

POETRY OF THE TIMES.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

BY MRS. E. M. GILSON.

The old year's almost gone, Sweetheart, He will not see the dawn; The wind's wild cry thro' the woodland creeps, The patient earth in darkness sleeps; Only the glow of our hearth, ere's light Brightens the mirk o' the dreary night-- The old year's almost gone.

Much have we lost in the year, Sweetheart, Treasures precious and dear; There were kindly deeds that we might have done, There were gentle hearts that we left un-known; And fields where might have grown grain of worth, Lie fallow under the frozen turf; Much have we lost in the year!

What have we won in the year, Sweetheart, Rich beyond our hearts to cheer? With pain was the pearl of patience bought, Has failure clearer insight wrought; Has earnest striving for noble ends Gained us the strength his high purpose lends? What have we won in the year!

What have we learned in the year, Sweetheart, Soul truth eternal and clear? That hoarded gold shall be left with pain, That what we gave, appear in gain; That the kindly heart and the open hand Are greater riches than house and land? What have we learned in the year!

The New Year dawneth clear, Sweetheart, Heaven rest the Old Year's bier! Duller and duller the embers glow, Deeper and brighter your dear eyes grow; Pray, love, for the wail of our ignoble fair, For the strength to do and the grace to bear. For love, than life more dear.

Passing Away. The old year passes away, Its sunbeams burn no longer red, Its moons are cold; its mornings gray, Its suns are dim; its dawns are dead. No more upon the distant hills, We see the yellow and the green, The flowers are dead; and by the rills No more the primrose fair is seen. Upon the grass the white hoar frost Has left its marks; and in the vale Are wrecks of beauty's former state. 'Tis but a red and rose pale.

will not perform with, and that's a cross-eyed one; for he's a cross-eyed one; you can't tell whether she's flirting with you or with the man on the other side of the street.

A farmer in Stokes county, N. C., sold his wife to a neighbor for \$200 the other day, and then disposing of his farm, set out on a new career. The neighbor was a bachelor, and tired of living without a wife, and the woman being favorable to the arrangement, the trade was easily effected and the goods delivered.

Cloth costumes are made with two bottoms; that for the house is a blouse with vest, collar and cuffs trimmed with cord gimp in designs of Gothic points; that for outdoor wear is a long polkae with fall plaiting at the back trimmed with gimp which is the width of that of the blouse. The skirts which is to be worn with either of these bodies is plain, in front falling on a balayage plaiting, and has all its fullness drawn to the back and massed in quadruple box-plaits.

A new caper of feminine artfulness is the perfumed petticoat. This new guile to catch the susceptible soul of man is effected by securing a scent-powder in the wadding of the aesthetic under garment. A rapturous writer, already a victim to doubt, says: "This is considered preferable to putting perfum on the handkerchief, as the pleasant odor is more accessible, and sweetly mysterious." Canning rascal! How well he knows that nothing about a woman is more charming than her mystery; and how foolish are those females who parade and expose their charms in the stupid belief that they attract attention in that way. Let all the ways of woman be "as subtly mysterious," and she will find man her worshipful slave.

At New Albany, Indiana, the First Presbyterian church has elected a board of deacons. The revival in the Cincinnati Methodist churches has resulted in 2,138 conversions and 1,005 additions on probation. The number of Congregational churches in the western part of the State of Pennsylvania has doubled during the last year, and the time seems ripe for the formation of a State association.

The seventy-eighth session of the old testament revisers, held in the Jerusalem chamber, Westminster, the company finished the second revision of Job and proceeded with that of Proverbs to chapter xvi. The finest building on this continent is the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Mexico. It was built 370 years ago on the site of the Aztec temple, and gold was used by the Spaniards in its ornamentation.

The Russian Chapel which has been supported by the Russian government at New York for thirteen years is to be dedicated. The pastor, the Rev. Nicholas Bjerring, states that this action of the government is for economical reasons. It is a remarkable fact that within the last two weeks two pastors have been inducted in Chicago over Congregational churches who were far from being up to the old standard of orthodoxy upon the subject of future punishment. Dr. Seudder and Mr. Emerich both agreeing in the one important point of indulging hope for the sinner who dies in his sin.

