



Four Celebrations of New Year's Day

NEW YEAR is celebrated in this country at least on four different dates in addition to the regular national New Year's celebration on January 1. The first of these foreign celebrations will be that of the Greeks and Russians and a few other nationalities which adhere to old style dates. They will have New Year on January 14, 13 days later than the New Year of the new style. Next in order comes the Chinese New Year, on February 13, and, but a day later, February 14, comes the Mohammedan first day of the year. The Jewish New Year falls nearly nine months later, about the middle of September, on the first day of the month of "Tishri."

The celebrations vary both in accordance with the religions of the various peoples and their climatic, racial and national characteristics. With the Greeks, Russians, Servians, Bulgarians and Macedonians, all of whom adhere to the Greek Catholic church, New Year's is one of the most pleasant if not the pleasantest festival of the year. With the Jews, on the contrary, the New Year, Rosh Hashana, as it is called, is far from being a pleasant affair. It is a day of retribution, of judgment. It is preceded by weeks of prayer, fasting and penitence, and is followed by ten days known as the days of repentance, which wind up with Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, a most grousome and weird day, dreaded by every orthodox Jew.

Greeks Celebrate Two Days.

The most interesting and joyous celebration of the New Year is that of the Greeks. The Greek New Year lasts two days. In these two days the Greek nature with its unbounded joy of life comes into its own. The heart of every Greek thrills on that day with unbounded joy. Passionately he awaits the evening, when in his little Greece, in a genuine Greek restaurant, with male cooks and attendants, he can get his genuine Greek food, Hellenic dishes, and wash them away with Greek wine which was purposely imported into this country for the holidays.

"Christmas is a great holiday with us," said a prominent Greek, "but it is after all a solemn day. It is a religious holiday. No gifts are exchanged on Christmas and the three days which the holiday last are given over to religious meditation. How different it is with the New Year! Next to our national holiday on March 25, which commemorates the date of our independence, just as July 4 commemorates the birth of the American nation, New Year's days, for we have two of them, are our greatest holidays. In Greece New Year is essentially a family holiday. There we have a children's afternoon which is devoted entirely to the young ones, who are given the utmost opportunities to enjoy

themselves. In this country, however, it is slightly different. Out of the 13,000 Greeks living in Chicago only 200 have their families here. There are only between sixty and eighty children, and as we are only just planning to build a school of our own, we have not yet the means nor the call for a children's afternoon on New Year's day."

Still, many of the Greek families will observe this ancient custom in this country. They will have their children's afternoon. They will have their delicious New Year's pudding known as "king's pudding." In fact, in many cases the pudding will be even more delicious than it would have been in old Athens. For one of the ancient customs among the Greeks is to hide some gold coin in one portion of the pudding and he who gets the share of the pudding with the gold coin in it becomes the favorite as well as the leader of the two days' joy and sport. In this country, where gold is more plentiful than in Greece and where it is more easily earned by the Greek father, the pudding promises to contain more gold and be much more delightful to the finder of the same.

Russians Like Our Food.

Russians in this country celebrate but one day, and they, too, attempt to produce a home atmosphere. However, home food is not thought of. The bread, the meat, and the wine of the United States are considered as good as and even far better than the products of their own land.

The Macedonians, Servians and Bulgarians celebrate the New Year, perhaps less elaborately, also on the same day as their Greek and Russian coreligionists.

The Turks celebrate their first of the year with the modesty characteristic of people who have not yet any hold on a place.

The Chinese will have their customary celebration of the Chinese New Year on February 13 with feasting and enjoyments with which the holiday is observed in the Celestial empire.

In striking opposition to the spirit of joy and happiness which pervades the New Year of the Greeks and Christendom generally is the New Year of the Jews. With the Jews, who also observe the New Year for two days, the days are not days of feasting and enjoyment but days of judgment. According to the belief of every orthodox Jew, every member of the Jewish race is tried on the New Year. The books kept in heaven are opened on that day, the record of each man for the year just ending is looked through, and taken under advisement for ten days. On the tenth day, the day of atonement, the fate of each man for the coming year is drawn up, whether he should live or die, prosper or be poor. On the day of atonement the fate is sealed and nothing can change it any more.

Gentle Hints.

"Darling, you're sleepy."
"No, I'm not, mamma," responded Daisy, who wanted to sit up longer and get some sweeties: "It's only my eyes are tired because they have been looking so long for some candy."—Baltimore American.

The Servant's Excuse.

Employment Agent—Come, now, how 'is this? You stayed two weeks in your last place. How did that happen?
Domestic—Sure, Of dunno. Of musht av evershlept meself.—N. Y. Weekly.

Putting Another Face on It.

"Do you like that manager?"
"No; I don't like the cast of his countenance."
"Well, I don't like the countenances of his cast."—Baltimore American.

Not a Matrimonial Campaign.

Papa (reading his paper)—I see the ants have won this time.
Little Freddy—What did the aunties win, papa? The uncles?—Baltimore American.

A Cheering Motto.

Pedler—Wouldn't you like some mottoes for your house, mum? It's very chee...ing to a husband to see a nice motto on the wall when he comes home.

Mrs. De Jagg—You might sell me one if you've got one that says "Better Late Than Never."—N. Y. Weekly.

A Sure Thing.

"I bet you don't know the name of the place where the aviator keeps his machine."
"I bet I do."
"What is it, then?"
"An aviary, of course."—Baltimore American.

Just It.

First Itinerant Novelist—What do you think of this tramp existence?
Second Ditto—I think it is a bum life.—Baltimore American.

A Far-Sighted Friend.

"What kind of a chap is he?"
"Oh, the kind that gives Christmas presents far enough ahead to allow time for return gifts!"

