

Next Year.

"Next year, next year, we say
When come to naught
Our plans and projects gay,
Our bright dreams, fraught.

With brighter hopes, that shine
On that far rim
Of life's horizon line,
Where dreams lie dim.

And touched with morning dew,—
"Next year, next year,"
And while we plan anew,
The days grow sere.

The year has fled, and lo,
We've left behind
The glory and the glow
We hoped to find.

And missed again the dew
We meant to heed—
The cherished plan to do
Some cherished deed

"Next year, next year!"
Oh, why not now,
Delaying soul, this year
Keep word and vow!

Oh, why not now and here,
Why not to-day,
Before another year
Shall run away.

Keep word and faith or ere
An hour's delay,
Make good the promise fair,
To-day, to-day!

—Youths' Companion.

New Year's Greetings.

Looking forward into an empty year one finds therein no recognition. It is the years behind us that are prophetic, they have a friendly aspect, and it is by the experience gathered from them that we cross the threshold of the year 1887 prepared, if we only make use of the experiences, to meet in a right way whatever the new year has in store for us. There is always something hopeful and inspiring in the thought that we have one fixed date on the calendar of Time when, as it were, we can begin anew, letting what we would like to erase from our lives die with the old year, and build again on foundations made safer from the ruins of the old. It is the *hopefulness* that the coming year may bring us what its predecessor did not, and also that certain sorrows may never be repeated, that makes us wish one another, as we meet, "a Happy New Year." It is the outpouring, generously, of the happiness we would fain have, hoping it will touch all whom we greet, and by the touch render *this* year one to be held apart in memory's halls. Don't form "good resolutions," perhaps only to be broken, and regretted having made them because broken. But do try from the light of the years in the shadow to brighten the coming one, and thereby as each year closes making your life and the lives of those around you better and more noble from out the experiences of the past.

"Where does the Old Year go, mamma?
When it has passed away?
It was a good old year,
I wish that it could stay;
It gave us spring and summer,
The winter and the fall;

It brought us baby sister,
And that was best of all.
Where does the Old Year go, mamma?
I cannot understand."
"My love, it goes to join the years
Safe folded in God's hand."

"From where will come the New Year,
When the good Old Year is dead?
Now all my birds and all my flowers
With the Old Year have fled.
I do not think that I shall love
This New Year at all."
"Yes, dear it too will bring the spring,
The summer and the fall."
"Where will it come from, mamma?
I do not understand."
"It comes whence all the coming years
Are hidden in God's hand."

"Well, Molly," said the judge, going up to the old apple-woman's stand, "don't you get tired sitting here these hot, dusty days?" "It's only a little while," said she. "And the cold,

dismal days?" "It's only a little while, sir." "And your sick, rheumatic days?" "It's only a little while, sir." "And what then, Molly?" "I shall enter into that rest which remains for the people of God; and the troublesomeness of the way there doesn't pester or fret me. It's only a little while, sir."

SOME little folks have the habit of whining. They get up in the morning in a bad humor, and they whimper, and whine, and make ugly faces, and put everybody in pain who hears or sees them. It is a habit which is easily formed; and once formed it is a habit which is very hard to break off. The whining boy or girl is sure to make a scolding man or woman, unless a sweeter spirit comes to bless the life.

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