

HAPPY DAYS

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[No. 1.

THE PRICKED PALM-LEAF.

Mrs. Good-Manners was about to give a party. The goodies had been going in the basement-door for an hour or more, and the band were tuning their instruments for the music as I sat down under one of the big palms which decorated the hall to watch the fun.

"Oh, there comes the Polite family!" exclaimed Mrs. Good-Manners. "I am so glad to see you," she graciously said, as each one greeted her and made way for the Pleases. There were If-You-Please, Yes-Please, and Do-Please. I can't remember them all. Another carriage came to the door, and I was taken up watching an old couple, Mr. and Mrs. Courtesy. About them soon gathered a most interesting group. I recognized Mr. Kindly Tact and Miss Consideration.

Above the sweet strains of the music I presently heard the firm tones of the butler: "No, sir; no, ma'am," he was saying, "I have strict orders to admit only those who were bidden, and I do not see your names on the list." I listened: Mr. Imp O. Lite, Mr. and Mrs. Rude, the Misses Willful, Mr. and Mrs. Think-of-Nobody, Mr. Hoyden, Miss Thoughtless. They were turned away, every one, and I was glad. I felt sure that, if even one of them had been allowed to come in, the party would have been spoiled.

Then I fell into a reverie, and decided I too would give a party, only it should be for children instead of grown-ups. I gathered a palm-leaf, and began to prick on it the names of those I could ask. I soon

threw it down, dashing a tear from my eye. Why? Because of all the Roxes and Lilies and Marys and Dorothys, the Toms and Johns and Franks and Williams, I knew I could think of so few who were altogether the right guests for such a party as I wished. Do you think that I could have invited you

"I was a great rough sailor and had been knocked about ever since I was a little lad, as my parents had died when I was a baby. I ran off to sea early, and I didn't learn much good from those around me," Ben began. "I worked hard though, for I always did things with all my heart. I couldn't be half-way about anything.

"One voyage the captain took his little boy along. He was the brightest, handsomest little chap, and as brave a little fellow as ever I see. He hadn't any mother, and the captain and all of us thought a lot of him.

"So you may know how I felt when one day he fell overboard. No one ever knew how it happened. One of the sailors missed him and screamed that 'Victor was drowned.' Before I knew it I was in the water fighting the waves and determined to find him.

"I had never thought much about God, but I cried out to him then, and he must have listened even to such a sinner as I was, for when I had nearly given up, I caught hold of Victor's little body

At first we thought he was dead, but he came to. I had often been in danger before, but

this sobered me more than all the rest. I decided then to seek for God as hard as I had sought wickedness before, and while I've had my dark days, I've tried to serve my great Captain ever since with my whole heart."

Hold on to your tongue when you are just ready to swear, lie, speak harshly, or use a naughty word.



A HAPPY NEW YEAR

"SAILOR BEN."

Mabel, Sue, Archie and Herman ran down the walk laughing and dancing along. They were going to see "Sailor Ben" who lived close by the river. "Sailor Ben" always had wonderful stories of the sea at his tongue's end. One story the children never tired of hearing; so, as soon as they saw him, they urged him to tell it.