

# Celebrating New Year's Day

# WHO'S WHO AND WHY



In France Grand-parents Sit in State to Receive the Children



New Year Callers



The 'Old Year' Passing Out and New Coming In

IT HAS not been so many years ago that even young people cannot remember when New Year's day brought hosts of warm friends to exchange greetings and good wishes for the coming twelve months. Just why the custom of ladies receiving and men calling has fallen into disuse is a long story and not a very pleasant one.

Hostesses offered wine, eggnog and all sorts of drinks to soften the asperity of out of doors, to their men guests; a different sort partaken of at each house soon set brains in a whirl and manners suffered. The hospitality was abused; gentle ladies, outraged by having to receive men so far under the influence of liquor that names even were forgotten.

So, of course, the matter rectified itself, as all such things will after a while. Women ceased to keep "open house" when men ceased to appreciate the honor shown by their reception in warm, softly lighted rooms by a bevy of fair women, daintily gowned and happy to extend greetings for the New Year.

But I have noted that in many cases the old-time custom is reviving; charming women are again welcoming their men friends, but not with a variety of intoxicating liquors to steal away ideas of propriety. It is not every man that can "look upon the wine when it is red" and partake of just enough. Better, then, to offer nothing stronger than hot coffee, or to those whom one knows well the foaming glass of well-made eggnog, that will not leave remorse along with a splitting headache the next morning.

This may not mean what it does bring, but where possible "let the dead bury its dead," and grieve not over the mistakes of 1910. If they can be rectified, let them be so; if not, waste no vain regrets over what cannot be helped, but determine that exactly such mistakes shall not happen again.

Because what is experience for if not to teach? Harsh and seemingly without any feeling of pity, experience is indeed the "school for fools," and yet we do not learn. Like the inventive mind of the active child who does all sorts of things, nobody on earth ever thought of as possible, we mortals are forever forgetting lessons that may have been burned into our souls by this not-to-be-escaped teacher, and going into troubles anew, quite as bad, even if different.

By the time we learn it is time to die, usually, but we are fortunate to learn at all. It requires all the clearness of brain, all the activity of mind, all the fortitude of endurance to enable us to steer clear of the pitfalls of life anyway, and if we have not learned the lesson of caution by and through experience, how can we hope to escape these pitfalls again?

It is not in the making of good resolutions, but the determination to do the right thing, that our best course lies for this new year, that brings again the chance. If we can escape consequences, let us accept them without murmur; they are never so hard in the enduring as in the dreading.

And, first of all, let us all decide, deep down in the inmost recesses of our hearts, that our own failings are quite as great as those of our fellow-creatures. This in itself is so very worth while. To say, "I would not do so and so" is to mean that you know nothing about it; you do not know what you would do if you were situated as was the perpetrator of the very thing you are condemning.

Make allowances for temperament, for environment, for ancestry, for lack of education along the lines that perhaps you have been fortunate in traversing. Say to yourself, "Perhaps I should have done much worse." Then you will have reached the heights of understanding of the frailness of human nature and be prepared to make the new year better for yourself and all with whom you have associated. It is for this Christ was born and the calendar of years begun within the week after "the Holy Babe" came.

Where a hostess is quite sure of the congeniality of her guests, she can plan nothing more agreeable than the "watch party" for New Year's eve.

First, of course, there can be cards or dancing or music, or all three, with other attractive methods of entertaining, but as the hour of midnight draws near all assemble in one room. This should have two doors, and a big clock in full view. When the first stroke of the twelve sounds one of the doors is opened to admit "the old year," a feeble old man, who passes through the room with bows to right and left, disappearing through the rear door as the last stroke sounds.

Then appears a lovely boy, with beaming countenance and happy mien. He bears a quiver within which are arranged small gifts for each present, wrapped and tied to represent arrows; one of these he presents to each guest as he pauses in turn before them. When he has distributed to all he disappears, but turns at the door to blow a light kiss to the assembled company. The windows are then thrown open, letting in the cold, fresh air, with the chimes of bells heard in the distance. Refreshments may



The Wassail Bowl

be served before the midnight hour, but the "wassail bowl" is left for the last, and the hostess leads the way to a room where it may be enjoyed.

There should be a table in the middle of the floor and an open fire adds greatly to the proper preparing and serving. Apples are roasted to go in the big bowl that should be ready upon the table, and glasses or cups that may be retained as souvenirs by guests are all made ready.

The genuine "wassail" is prepared as follows, according to a recipe that is centuries old: Boll half an ounce each cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and four cloves, cardamom and coriander seeds in a couple of tumblerfuls of water; add to this half a gallon best ale and a quart of sherry wine, with sugar to taste; a pound or two will be needed. Heat again, but do not boil. Have the yolks of ten eggs and the whites of six beaten and put them first into the bowl; then slowly add the heated mixture, stirring slowly all the while; leave the other half of the liquor where it will come to a boil and add; lastly put in a dozen or as many as wished of fine apples that have been cored, filled with sugar and roasted.

