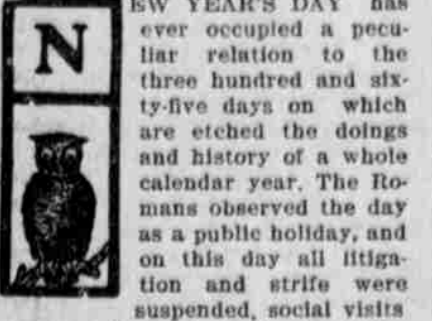


# The New Year

## WHAT ITS SIGNS OF PROMISE ARE

By REV. WM. GARDAM.



**N**EW YEAR'S DAY has ever occupied a peculiar relation to the three hundred and sixty-five days on which are etched the doings and history of a whole calendar year. The Romans observed the day as a public holiday, and on this day all litigation and strife were suspended, social visits were exchanged, presents were given and received, and feasting throughout the empire was the order of the day. The early Christians at first set themselves against the usage of the day as observed by the Romans until the fixing of Christmas day on the 25th of December, and New Year's day came to be observed as the octave of the Nativity and also as the Festival of the Circumcision.



NEW HOPES, ASPIRATIONS AND AMBITIONS SPRING UP IN THE HEART OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.

The observance and spirit of the day have not changed very greatly in the onrush of the centuries. We might go back across the long stretch of years between the day we live in and the day when the Romans interchanged their social visits and their good wishes and both gave and received their strenae, and between the then and the now the identity of feeling, emotion and sentiment concerning this day is readily discovered.

So many sentiments crowd themselves into New Year's day and all are mostly children in the way in which the day appears to them and in the simple feelings and emotions by which it is observed. The greeting: "A Happy New Year!" pushes up through the hard strata of the year, and the simple emotions, which make the whole world kin, bring friend nearer to friend and melt life together into a richer affection, and good will becomes the keynote of life on this day. Grudges are dropped, resentments dissolved, and the average man with the average endowment of affection for his fellows finds it almost impossible to vitalize any of his hatreds through the emotion-laden moments of New Year's day. The personal life has many things to say to itself: It is at once a closing of accounts and the opening of a new career. Old things pass away and all things seem to become new. The things that might have been and have not become are forgotten in the new hopes and aspirations and ambitions which spring up in the heart on the first day of the year.

Of course, nobody will ever be what the hopes and faith of the day project for the individual life. The most ardent believer in the better day, the

most sanguine architect of the richer fortune yet to be will fall short of the ideal that controls his imagination. But the very fact that the day stirs these noble impulses and floods the prospective days with the glow of hope is in itself an assurance that the year shall be rich in the gifts and the good will of the gods.

Another year! another year!  
The increasing rush of time sweeps on!  
Whelm'd in its surges, disappear  
Man's hopes and fears—forever gone!

Oh, no! forbear that idle tale!  
The hour demands another strain,  
Demands high thoughts that cannot quail,  
And strength to conquer and retain.

'Tis midnight—from the dark blue sky  
The stars, which now look down on earth  
Have seen ten thousand centuries fly,  
And given to countless changes birth.

Shine on! shine on! With you I tread  
The march of ages, orbs of light!  
A last eclipse or you may spread—  
To me, to me, there comes no night!

The sentiment that phrases itself in the quite depressing words:  
The world is very evil,  
The times are wearing late,  
Is hardly in tune with the modern spirit when life is thought of as a corporate business and this

modern spirit takes account of its own enlarged and enlarging kingdom.

Not the most credulous and believing prophet a generation ago could have forecast the world we know and are perfectly at home with to-day. Bulwer Lytton in his short book, "The Coming Race," endeavored to tell the story and achievement of mankind in the day that was shortly to be, but his seeming impossible world has been more than realized in our own day. The half has not been told. The great note of the day is the large grasp human life possesses over its own career and destiny, the growing confidence that this old yet ever renewing life is solving its own problems, and, under the guidance of that Providence which Pope's well-known lines so beautifully express:

All nature is but art, unknown to thee;  
All chance, direction, which thou canst not see;  
All discord, harmony, not understood;  
All partial evil, universal good,

is working for the day of a perfectly ordered and perfectly adjusted civilization. The greater power man is accumulating and employing over his own bodily life, his mastery of the secrets of life which have been hid from the foundation of the world, the realization that man himself is his own providence in a vastly larger degree than hitherto he has dreamed of, and that the "greater things" the great-est of all Teachers foretold ages ago that he should be endowed with competence to do—these he is doing in this very day with a miraculous confidence and a mighty will. He has discovered that his own commission over life, over the happiness and health and the fruitage of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come, is a vastly larger commission than the world hitherto has dreamed of. He is finding out that Providence is a partnership and that no man may be a sleeping partner in the business of living without the penalty of losing the very thing that life is—a world of potencies converted into achievement.

