upset some pens on the table between them. Disraeli rose and, calling attention to the fact, slowly replaced them one by one. The effect of Gladstone's speech was lost by the time Disraeli had finished."

Speaking of Dickens and Thackeray, Mr. Leslie says:

"My grandfather recalled the ridiculous incident which brought them together. As they both left the Athenaeum, unknown to each other they seized the same hat. The effect was ludicrous enough to appeal even to professional humorists, and they shook hands."

Eggs Sterilized by Gas.

A method of preserving eggs which is said to keep them absolutely fresh for an indefinite length of time is in use in France. New laid eggs in tin cases holding 1,000 each are placed in an autoclave, from which the air is exhausted until all the gas within the shells has been drawn out. Then carbonic acid gas and nitrogen are introduced from tanks of these gases in liquid form, and the tins containing the eggs are sealed with solder. Any germs of decay are killed by these gases, and it is said that the flavor of the eggs is in no way affected.

Canals of Venice.

The canals of Venice are a part of the Adriatic sea. The city is built on 118 small islands or shoals in the gulf of Venice. These islets are connected by several hundred bridges, and the direction of the canals, of which there are nearly 200, are so formed as to constitute the "highways." Thus it is due to the situation of this city and not to special intention of man that it has canals instead of paved streets.

His Day Off.

"Who is that gentleman listening with such keen delight to a ragtime selection by the band?"

"That's Mr. Duffersby. His wife and daughters are very musical. If they were present they would clap their hands to their ears and pretend to be suffering."—Spokane Review.

Departed Warmth.

"What have you there?"

"A package of old love letters."

"Going to burn them?"

"Yes. When I wrote these missives they were so fervent I had an idea they might be ignited by spontaneous combustion, but I guess I'll have to use a match after all."—Spokane Review.

That Held Him.

He—I shall not marry a woman unless she is my exact opposite. She—You will never find so perfect a being as that.—Life.

The true art of memory is the art of attention.—Johnson.

Her New Year Greeting

The Three Voices

A NEW YEAR POEM

What saith the Past to thee?
Truth is departed;
Beauty hath died like the dream of a sleep;
Love is faint hearted;
Trifles of sense, the profoundly unreal,
Scare from our spirits God's holy ideal.
So, as a funeral bell, slow and deep—
So tolls the Past to thee. Weep!

How speaks the Present Hour?
Walk, upward glancing.
So shall thy footsteps in glory be tracked,
Slow, but advancing.
Scorn not the smallest of daily endeavor.
Let the great meaning ennoble it ever;
Droop not o'er efforts expended in vain;
Work as believing that labor is gain.

What doth the Future say?
Turn thy [illegible] sunward;
Look where light fringes the far rising slope.
Day cometh onward.
Watch, though so long be the twilight delaying.
Let the first sunbeam arise on thee praying.
Fear not, for greater is God by thy side
Than the armies of Satan against thee allied.

—Religious Herald.

Calling With a Donkey

"The most delightfully ludicrous sight I ever looked upon," said a prominent Chicagoan whose early home was in a little "down in Egypt" village, "was a New Year's calling rig.

"The rivalry among the young men of the place was very strong, and all of them put their wits to the test in an effort to astonish the natives by the oddity of their conveyances. In a contest of this kind the callers usually went in groups of threes and fours, but one young man announced that he had decided to flock by himself.

"We knew by this that he had a surprise in store for the community, and so he had. About 11 o'clock he appeared in the main residence street of the village seated in a big, old fashioned rocking chair drawn by the only donkey of which the town could boast.

"As the sleighing was ideal he had no difficulty in making his way over the hard packed snow.

"The town never had such a laugh before or since that time. A band of yelling and hooting youngsters followed in his train, and the tumult inspired the donkey to put forth his most tremendous vocal efforts."

Goodby, Old Year!

We laughed with you, we chaffed with you,
The glass of fun we quaffed with you
While sitting side by side.
You made life bright,
Put out of sight
The griefs we had to hide.

We danced with you, we pranced with you,
While others less entranced with you
Just slowly plodded on.
You lent a hand
At all we planned.
We miss you now you're gone.

