

hidden in the ball. It has just occurred to me, that to accompany New Year's Greetings, this pretty custom is especially appropriate. As a little child the unwinding of a skein, or ball of yarn, seemed to one peculiarly symbolical of the gradual unwinding of the year, each day bringing us one day nearer the crowning day—Christmas, 12th mo., 25, being the grand illuminating day of days, it seemed only fitting that with the wane of Christmas festivities, a New Year should begin. If the friction of flying years has lowered the pedestal of childhood's patron saint, it has also transferred the child's anticipation and enjoyment of the gifts of a day to similiar hope and pleasure, in the good gifts of a year. With to-night 12th mo., 31st, the last thread of the old year is unwound, the last gift it holds for us disclosed; and, from the Hand of the One Great Giver of every good and perfect gift, we greet the New Year—another ball of hidden treasures. Yes, treasures in every ball to be had for the finding! Lightly we may take the gift, carelessly unwinding, and in heedlessly having missed, or crushed the good things written, cry out that none where there. A New Year—twelve months, fifty-two weeks, more than three hundred golden days! What shall we do with them all? Fill the first with good resolutions, and spend the rest in breaking them? Rather let us begin with only one made at the feet of Him from whom the New Year comes, and depending on His strength for its fulfilment. "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

L. S.

ESSAY ON HAND SHAKING.*

Go where we will in any part of christendom and we find hand shaking is a deep-rooted custom. Well, what is it? and how is it done? It is a mode of salutation performed by the grasping of the right hands and concluding by a hearty shake. When this is done it is an admission to the world that the contracting parties are friends.

Recd by Wm. A. Cutler at the Office, 1st mo. 4 1889.

If they are not they are acting the lie, and their hatred will be increased. For I think as love and friendship are increased and invigorated by handshaking so I think are hatred and enmity. It is a sacred custom and should be looked upon as such. It is the seal of friendship. The stolid and brave old Indian warrior smoked the pipe of peace with forgiving hearts. The white man shakes his forgiven enemy by the hand and thereby enter in a contract to be friends. If we are not friends after this we are hypocrites.

Some people pretend to say that they can tell a man's character by shaking hands with him. Well, I believe men differ as much in their modes of handshaking as they do in their characters. I think it was Prof. Robertson who said that if he got hold of a cold and clammy hand and it felt like a chunk of beefsteak he would not trust its owner very far. And then the man with the pump handle shake, the woman who shakes your hand horizontally while you struggle manfully for a perpendicular shake must certainly have some strong characteristics if we only understood the business well enough to read them. Then there is the man who always shakes hands with you if he meets you a dozen times a day you find that in nine cases out of ten he will get the best of the bargain. But we must not forget that man of an iron will who squeezes and shakes your hand till the tears run down your cheeks.

There is something beautiful and enchanting about handshaking when it is the result of friendship or love, but when used to pave the road to riches and fame loses considerable of its lustre. Take for instance the lawyer shaking hands with every client who is fortunate or unfortunate enough as the case may be, to enter his office, the Dr. who shakes with all his patients, and the merchant and the politician together with scores of others. In a sorry plight these men would be, indeed, were handshaking made illegal. It seems to be the surest and certainly the cheapest way of reaching their patron's hearts.

There is perhaps too much of this