## HOW TO MAKE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



**S**TRIKE up the band, here comes the good resolution. Let the whistles blow their heads off, let the bells ring out, let the fog horn on the lake front shatter the atmosphere to atoms, let the similar gladness noises be let loose upon the vibrant ozone even in the uttermost corners of our beautiful city. For the good resolution is marching forward. Only a few days more and we will bask in its splendid presence.

Like the village drum major it comes proudly prancing toward us through the week. Get a seat early and avoid the crowd if you would behold it in its glory. Keep your eyes glued to the splendid spectacle, keep your ears open for the lofty sounds, for it will not be long in passing.

It's safe to say that if all the high resolves that go into effect on New Year's day had half the endurance of a Marathon runner the millennium would come so fast that we'd have to enact new speed laws to keep it from melting the asphalt.

If good resolutions were salt mackerel what a universal thirst would spread abroad!

Human experience seems to indicate that progress in any line is necessarily gradual. Take the flying machine, for instance. At present the scientists engaged in the development of this interesting device are in a position to assert that many of their problems are already solved. They can get up into the air without the aid of dynamite and they can come down again with practically no effort. Of course there are other difficulties to be overcome such as the tendency on the part of the machine to select its own time and place for coming down. But these problems are minor

and doubtless the answer is in a book somewhere if they can only find it.

The practice of resolving presents a similar aspect. It is not entirely perfect at present. But considering the few years since Adam inaugurated the outdoor sleeping fad and became grandpa to the human race it is not surprising that some details are still to be worked out. The forming of the resolution has been beautifully worked out, till almost any one, the merest novice, can resolve. The date, too, has been firmly fixed as on the first of January. The chief difficulty that still remains has to do with keeping the resolution once it is made. Something like keeping your aeroplane right side up once you have established a neighborly relation with the stars.

Probably several years will elapse before the custom of resolving reaches perfection and in the meantime it might be well to adopt a makeshift for the present unattainable.

It would seem as if the difficulty might be minimized by more attention to the subjects taken for resolving purposes. It is well to use care in selecting our resolutions, and because of the proximity of January 1, a few suggestions may not be out of place.

For a young woman—Try this one. "I hereby resolve with earnestness to no longer insist on grandma wearing French heels." There are several advantageous features to this resolution. To begin with it is humane. Just think of forcing the poor old lady to teeter down the street with little church steeples under her sole leather! Her silver locks bob under her dignified black bonnet and at every painful step she whispers "Ouch." My

upon you! Shamey! Remember grandma is not so young as she once was and the penitential efficiency of a bunion is greatly enhanced by the shoving forward of the foot as accomplished by the French heel. Command the old lady to do a cake-walk once an hour around the dining room table if you will, but let her do it in comfortable shoes. Another item in favor of trying this resolution is the fact that you have probably never asked grandma to wear any kind of shoes she didn't like, so it should be that much easier to keep to your resolution not to do so.

For a young man—"I resolve from this day never again to smoke a pipe in church. This sample is highly recommended. The practice against which you issue the edict of banishment is reprehensible in the highest degree. Smoking, while of course it might be a solace to you during the sermon, could not but annoy your neighbors and fellow worshippers. The men envy you, leading to countless domestic difficulties for them. The preacher is unable to see whether all the deacons are awake or not by the haze from your pipe. Moreover, just as a distinguished statesman once officially declared that the odor of cigarettes annoyed him there are those to whom the smell of a pipe is a nuisance and the olfactory collector might be one of these. Besides, you would probably be thrown out or arrested or something.

For men who ride much in street cars "henceforth I will not mind the feathers." This is one requiring considerable care—but if strictly adhered to will be found of great assistance in your daily life. When depending from a strap and resting your toes on some neighbor's a long stiff quill suddenly jabs you in the nose giving to that feature the rich red that which another class of resolvists have already acquired, do not release your temper. Smile and pretend you like it. Oftentimes you can make yourself believe it, after due practice, of course. But the principal advantage to be cited in this resolution's favor is that "you might just as well." So long as the fashion remains the same you will have your daily communion with the tall feathers of an ostrich or of a rooster and if you resolve not to mind, how much more placid the temper!