The boiling of spices may be done beforehand, the ale and wine ready, the eggs beaten and the apples roasted when a hostess ushers her guests into the room to partake.

The Japanese, quaint, resourceful, quiet Orientalists that they are, understand beauty better than we; they do not furnish rooms with all sorts of things to keep in order, with heavy curtains to keep out the fresh air and velvet-covered chairs to catch dust from every source.

So the hostess who is planning a "Japanese tea" will find it one of the easiest as well as most effective ways of entertaining. Cherry blossoms, the "flower of Japan," are to be had in paper, so perfect in form and color as to be mistaken for the real; cups and saucers for the everlasting tea, the favored drink of the little, nice Japanese woman, cost just what one cares to pay for them; some for a few cents are quite as pretty and characteristic as others worth several dollars the dozen.

And then the fans, and the parasols, and the chrysanthemums; the dainty confections and the pretty kimono, with the big bow tied directly in the middle of the back—all these are distinctive and easily encompassed by the hostess of moderate means.

Every library has a list of books from which many customs of the Japanese may be collected. Jinrikishas, the queer small carriages in which natives and the ubiquitous tourist are carried to and fro, with the strong, if small, brown men as horses, may be provided for the amusement of guests. In these, if carriers can be obtained, short journeys from one room to another may be made, each room a province of the empire of Japan with decorative objects adapted.

Everywhere possible Japanese prayers may hang; the favors may be Japana, such as vases, fans, tiny parasols, etc. A school game played with cards, supposed to have originated in Japan, may prove interesting to guests. Not more than six should sit at one table for this game. No. 1 lays down a seven, and there happens to be none in his hand he pays up a chip; these chips cost but little in celluloid, and each player may have so many counted out in the beginning of the game.

On one side of the seven is to be laid a six of the same suit; on the other side an eight.

A player who cannot build on one of these two must pay in a chip. Pretty trifles, Japanese characters, should be the prizes.

Japanese sweets can be had at any first-class grocery, and remember that tea served by the Japanese is made in each cup, and the cups are very tiny. They are lovely souvenirs.

As Christmas is the holiest of all days, the first day of January may be considered as emblematic of the happiest.

So it is that in some countries, notably France, the day is observed differently; all the younger members of families pay their respects to the older ones; grandparents sit in state to receive the children, and each of the latter, down to the tiniest babe, carries either bonbons or flowers to the revered elder ones.

It is such a pretty fashion; one the American mother might well adopt, in this land where old people are usually snubbed and rebuked if they venture to express an opinion, so conceded are the youth of today.

The Occidental can learn nothing more worth while from the Oriental than the reverence with which old people are treated in those so-called "heathen" countries.

Where the Latin races are so much in evidence, as in some of the southern states, this custom holds, and the French Babes are taken to visit "grand pere et grand mere" with all possible ceremony. Flowers, either bouquets or growing in small pots, are greatly favored as gifts to these dear old people, who, having tasted of the best life offers, are surely passing down hill, with memories sad and sweet as their companions.

Among pretty growing plants the dwarf peach trees in full blossom are lovely; after the fruit blossoms are gone tiny leaves appear and the little trees will live a long while with care.

Only in time of their blossoming are these especially pretty and florists manage to have them ready at this season of the year as gifts.

Where fresh flowers are so expensive, as in most northern climes, a single handsome blossom suffices, and in its stead a box of bonbons may be the gift. But the baby bears it in its rosy hands, and presents it with courtesy and delight to the aged ones. Is it not a beautiful custom? And may not all the mothers—and fathers—of little ones see that the dear old ones who may not, probably will not, be with them another year, adopt it with true understanding of how much, how very much, it means to the old to be remembered?

I have heard a dear woman say that among her recollections the most satisfying is the one wherein she gave an aged aunt a cup and saucer on a New Year's day. By the next the dear, patient aunt was not with her.

## DYING

Silent and slow—silent and slow,  
Over the hills in the glistening snow,  
The old year goes to his final rest;  
The moon looks down with a pitying eye.  
The wind sweeps past with a quivering sigh,  
And moans in the leafless tree tops high  
Like a wandering soul distressed.

Peeble and frail, feeble and frail,  
Swayed and bent by the northern gale,  
Yet he falters not by the way;  
His beard is white as the driven snow,  
Off his forehead the scant locks blow,  
Ah, me! and it was not long ago  
He was young and blithe and gay.

Now let him rest, now let him rest,  
The snow for a blanket to cover his breast,  
And the winds to murmur a dirge,  
We'll never forget him though brief was his stay,  
He brought us much sunshine to brighten the way,  
And taught us that all things must soon pass away  
And into eternity merge.

## ADMITTED HIS ERROR.

One of the neatest parliamentary apologies was that of an irate member of the house, who described another as "not having even the manners of a pig." At the cry of "Withdraw" he did so. "I withdraw and apologize and beg to say that the honorable member has the manners of a pig."—London Chronicle.