We dined with you, we pined with you,
And truly, too, we wined with you,
Old Year who went so fast.
You were as [illegible]
Clear to the end
Your joys and woes are past.

We sighed with you, we cried with you,
And some they almost died with you.
'Tis hard to say goodby.
Your heart was warm
Through sun and storm.
We grieve that you should die.

—Mrs. Findley Braden in Life.

HOW TO DYE FADED CLOTHES NEW COLORS.—A visit to the dye bath simply transforms sun-struck curtains, pillow covers and draperies into new goods. The slight stiffening which cretonne, art ticking and chintzes have when first bought can be renewed by using bran water instead of starch. Cook two cupfuls of the bran in half a gallon of water twenty minutes and put it in the final rinsing water. This gives just the proper dressing.

It is a help for the beginning dyer to know something of the results which various colors will produce.

Blue over brown produces dark seal brown.
Blue over purple produces dark plum.
Blue over green produces bluish green.
Blue over yellow produces green.
Blue over red produces purple.
Light blue over orange produces brown.
Light blue over green produces peacock blue.
Light blue over pink produces lavender.
Cardinal over navy blue produces light purple.
Maroon over dark green produces plum.
Maroon over navy blue produces dark purple.
Red over dark green produces black.
Red over orange produces scarlet.
Red over green produces brown.
Red over lavender produces wine.
Red over blue produces purple.
Yellow over red produces scarlet.
Yellow over blue produces green.
Yellow over green produces light green.
Yellow over brown produces golden brown.

WAR'S EFFECT ON RUGS.

How the Price of Beautiful Floor Coverings Has Risen.

Said a rug expert recently:

"I should say offhand that about 20 per cent of the increase in rug prices is due to conditions in the dye trade, 40 per cent to the falling off in wool imports and 25 per cent to shortage of labor. The remaining 15 per cent may be accounted for by increased transportation charges and by the fact that the rug manufacturers, owing to the fluctuating conditions, are inclined to safeguard their own profits a little more closely than before the war.

"In general it is correct to say that the price of domestic rugs has advanced from 25 to 45 per cent over the prices that were asked before the European war began. Thus a Wilton that could be bought for $60 a year and a half ago must now sell at $75; an Axminster or Brussels or velvet rug that cost then $27.50 must now sell for $35 or $40 and is expected to advance to $45 in the near future.

"The most popular moderate priced rug at the present time is the Axminster. It is constantly gaining in popular favor over that old time favorite the Brussels rug, and some manufacturers have even discontinued their Brussels weaves. Of the Axminsters the Chinese patterns, these being duplicates of Chinese designs, are especial favorites. Different shades of blue, such as delft, indigo and the so called old blue shades, are considered the most desirable. The blue is generally in the groundwork. These Chinese designs were first put out in domestic rugs about three years ago and at once met with popular favor. Let me say that the housewife who is able to get a special priced, marked down rug is fortunate, for this means that she is getting a rug that has been for some time in stock and so is dyed in the safer dyes that were obtainable before the war. Carpet manufacturers have now warned all their customers that the dyes now used are more likely to mellow and weaken than those formerly used.

"In buying Axminster and velvet rugs of medium grades better service will be secured from the seamless rugs."

How to Stop a Leak In a Gas or Water Pipe.

A leak in a gas or water pipe frequently causes no end of damage before the plumber can be called. Still it can be stopped temporarily with a filling mixture made of yellow kitchen soap and whiting mixed in a thick paste. When your wash boiler or any pot or kettle begins to leak at any unexpected moment you can save the day with an emergency cement made by mixing the white of an egg with fine coal or wood ashes until it forms a thick paste. Plaster this over the hole on the outside of the vessel and then hold it over the fire until the egg is baked and the cement hardens.

How to Clean Silver With Just Whiting and Oil.

When silver is very much tarnished and this is often the case when it has been put away for some time and not used, it is a good idea to clean it with oil and whiting. Take an old piece of cloth or rag, dip one corner of it in the oil—lard can be used instead if more convenient—then in the powdered whiting, and rub the black marks with it. They will gradually disappear with this treatment, and the silver must then be rubbed with clean dry whiting and polished with a soft leather.

ROCHESTER