



A NEW YEAR.

Here you are, little Year. Did you come in
the night,
When I was asleep in my bed?
And how did you find your way in before light,
With no sun shining out overhead?
Did you pass the Old Year as he rushed out of
sight
With a pack that was heavy as lead?
He looked just like you, O so shining and slim,
When he made his bow twelve months ago;
We all said "Good morning" politely to him—
It was manners, dear Year, as you know;
And his hand was outstretched, and his eye
was not dim,
As he stood in his first morning glow.
But his fifty-two weeks were so crowded with
work,
And he had such a handful of days,
That you couldn't expect, since he was not a
shirk,
He'd be chipper and cheery always;
His story was mixed up with brightness and
mirk,
And we'll speak of him only with praise.
As for you, little Year, you are growing so fast,
As you stand in the other Year's place,
That already the shadow that falls from the past
Is weaving its veil o'er your face.
O happy New Year, may your happiness last,
As you trot at the century's pace!

JOHNNY DREW'S DOG.

BY MAY BLOSSOM.

Johnny Drew's dog is as handsome as he is clever. "He knows enough to talk," says Johnny. "He's a splendid fellow, and I wouldn't change him for the best bicycle in the world, though I do want a bicycle terrible bad."

Prince—for that is the dog's name, has many times made Johnny's father feel ashamed. You see it is this way: Some time ago Prince began to go with Mr. Drew when he started for his store in the morning, trotting home again as soon as he reached the store door. He knew when it was time for him to come home at night, for when the clock struck six off Prince would start for the store, waiting there until Mr. Drew was ready to come home, when he would trot ahead of him.

The man had formed a bad habit, but Prince did not know it was bad. He only knew that every morning and night his master would go in a certain saloon

for a drink of beer or whiskey. Prince did not know what he went there for, but he had seen the man go there so many times and, of course, it must be right, for does not a man know better than a dog?

Prince always waited outside the saloon door until his friend came out: when he would trot on ahead again. He spent a great deal of money for these drinks that did him harm instead of good. He drank during the day, too, but Prince did not know that, and after he had drunk he found his head was not as clear as it should be; he could not attend to his business so well, and he lost his trade.

He finally decided he would give up drinking: he joined a Temperance Club and put a blue ribbon in his buttonhole, to show that he was a temperance man, a "true blue."

Then the dog made him ashamed of his former habits. How? When he gave up drinking he thought it would be wiser to shun the saloon and go home by another way. He, therefore, decided to go through

another street, were there are no saloons. Prince could not get used to this new route. He would trot on ahead, and when he came to the street in which was the saloon would run on a few steps and then stop and look behind him to see if his friend followed. When he found that he had gone on another street Prince would turn and follow very slowly, as though he thought his friend had made a mistake and gone the wrong way. Said Mr. Drew:

"Prince really made me ashamed of myself, for he preached me a sermon on the power of Habit every time he stopped to see if I were going to the saloon."

Prince still comes and goes with his master, and yet has plenty of time for frolics with Johnny. They are the best of friends. Take my advice and be very careful what habits you form. Do nothing now that you will be ashamed of by and by.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN CHINA.

The little children in China have a great time on their New Year's Day. It is not the same day as ours, which all boys and girls know is on the first day of January.

Theirs comes on the sixth of February. All the people in China make it a grand gala day. Business is stopped for three days, and such mirth and feasting as they have!

Everybody gets on a new suit, if possible; even the very poor must have on something new, if they borrow it for the occasion.

On the eve of New Year's Day fruits, and sweetmeats are offered to the old year, that it may depart in peace; and then the new year is ushered in with great rejoicing.

Gongs, kettledrums, dancing and singing follow until daybreak, when every door is closed, the streets are all deserted, and a great silence come over everything.

All is very solemn now, where a little time before all were so gay, for each house must "take in the new year to make it familiar with the family."

But as the day goes on, they change the programme, and concerts, theatres and fireworks are in order.

So you see that from the poorest child to the richest person the Chinese New Year's Day is the best day of all the year.

THE SNOW PRAYER.

A little girl went out to play one day in the newly fallen snow, and when she came in she said: "Mamma, I couldn't help praying when I was out at play."

"What did you pray, my dear?"

"I prayed the snow prayer, mamma, that I learned in Sabbath-school: 'Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.'"

What a beautiful prayer! And here is a promise to go with it: "Though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow."

And what can wash them white, clean from every stain of sin? The Bible answers: "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."