## GIVES MILLIONS TO END WAR



Andrew Carnegie.

The hundreds of millions of Andrew Carnegie, which he has declared he will give away before he dies, will become, it is believed, a perpetual power for the good of mankind, a fund controlled by a self-perpetuating board of trustees, the income from which is to be used through the centuries to aid human beings in ending war and combating all other evils that stand between them and the good of a perfect civilization.

This belief is based on the broad terms of a deed by which Mr. Carnegie has transferred to a board of trustees \$10,000,000 in five per cent. first mortgage bonds, the revenue of which will be used first to hasten the abolition of international war and establish a lasting world peace.

The lofty purpose expressed by the ironmaster to make this foundation a continuing force for reform suggests the probability that this \$10,000,000 may be only a starter in a movement the greater part of his riches. The method by which the annual income of \$500,000 shall be expended is left by Mr. Carnegie entirely in the hands of the trustees.

to which eventually he will devote something like \$180,000,000.

Mr. Carnegie's gift of \$10,000,000 brings the total of his benefactions to something like \$180,000,000. The endowment recently announced is second in size only to three others of his—the \$10,000,000 foundation for the advancement of teaching made in 1905 and increased to \$15,000,000 in 1908, the \$16,000,000 endowment of the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh and the \$12,000,000 fund for the establishment of the Carnegie Institute in Washington. Mr. Carnegie's gifts to libraries during the last twenty years are estimated at \$36,000,000 for the United States and \$17,000,000 abroad.

## WHITE NOW CHIEF JUSTICE



Chief Justice White.

Edward Douglas White, whom President Taft has appointed chief justice of the United States Supreme court, is a native of Louisiana.

He was born in the parish of Lafourche, La., in November, 1845. In his early youth he attended the school at Mount St. Mary's, near Emmitsburg, Md.; later he entered the Jesuit college in New Orleans, and finally he went to Georgetown college of Washington, D. C. Justice White served in the Confederate army during the civil war and practiced law among the people of Louisiana.

In 1891 Mr. White became a national figure. A senatorial contest was waged in Louisiana and Mr. White entered the race. He had managed the campaign of Governor Nichols for re-election and had been prominent in the reform element of his state. He had fought in favor of the anti-lottery movement. The legislature finally chose him to succeed Senator Eustis.

Chief Justice White has been on the Supreme bench for sixteen years and is the oldest justice in commission whose age is less than seventy. Justice White graduated from Georgetown university. In addition to practicing law in Louisiana he was a sugar planter. He served in the Louisiana legislature as a senator, served for a number of years on the state supreme court bench and subsequently was elected to the United States senate. He was serving his first term in that body when President Cleveland appointed him to the Supreme court bench.

## THE NEW SOLICITOR-GENERAL



Frederick W. Lehmann.

Frederick W. Lehmann of St. Louis has been appointed solicitor general of the United States to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lloyd W. Bowers.

Mr. Lehmann was born in Prussia in 1853. He came to this country with his parents when a child, his father settling in Ohio and subsequently removing to Indiana. There, at the work bench, while his father was engaged in cobbling the brogans of a farming community, was laid the groundwork of Fred Lehmann's education. By the aid of a primitive Egyptian lamp—a woolen rag floating in a saucer of grease—the youth devoured such books as came into his possession.

A short time in the little red school-house and he started for the west, determined upon acquiring an education without the aid of which he could not hope to achieve success. On the plains of Nebraska he herded cattle, with a view to acquiring the necessary funds to carry him through college. Day after day he rode after the herds, a "quilt" in one hand and a book of classics in the other, reading while the stock grazed.

Mr. Lehmann was a member of the directorate of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company and chairman of the committee on ethnology of the world's fair. He is a member of the Mercantile, University and other clubs, as well as prominent in the St. Louis Bar association.

## GOVERNOR WAS ONCE A WAIF



Governor-elect Hooper.

Politics aside, the case of the new governor of Tennessee goes to prove that the day of equal opportunity has not entirely passed in this country. The new governor signs himself "Benjamin W. Hooper," but what his real name is, no one knows. He does not know himself, and although now nearly forty years of age he does not know who his parents were.

He was found on the streets of Knoxville and committed to the care of an orphan asylum, whence he was taken ten years later by Captain Hooper of Newport, Tenn., who gave him his name and educated him. From orphan asylum to the executive mansion! From nameless waif to governor of a sovereign state! The way would seem always open in this country to those who work and strive.

It is said that Mr. Hooper, the lawyer from the mountains of Tennessee, was nominated because he hadn't a record, and, consequently, few enemies. But although he was not a figure of commanding proportions in Tennessee before his nomination, Mr. Hooper is not without political experience. Twenty years ago he represented his constituency in the state legislature. His chief claim to distinction was, however, the fact that he had commanded a company in the Spanish-American war.