The Churchman compiles the following summary of statistics of the Protestant Episcopal church for 1881-2 from "The Church Almanac" and "Whittier's Churchman's Almanac" for 1883: Number of dioceses, 48; missionary districts (including Africa, China and Japan), 15; bishops, 95; priests and deacons, 3,510; whole number of clergy, 3,570--increase, 79.

The Lutheran communion registers a large increase the past year. Its totals are 3,420 ministers, a gain of 159; 6,150 congregations, or 265 more than last year; and 785,787 communicants, an increase of 47,485. These communicants are distributed among the different bodies as follows: Synodical conference, 238,117; local council, 235,002; general synod, 128,229; independent synods, 116,077.

A sketch of the churches of New Haven, Conn., published by The Register, shows that the Catholic denomination has increased in membership during the past 40 years more rapidly than all the Protestant denominations combined, having now 7 churches and 21,800 members, against 1 church and 300 members in 1842, while the Protestant churches, numbering 32 in 1842 and having 4,921 members, now number 51 and have 19,293 members. The Congregational church was the largest Protestant organization 40 years ago and is so now, but its relative increase is much less than that of the Methodist, Episcopal and Baptist. The Congregationalists have grown from 10 churches with 2,814 members to 12 churches with 5,517 members; the Methodists from 7 churches with 2,556 members to 11 churches with 4,622 members; the Baptists from 2 churches with 462 members to 5 churches with 1,023 members. The 1 Universalist church had 50 members in 1842, and now has 323. Instead of 17 with 25 members, there are now 3 with 199 members. The Lutherans and Second Adventists, which had no churches 40 years ago, have now 2 each, the former with 230 members, the latter with 93. The population of New Haven has grown from 14,525 to 68,803.

IMPLIANTS. "George Washington," says Mr. Beecher, "could not be bribed, but he swore like a trooper." A Kentuckian says the people down his way believe in taxing luxuries but not necessities. They want the tax taken off of whisky and tobacco and put on pumps and bibles.

A Chicago minister recently undertook to introduce moral reform at a seething main, but all he got for his pains was the advice of whisky and the door, "chase himself up an alley." Nothing annoys the manager of a church festival more than to have one visitor say in a rather loud tone to another: "Have they got any of those war-ships with this sort of sandwiches?"

Philadelphia News: Mr. Talmage offers \$1,000 to any person who will prove him a plagiarist. We should make a strike for that reward, but the trouble is we never attend many circuits.

An old story is being revived of a prayer meeting being held for a poor fellow's relief, who had broken his leg. White Deacon Brown was praying, a tall fellow, with an orange, knocked at the door, saying: "Father could not come, but sent his prayers in the cart." They were potatoes, beef, pork and corn.

The Rev. P. B. Grant, pastor of a Baptist church in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., has been forced to resign by his congregation. It is claimed that he was unacceptable to his brethren because he wore a woman's shirt at a dining place, because he ate his food with a knife instead of a fork and because he was seen on one occasion sitting on a sofa with his wife, both eating from the same banana. Dr. Grant seems to have been a coarse and unimpeachable man. If he had been caught on a sofa with another man's wife eating tropical fruit, he might have been allowed to remain.

The following is told of Saphir, a deformed Jew, who lived centuries ago in Germany: He was traveling in a stage-coach in company with two Jews, who made allusions to the personal appearance of Saphir, and were disposed to make fun of him generally. He put up with it for some time, but at last he said: "You are you fellows, anyhow?" "We are one of the societies of Jesus," "Which society of Jesus--his first or his last?" "What do you mean?" "While his first society were donors in the manger, and his last were thieves on Mount Cavalry. Now I want to know to which of these societies you belong?"

CONNUBIALITIES. Nex week a son of Prof. Driener, of Columbia college, will be married to a Miss Childs. A young man in Columbus has postponed his marriage three different times after the girl was all ready, and yet she keeps right on being courted as if nothing had happened.

