

THE CHILD AND THE YEAR.

Said the Child to the youthful Year:
What hast thou in store for me?
O' gayer of be-utiful its, what cheer,
What joy dost thou bring with thee?"

"My seasons four shall bring
Their treasures: the winter's snows,
The autumn's store, and the flowers of spring,
And the summer's perfect rose."

"All these and more shall be thine,
Dear Child, and the last and best
Thyself must earn by a strife divine,
If thou wouldst be truly blest."

"Wouldst know this last, best gift?
'T is a conscience clear and bright,
A peace of mind which the soul can lift
To an infinite delight."

"Truth, patience, courage, and love
If thou wilt me canst bring,
I will set these all earth's ills above,
O Child, and crown thee a King!"

—Celia Thaxter, in St. Nicholas for January.
DEACON M'NAB'S PRODIGAL.

The deacon watched anxiously for his son's reply to his letter. He felt sure that Alexander would reply. He judged from his own standpoint, and from his knowledge of the disputatious young man. He forgot to take into account the influence of marriage, and of living in a community where men have to be careful in matters of contradiction.

"I am sorry my husband is away," she said with pardonable wifely pride, "but he is a member of the Legislature, and it is now in session."

Then the children came back, and the deacon took to them wonderfully. Children were a new form of humanity to him; he knew nothing about them. But there was an independence and good-fellowship about the little lad, as he told him all about the animals and his adventures, that quite delighted the old man.

After a little they went to bed in the next room, and he heard them saying their prayers to their mother. "God bless grandpapa!" How the words smote him! He grew so nervous and restless that when the baby lisped out the same petition he could no longer sit still.

"I have had a very fair speech, Alexander," he said as they returned home. "It would have been better if there had been fewer steps between your praise and your peroration, but you'll do, in time, and with mair practice. I dinna much wonder your wife sets much store by you."

up to the Capitol leaning upon his son's arm, and he was proud and happy beyond expression. "You made a very fair speech, Alexander," he said as they returned home.

"You are vera strict about a bawbee, deacon," said one of them. "Just sae, Mr. McIntyre; but My son, Judge McNab, is coming home to take the business, and he's no man to put up with a bawbee wrang, I can tell you that."

"Nae vera hard matter that, Bailie Scott. When a man is a judge o' a district court, and a member o' the legislature and has married an ex-governor's daughter, he's no ill to find. Gude day to you, Bailie," and he walked away with the air of one who felt that he had settled a question thoroughly.

"You are building him a house, I hear." "Ay, when I ain coaxed the lad awa' from his ain hame it's but a just thing to build him another. He'll get here by the time it is ready for him. Then I'll have my son and a bonnie bit daughter-in-law and the four braw bairns. I never hoped for sea much love and joy again, never. And I havena the words to express my thankfulness, but, dominie, I will write you a liberal cheek out for the kirk debt; for you'll ken when a man talks in gold sovereigns what he says."

Stamp-Toed Owls. Representative Cabbage will be remembered in Indiana annals for all time to come for his owl bill—a brave but ineffectual effort to protect the barnyard bird from the savage bird of night.

Stopped to Hear a Story. Two strangers passing Rowland Hill's Church one day entered, walked up the aisle, and finding no seat, stood for awhile and listened to the sermon. Presently they turned to walk out. Before they reached the door the preacher said, "But I will tell you a story." This, of course, arrested the strangers, and they paused, turned again, and listened.

He knew His Man. John Barber is one of the most persuasive young men in Galveston. He is very dissipated, having dissipated quite a large fortune that was left to him by his father.

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Tulare lake, the great, shallow inland sea of California, writes a correspondent of The Alta California, is surrounded by some of the richest farming lands of the state, but, taken as a whole, it is about the least developed region to be found between Siskiyou and San Diego.

On the western shore of the lake there are some large land-holdings, and also considerable government land not yet taken up, but there is no railroad on that side of the valley, and though the land is rich, owing to its inaccessibility it is not so desirable.

By soil and climate the region seems to be the natural home of the fruit tree and the vine, possessing a clear superiority in at least the former respect over the more sandy lands about Fresno.

But first a word about Tulare lake. It is not the pestiferous Dead sea which it is sometimes pictured. Its waters are strongly tinged with alkali, but their touch is not the malignant poison to animal and vegetable life that they are popularly supposed to be.

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