For any one who does not raise chickens—"I hereby resolve and determine not to eat any more strictly fresh eggs for several weeks to come." This is in some respects the prize resolution. Its advantages are many, but all the others are overshadowed by this one—you can't get any to eat.

In spite of all the teacher may do the pupil will not learn unless he himself studies. You cannot make successful use of these sample resolutions without effort on your part. But you should find one among them which can be kept with the minimum of struggle. If you have no choice or you are skeptical as to your ability, try the last one.

This is the note, surely, as civilization faces the year 1910—the note of competency, the sense of added powers to life, the feeling that the greater things are coming on the earth, and that man is using the key to unlock the treasure-house of his own life with a sureness and a wisdom that give promise of a vastly better, richer, juster universe than he has yet known.

Another note of our time is the fact that life mirrors itself in such a wonderful way and the things and forces that make for the better day to be are known and read of all men. We live in the open, and no man may become champion of any cause and keep the world in ignorance of the character of the cause and the nature of his championship. No man to-day may hide his light under a bushel. It is a tall-tale world, and, more than any past time, the world to-day has a juster sense of values and knows both the things that are saving it and the things also that threaten and endanger it. Public service was never so responsible as it is to-day, because civilization never had the almost miraculous power of analyzing and testing the value of public service as in this present year. Public life is an open book, and the most impossible of all impossible things to-day is that any national or international movement should be misunderstood or misrepresented by the world's best mind. And what is true of public movements is true of public men. No public man can deceive his constituents to-day, for his constituents are the world. And the strong man to-day is the man who frankly recognizes this.

**Starting Figures.**  
The lives of all the 85,500,000 residents of the United States are worth \$250,000,000,000.  
Unnecessary deaths every year cost in capitalized earnings, \$1,000,000,000.  
Workmen's illness annually costs in wages \$500,000,000.  
Care of the sick and dead every year costs \$460,000,000.  
Tuberculosis taxes the nation \$1,000,000,000, annually.  
Typhoid fever costs \$350,000,000.  
Malaria costs \$200,000,000.

## BOYS AND GIRLS

CONUNDRUMS.

What burns to keep a secret? Sealing wax.  
When is a ship like a tailor? When shearing off.  
What is that of which the common sort is the best? Sense.  
What animal would you like to be on a cold day? A little 'otter.  
Why are hay and straw like spectacles? Because they are for-age.  
What is that which is full of holes and yet holds water? A sponge.  
When does a farmer bend his sheep without hurting them? When he folds them.  
When is the soup likely to run out of the saucepan? When there's a leak in it.  
What is that from which the whole may be taken, and yet some will remain? The word wholesome.  
Which is easier to spell—fiddle-dee or fiddle-de-dum? The former, because it is spelled with more e's.  
What is that which is black, white and red all over, which shows some people to be green, and makes others look blue? A newspaper.  
What is the best advice to give a justice of the peace? Peace.  
Who commits the greatest abominations? Nations.  
Who is the greatest terrifier? Fire.  
What is the best way of making a coat last? Make the trousers and waistcoat first.  
If you drive a nail in a board and clinch it on the other side, why is it like a sick man? Because it is in firm.  
Why is a game of tennis like a party of children? There is always a racket.  
What sweetmeat is like a person proposed for some office? The candied date (candidate).  
Why is the printer like the postman? Because he distributes letters.  
What is the difference between a sun-bonnet and a Sunday bonnet? A day's difference.  
Why are an artist's colors, used in painting, like a piece of pork being sent home for dinner? It is pigment for the palate.  
Why is a sword like the moon? Because it is the knight's chief ornament and glory.  
Why is coal the most curious article known in commerce? Because when purchased, instead of going to the buyer, it goes to the cellar.

## IS WATER REALLY POROUS?

Experiment Tends to Show That Two Portions of Matter Occupy Same Space at Same Time.

Is water porous?  
Our belief that two portions of matter cannot occupy the same space at the same time is almost shaken by this experiment.

If we introduce slowly some fine powdered sugar into a tumblerful of



warm water a considerable quantity may be dissolved in the water without increasing its bulk.  
It is thought that the atoms of the water are so disposed as to receive the sugar between them, as a scuttie filled with coal might accommodate a quantity of sand.

**"Sit" and "Set."**  
Some one who believes in teaching by example has concocted a lesson in the use of two little words which have been a source of mortification and trouble to many well-meaning persons.  
A man, or woman either, can set a hen, although they cannot sit her; neither can they set on her, although the hen might sit on them by the hour, if they would allow it.

