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{ Terms in Advance:
{ ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

NEW YEAR'S HYMN.

BY HORATIUS BONAR, D. D.

One year is gone; another comes instead;
Thus our spent life on silent pinions flies.
Thou, our God, dost regulate their course,
One ruler of time's awful destinies.

Our nation, loaded with Thy gifts, give
praise;
To Thee with one accord, our country
prays,
That Thou for us would'st still unchanged
preserve
The solemn faith and worship of old days.

Our citizens look up to Thee for food,
And plead with Thee that from their native
shore
All sickness Thou would'st drive away, and
give
Large blessings of sure peace for evermore.

They ask Thee graciously to pardon sin,
Restoring what their guilt had rent away;
And after grievous war, with Thy right hand
To give the healthful palm of victory.

Hating the sins and stains of this vile life,
Our hearts, O God, we consecrate to Thee.
Give happy years; and Thy paternal light
Upon us resting may we ever see.

While days run on, and rolling years return,
And in fixed course the ages Thee obey,
To Thee, the Tribune God, earth's sovereign
Lord,
Let the wide world in song the homage pay.

NEW YEAR'S DAY,

IN OLDEN AND MODERN TIMES.

A custom, now nearly obsolete, of making presents upon this day was practised by the Druids, who distributed branches of the sacred mistletoe, cut with peculiar ceremonies, as New Year's gifts among the people. Nonius Marcellus refers the origin of this prac-

tice among the Romans to Titus Tatius, King of the Sabines, who, having considered as a good omen a present of some branches cut in a wood consecrated to Strenia, the goddess of strength, which he received on the first day of the new year, authorized the custom afterwards, and gave these gifts the name of Strenice, 747 B. C. The bestowing of presents was made by some of the Emperors an important source of personal revenue, until Claudius prohibited demanding presents except on New Year's Day.

The Saxons continued celebrating this day with more than ordinary feasting and joviality and presenting gifts to each other, even during the middle ages; and Henry III. is said to have extorted New Year's gifts from his subjects. When it was fashionable to give gloves as presents, Sir Thomas More, then Lord Chancellor, decided a case in favor of a lady, who sent him a New Year's present of a pair of gloves, with forty golden angels in them. He returned the gold with this note: "Mistress, since it were against good manners to refuse your New Year's gift, I am content to take your gloves; but as for the *living*, I utterly refuse it."

In the beginning of the sixteenth century pins were brought into use, and proved very acceptable to ladies; hence the money given for the purchase of them was called "pin-money," and was usually given by a husband to his wife on the first of January. The custom of presenting New Year's gifts to the Sovereign of England may be traced back to the time of Henry VI. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth the custom