NOT ALWAYS EASY TO SMILE.

Did You Ever Practice Cheerfulness in Narrowing Circumstances?

It is comparatively easy to be pleasant and cheerful when our bread-and-butter problem is solved, when we are strong and healthy, when we have harmonious, comfortable homes and money in the bank; but the test of character comes when there is a family to support, when a wife and little ones are looking to us for bread and clothing, and the wolf is pretty near the door; when we are struggling against poor health, a discordant home, a dishonest partner. It is a very difficult thing to be cheerful and hopeful when a man is out of a job, with no money in the bank, and an invalid wife and children depending upon him.

It is comparatively easy to be optimistic when the granary is full, when there are no clouds on the horizon, but a very difficult thing to be hopeful and cheerful when the capital is small and business poor. It is hard to be optimistic when notes and bills are coming due and there is no money to pay for goods which lie unsold on the shelves.

It is easy to smile when we are well and everything is coming our way, but when everything goes wrong with us, when undergoing misfortunes or hardships, when those near to us are sick and in distress, when poverty pinches, when the flour is getting low in the barrel, and hungry children look longingly into one's face, then it is not so easy to smile, to give the cordial handshake, to be serene, balanced and poised. But this is just the time that real character, that fine training, will stand one in good stead.—Orison Swett Marden, in Success Magazine.

Champion Carrier Pigeons.

B. A. Fogg of Hunts Mills, Garland, is the possessor of some rare carrier pigeons. He has one pair of which the father and mother have a record of flying from Minneapolis, Minn., to Boston in 50 hours. For the last thousand miles of their flight they flew against a northeast storm, arriving with ice and snow frozen to their plumage. This pair had never flown west of Buffalo before. They partook of no food on their trip. Mr. Fogg also has a pair of English carriers, the father and mother having a record of flying over 5,000 miles. These birds are the same breed as those that flew from the balcony of Audre, the Norwegian explorer, who perished in his attempt to reach the north pole. He has also 12 homers that he has been flying from points in Maine. One pair has a record of flying from the Bangor fair grounds to Garland, 25 miles, in 28 minutes, and from Skowhegan, 50 miles, in 60 minutes.—Kennebec Journal.

Gesturing Over the Wire.

"It was the constant gesturing of that fellow at the other end of the wire that made it so infernally hard to catch what he said," growled the man who had been wrestling with the telephone.

"How in the world could you tell he was making gestures?" asked the incredulous listener.
"By the jerky way the words came over the wire. Many people get so excited when telephoning that they gesture as frantically as if they were talking to a man face to face. Their bouncing around and sawing the air breaks the voice and the sentences come over the wire in fragments. I have talked with so many people who, I learned later, were dancing a jig at the other end of the wire that I always can tell when that gesticulating is going on."

Not Very Useful.

A man who stuttered badly went to a specialist and after ten difficult lessons learned to say quite distinctly: "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." His friends congratulated him upon this splendid achievement.
"Yes," said the man doubtfully, "but it's s-s-such a d-d-deucedly d-d-difficult remark to w-w-work into an ordinary e-e-convers-sation, y' know."—Everybody's Magazine.

Another Chicago Novelty.

"Yes, they have a new sort of function in Chicago that is quite the rage."

"What is it called?"
"It's called a moving-in party. When the hostess learns that the empty house next door is to be occupied she calls her guests by telephone and they come and draw cuts for the front windows, and then sit there and size up the new neighbor's stuff as the movers carry it in."

Love's Awakening.

"I'm almost sure the count is in love with me," excitedly exclaimed the first helpess.

"What makes you think so?" inquired the other.
"He asked me to-day how much I was worth."

Young America.

Six-year-old Ray's teacher was endeavoring to give some very simple instructions in fractions. She added: "If Jane has six eggs and uses half of them to bake a cake what part will she have left?" Quickly came the answer: "The shells!"—The Delicater.

LEWIS' "SINGLE BINDER."

A hand-made cigar fresh from the table, wrapped in foil, thus keeping fresh until smoked. A fresh cigar made of good tobacco is the ideal smoke. The old, well cured tobaccos used are so rich in quality that many who formerly smoked 10c cigars now smoke Lewis' Single Binder Straight 5c. Lewis' Single Binder costs the dealer some more than other 5c cigars, but the higher price enables this factory to use extra quality tobacco. There are many imitations; don't be fooled. There is no substitute! Tell the dealer you want a Lewis "Single Binder."

Saved the Trouble.

"Your wife has eloped with your chauffeur."
"I don't care. I was going to fire him, anyway."

Waiting for a Rise.

"Have you sold your arship yet?"
"No; I'm holding it for a rise."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Worth Its Weight in Gold.

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Truth should be the first lesson of the child and the last inspiration of manhood.—Whittier.

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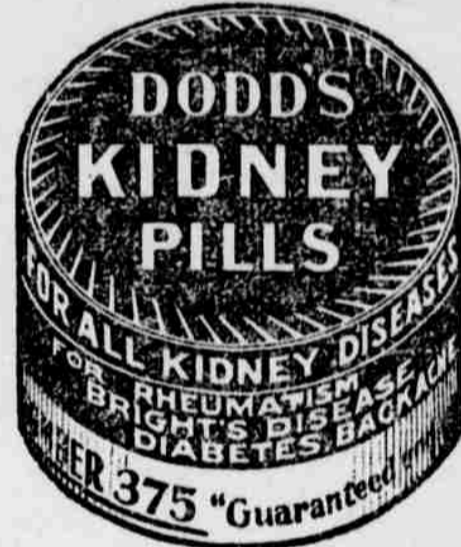
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