A man cannot set on the wash-bench, but he could set the basin on it, and neither the basin nor the grammarians would object.  
He could sit on the dog's tail, if the dog were willing, or he might set his foot on it. But if he should set on the aforesaid tail, or sit his foot there, the grammarians as well as the dog would howl—metaphorically, at least.  
And yet the man might set the tail aside and sit down, and be assailed neither by the dog nor by the grammarians.

**Christmas in Norway.**  
One of the prettiest of Christmas customs is the practice, in Norway, of giving a Christmas dinner to the birds. On Christmas morning every gateway, gable or barn-door is decorated with a sheaf of corn, fixed upon the top of a tall pole, from which it is intended that the birds should make their Christmas dinner.

## CIRCULARITIES.



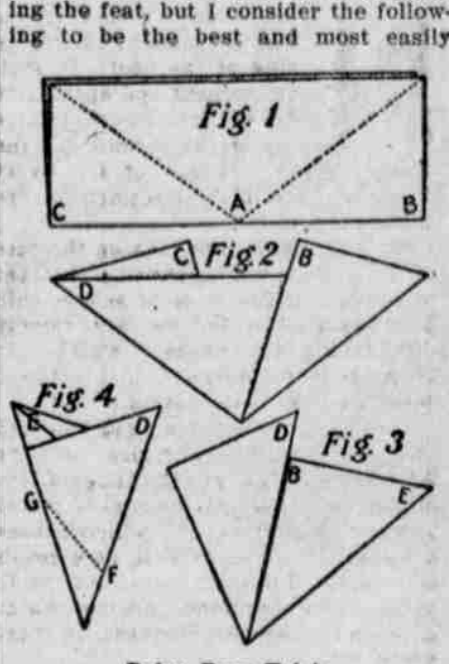
The Circle Children's Circle Cat is very nice and good. She never quarrels, but behaves exactly as she should.  
And with the Circle dog and pig She plays for days and days, And shows her Circle-arity In very many ways.

## BETSY ROSS PAPER TRICK

Cutting Five-Pointed Star of Freedom with One Clip of a Pair of Scissors—Best Way of Solving.

As the Betsy Ross trick of cutting a five-pointed star with one clip of a pair of scissors has never been intelligently presented, I will endeavor to show how it was explained to me in my early youth, says a writer in People's Home Journal. I wish it to be known that I was born in close proximity to that little house on Arch street in Philadelphia where Betsy Ross showed George Washington and Robert Morris how to design the five-pointed star of freedom.

There are several ways of performing the feat, but I consider the following to be the best and most easily



Betsy Ross Trick.

described. Take a rectangular piece of paper, say five by three and a half inches, and first fold it double as shown in Fig. 1. Then fold on a line from the center A to the two corners, folding the corner marked B forward and the corner C backward, as shown in Fig. 2. Now fold the paper on a line from C to the center point A, so as to bring the edge D parallel with the line B as shown in Fig. 3. Then fold the end E backward, bending it on the line from B to the center point A so the paper will be folded as shown in Fig. 4. Now cutting a straight clip from F to G, it will produce a five-pointed star when unfolded.

## QUAINT STORY WITH MORAL

Wise Pupil Who Profits by Instruction is Delight of the Master—Unique Test.

The far east abounds in quaint little stories, each leading up to one of those moral epigrams which seem so to delight the hearts of all races. Here is the story of the "Two Pupils," whose moral, which you will read again when you have finished the story, is, "A wise pupil who profits by instruction is the delight of the master."

In a certain great city there dwelt an aged philosopher who had two favorite pupils. The day came at last when he was to part with them, for, as young men will, they were determined to travel and see something of the world. In order to settle a doubt in his mind as to which had most profited under his instruction, the sage gave to each youth a sum of money.

"Go buy with this money something that shall fill a whole room," he said.

One pupil hid him to the market, where he purchased a quantity of straw. This he had taken to his room, which it nearly filled. Next morning, he invited his master to call and see what he had done.

"Not bad! Not bad!" commented the wise man, when he had glanced in at the door. Then, turning to the other pupil, who had accompanied him, he asked:

"And what have you bought with your money?"

"Master, if it please you, I have got only a small lamp and some oil. The light of this lamp, however, will fill the room in the dark evening hours. By this means we may continue our studies after the day is done, when we wish to do so."

"Bravo! Bravo!" cried the delighted sage. "Now, indeed, art thou fit to go into the world!"

And he judged that the purchase of the second pupil was the wiser.

**Flower Tells Church Time.**  
Flowers are frequently put to fanciful and pretty uses, but one of the prettiest is to be found in the Fiji Islands, where a flower tells the people when to go to church.