

Happy Days

VOLUME IV.]

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[No. 1.

NEW YEAR'S TOYS.

I AM afraid this little boy has received a not very suitable New Year's present. I don't think that real cannon, even if small, and powder, are just the thing for a parlour table. It's not a very nice game any how, pretending to shoot people. I expect the old gentleman has been a soldier, and likes to fight his battles over again by watching the children play at this game of war. I would be glad if it could be left to children, but when it comes to grown up men using cannon to kill each other it is a dreadful thing. Thank God for the hope of the day when the nations "shall learn war no more."

"LIKE YOU DO WHEN YOU LAUGH."

A BABY of three years once preached me a sermon, and I pass it on for the benefit of other downcast and despondent ones who need to learn to "rejoice evermore."

"How is the baby?" asked drearily, stand-

at the foot of the staircase leading to a chamber where the little one lay. I was tired and unhopeful; my mood out in my tone.



NEW YEAR'S TOYS.

"Speak like you do when you laugh," called the weak little voice up-stairs; and if I ever felt rebuked by an angel, that was the moment.

It has come up to me a hundred times since. I hope I am the brighter and cheerier for it "Speak like you do when you laugh." That means sparkle and gladness and good-will. Those fretful lines at the mouth-corners don't come from laughing; The weary ones around the eyes have another origin. But the plainest outward sign of despondency is that in the tone. The sick feel it; that is why "visitors are forbidden." Little children are infallible weather-prophets; they will not "take to" you. And you and I—just common working men and women, neither sick nor young nor old, but busy and often tired—we love—yes, that is the word—we love the bright, loving, laughing, happy voice. "Speak like you do when you laugh."

HAVE you not heard how some boys brag about what they are intending to do? They are always going to do wonders. "You just wait," they say, "and we will show you some day what we can do." Now

is your chance, we would say to you. You are old enough now, and you will never have a better time. You had better begin now; we are anxious to see your first effort.