People who object to the publication of marriage engagements should remember that in some parts of this country, and in every part of Europe, the announcement of an engagement to the public is required by law. KROOK, Ia., December 25.--Thomas Walker, of St. Louis, formerly of Keokuk, has been elected mayor of Keokuk, Iowa, by Hon. George W. McCarty, United States circuit judge, were united in marriage in this city last evening.

A prospective bride of New York engaged to be married to a dowry of any right of a dowry, the sum of \$1,500. A document setting forth the bargain was drawn up by the groom, signed by the bride and duly recorded, the first of its kind.

There was a first class story-book wedding at New Haven Wednesday. Henri Maton, a handsome young Frenchman, saw and loved Adele Pommer years ago in sunny France. Pretty Adele was a lover's daughter, Henri a tradesman's son. He came to this country, where he was unable to find fortune and independence, giving up his priest office at home of serene de ville, came to Wallingford, heard his earnings through the years and finally sent for his sweetheart. She escaped from her relatives, and on Wednesday was joined to her hero in happy wedlock.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES. The Georgia assembly is inquiring into the feasibility of establishing a technological school in that state. A circular is circulating two new buildings--a circular chemical laboratory and a drill hall and gymnasium. A free library is also soon to be constructed.

Pupils of the public schools in Newark, N. J., were requested to bring one potato each for the honor of the state of New Jersey, the plan resulting in the contribution of a small wagon-load. There are 1,000,000 grown people in this country who can neither read or write, but when it comes to talking about the nonsense of our public school system they can make themselves heard half a mile away.

Prof. Bloss, superintendent of public instruction of Indiana, will ask the legislature to make it a criminal offense to steal, sell or otherwise dispose of examination questions. He will also suggest some changes in the manner and time of making trustees' reports, and will advocate the granting of teachers' license for six, twelve, twenty-four, and thirty-six months; and a six-month license to the recipient of two successive two-year licenses.

The Vermont legislature has enacted a law providing that instruction shall be imparted in the public schools in elementary physiology and hygiene, which shall give special prominence to the use of stimulants and narcotics upon the human system. This law was secured through the efforts of the Women's Christian Temperance union of the state, and is designed to open the eyes of the students in the public schools to the evil effects of the use of alcoholic drinks, tobacco and opium.

The Rochester school board has ordered that during the next term in the public schools the morning and afternoon recess be abolished, and that the principals be instructed to carry out the following programme of school hours: The morning and afternoon recesses will begin respectively at 9 o'clock a. m. and 1:30 p. m., and end at 11 o'clock a. m. and 3:30 p. m. The seventh, eighth and ninth grades will be dismissed in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. It is also ordered that at 10:15 in the morning and at 2:15 in the afternoon five minutes shall be devoted to callisthenic exercises and marching in every school room, while the windows are to be thrown open sufficiently to change the air of the room. It is understood that this provision is to be most rigidly adhered to in all cases.

The education of deaf mutes has made remarkable progress during the last decade, and it seems highly probable that the old system of talking by signs is about to undergo a revolution or to be entirely displaced. A few years ago an attempt was made in the Clark Institution for deaf mutes, at Northampton, Massachusetts, to teach the inmates an articulate speech, and from the recently issued report now before us we learn that the effort has passed the stage of experiment and has been crowned with the most gratifying success. The report contains numerous letters from former pupils who were unable to express any thought by articulate sounds when they entered the institution, but they are now able to make themselves understood. One writes from New York that every girl in the packing room, where she works, understands all she says, and she can understand them by the system of lip reading. Another, a dressmaker, writes: "I work from 8 in the morning to 8 at night, so you see that there is little time left for my recreation. I do not know whether I have gained in lip reading or speech, but I think I have gained more in lip reading than speech. My mother, sisters, and brothers say that my speech is very good, and they can understand every word I say. My employers can understand all I say, and I can read their lips well."

An Elmira, (N. Y.) Lady, Mrs. H. L. Clark, 304 E. Clinton street, declares: Burdock Blood Bitters are a medicine I admire. Best remedy for dyspepsia in the world. Keep house supplied with it.

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