



By Wm. M. Napier.

A Problem Worth While

He has tacked divers questions With assurance great to view, From preserving our digestions Up to how big game pursue. He has done work literary With an air of honest pride, And has writ in manner cheery All about race suicide.

Of canals and arbitration, And of income taxes, too; Of the freight glut situation And the right course to pursue To make railroads come to center, Or to back up old Monroe— To be brief he is a Mentor Knowing all that men can know.

But he has his limitations Just like any other man. He can't solve some situations 'Cause no human mortal can. Vainly would he wilt his collar If he faced the problem great How to make a single dollar Feed and clothe a bunch of eight.

Some New Year Reflections

Of course you are going to "swear off" a lot of things next Tuesday. It is a habit you have contracted during the last twenty, thirty or forty years. You wake up on New Year's morning and "swear off" something just as naturally as you shed your clothing when you went to bed the night before. And as a usual thing, the day after New Year's finds you donning the old habits again, just as naturally as you don the clothes you took off when you went to bed the night before.

The habit that you hold on to so you can "swear off" on New Year's day is a habit that is going to keep its throttle-hold on you. You figure it out this way: "Well, as long as I can quit it when I want to I don't need to, and just as soon as I can not quit it I will."

There is the tobacco habit, for instance. There are worse habits, to be sure, but none more foolish. Here is a thought for the boys to ponder over:

You never saw a tobacco user who was glad that he had contracted the habit, and you never saw a man who had not contracted the habit who was sorry for it.

Nine out of ten men who use tobacco started the habit when boys, because they thought it was manly to puff a cigar or masticate a hunk of the stuff. By the time they realized their mistake the habit was so firmly fastened they did not have the will power to shake it off. Did you ever know a smoker who did not insist that he could quit if he wanted to? Strange, isn't it, that so many of them never want to quit? That is, they want to quit, but they do not want to undergo the mental strain of quitting.

George was a young man much given to the habit of chewing tobacco. He fairly devoured it. When asked by his wife to quit it he replied that he didn't want to undergo the struggle. Then she suggested that he try a patent preparation guaranteed to cure the tobacco habit. George consented and bought a full treatment. When he was half through

he flung the remainder of the cure into the street.

"What did you do that for?" queried his wife.

"O, the stuff was curing me," replied George.

And that's the way some men try to quit a bad habit.

There is a vast difference between making good resolutions, and keeping them. And it is not enough that you resolve not to do certain things any more. You should resolve that you will do certain things you have not heretofore done. Living a Christian life does not mean only that you will refrain from doing wrong; it means that you must begin doing right. Same way with New Year resolutions. You must resolve to do certain things as well as resolve to refrain from doing certain things.

One-half the worry and trouble experienced by the average man lies in the fact that he takes his business home with him instead of leaving it at the office. Happy is the man who can close the lid of his roller-top desk on his business worries and go home to enjoy the comforts of home.

The most popular lecture delivered by the late Sam Jones was the one entitled "Quit Your Meanness." It was all right as far as it went, but it didn't go quite far enough. It is not sufficient that you "quit your meanness;" you must begin some sort of goodness.

O, pshaw! How easy it is to moralize about this time of year! Just because the old year's accounts are being closed and a new year's accounts are being opened, you naturally drift into the moralizing habit. And you can meander along to an interminable length. But what's the use?

Let's quit moralizing and theorizing and get down to something practical.

What's the use of wearing a face long enough to eat oats out of a churn?

What's the use moaning over the world's wickedness when there's so much that is hopeful and cheering all about us?

The world growing worse? Nonsense!

Today is better than yesterday, and tomorrow will be better still.

The light is being thrown into dark places, and that's the reason you see more of the world's wickedness. And every time the light strikes one of the dark places things are immediately made better and purer.

Let's do a little light-shedding during the coming year. Let's carry hope and cheer into the places that now know them not. Let's begin right at home, too. Don't waste too much time making good resolutions—just begin doing.

What a grand year 1907 will be if every man tries to do his duty to himself, to his family, to his country and to his God!

By Installments

"What are you going to give your wife for a New Year's present?"

"An automobile."

"How can you afford it?"

"Buy it on the installment plan. I've ordered a two-gallon can for the gasoline."

The Day After

Battered and dented and torn; Scattered all over the floor. Dog-eared and dainty and worn, Scattered from window to door, That is the fate of the Christmas toys, But lasting and precious the Christmas joys.

Nicked and scarred and battered The soldier, trumpet and drum; Heedlessly, rudely scattered, Drum and trumpet both dumb. That is the fate of the Christmas toys, But lasting and precious the Christmas joys.

Uncle Jeems

"I have often noticed," remarked Uncle Jeems as he replaced the lid on the crackerbox, "that the feller that worries about the bills comin' due on the first o' January gets mighty little fun out o' Christmas."

Of Course

"I always vote for the best man," declared Mr. Swagger.

"I am truly glad to hear it, sir," said Mr. Stillman. "I want you to vote for Squareum for coroner."

"But I am going to vote for Crooks," said Swagger.

"Crooks has been exposed as a grafter, a confidence man and as a defaulter."

"That does not influence me in the least," declared Swagger. "The fact that he was nominated by my party is evidence enough that he is worthy of all confidence."

Of Course

Grouch—"Of course the children have broken that ten dollar lot of toys you bought 'em for Christmas."

Sunny—"Yep! Busted all to flinders."

Grouch—"Uh-huh! Ten dollars gone to waste."

Sunny—"Well, I should say not! I got a thousand dollars worth of fun out of watching them bust the things."

Brain Leaks

The man in the limelight needs to stand straight.

Never put off until next year the reforms that should begin today.

The man who waits for New Years to "swear off" generally doesn't.

There is something wrong with the father who can sleep late Christmas morning.

Some people are so eager to get to crown wearing that they skip the cross bearing.

Something more than the mere expenditure of money is needed to make a real Christmas.

One good resolution well kept is better than a cargo of good resolutions easily broken.

If you have any regrets about your Christmas expenditures it is a sure sign that you did not possess the proper Christmas spirit.

AWFUL PENALTY FOR SMOKERS

In Siam the lighting of a cigar indicates a betrothal. In that country a person wishing to become engaged to a girl of his choice offers her a flower or takes a light from a cigar or cigarette if she happens to have one in her mouth, and thereupon, provided there is no impediment, steps are at once taken to arrange for the payment of the dowry.—Philadelphia Press.

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