

WISHING ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

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THE DYING YEAR

BY GEORGE W. ARMSTRONG

Ring solemn chimes, ye mid-night bells,
As o'er the land your music swells;
Reminding man that his career
Shall end, just like the dying year.

Ring softly, life is but a dream,
Or, like an ever rolling stream,
That hurries on its mighty way,
Which Time is impotent to stay.

Ring as a muffled bell doth peal,
The dying year shall memories seal;
Memories of sorrows, joys and peace,—
Both noble deeds and bad must cease.

Ring for the tones prophetic are,
They bring glad tidings from afar;
The year may die midst grief and pain,
Yet from its tomb will rise again.

Time was, time is, and time shall be,
Till blended in Eternity
And years shall die and live again,
For nothing mortal can remain.

Ring on ye softly solemn chimes,
Make men forget their hates and crimes;
And as your music fills the skies,
Let nobler aspirations rise.

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