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What the New Year Should Mean to Our Readers.

We Wish You A Happy New Year.

We wish you a Happy New Year—our kind of a Happy New Year. We wish you health, prosperity in your work, happiness in your home and all the other good things that friends wish one another at this season. But all this is an old story. And it is not our story. What we wish you beyond all this is the desire and resolve to contribute to somebody else's health, prosperity and happiness. If it's not in your power to help the world, help your country, if that's too big an order help your town or your neighbor. A reverend clergyman, said in a sermon the other day "I never knew a man to help anybody else without being himself helped!" You know that is true just as we do. The way to have a good time is to give a good time. The way to have a Happy New Year is to help somebody else to have a Happy New Year.

Turning Back for Want of Grit.

Most lives are filled with half-finished tasks which were begun with enthusiasm but which have been dropped because the enthusiastic beginner did not have enough grit to carry them to a conclusion.

How easy it is to start a thing when the mind is aglow with zeal before disappointment has dulled ambition! It does not take much ability to begin a thing, and we can not estimate a man by the number of things he commences. We do not judge him by his speed at the beginning of the race, it is the home-stretch that counts. The test of character is a man's ability to persist in what he undertakes until he adds the finishing stroke. He must have persistence and grit enough to carry him under the line at the last heat. The ability to hold on is one of the rarest of human virtues. There are plenty who will go with the crowd, and who will work hard as long as they can hear the music, but when the majority have dropped out, when others have turned back and a man feels himself alone fighting for a principle it takes a very different order of ability to persist. This requires grit and stamina.

Look out for the period in your life when you are tempted to turn back! There is the danger point, the decisive period. All the great things of history have been accomplished after the great majority of men would have turned back.

Nearly every invention which has emancipated man from drudgery and given him comfort and better facilities was made possible only by the man of superior grit and persistence. Not one man in ten thousand would have endured the suffering, the deprivation, the heartrending poverty of an Elias Howe to make the sewing machine possible. The world owes nearly all its great things to those

who have persisted when others have given up. Look out for a man who persists, who keeps right on when everybody else calls him a fool for not letting go! It is pitiable to see a young man with robust health and good education wavering when an obstacle confronts him doubting whether he will go on or turn back. You may gain a certain amount of success without education, without culture and without brilliancy, but you cannot do much without stamina, staying power and clear grit. Grit has always been more than a match for any handicap. The great achievers have ever substituted grit for good opportunity or lack of early advantages.

More young men have achieved success in life with grit as capital than money capital to start with. The whole history of achievement shows that grit has overcome the direst poverty, it has been more than a match for lifelong invalidism.

Whatever You Do Keep Sweet.

No matter how disagreeable your work, or how much trouble you may have this year, resolve that, whatever comes to you or does not come to you, you will keep sweet, that you will not allow your disposition to sour, that you will face the sunlight no matter how deep the shadows.

The determination to be cheerful will discourage multitudes of little worries that would otherwise harass you. If you can not get rid of a trouble, do as the oyster does with the grain of sand that gets into the shell and irritates it. Cover it with pearl. Do as you would with an ugly rock or stump on your ground.

Cover it with ivy, roses or something else which will beautify it. Make the best of it. You can make poetry out of the prosiest life, and bring sunshine into the darkest home; you can develop beauty and grace amid the ugliest surroundings. It is not circumstance, so much as attitude of mind, that gives happiness. "Nothing can disturb his good nature," said a man of one of his employees: "that is why I like him. It does not matter how much I scold him or find fault with him, he is always sunny. He never lays up anything against me, never resents anything."

That is recommendation enough for anybody. No wonder this man did not want to part with such an employee.

Who can estimate the value of a nature so sunny that it attracts everybody, repels nobody? Everybody wants to get near sunny people; everybody likes to know them.

They open, without effort doors which morose natures are obliged to pry open with great difficulty, or perhaps can not open at all. I know an old man who has had a great deal of trouble and many losses and misfortunes; but he started out in life with

a firm determination to extract just as much real enjoyment from it as he went along as possible—not in dissipation, but in wholesome enjoyment and fun. He has always tried to see the humorous side of things, the bright side, and the duty of happiness.

The result is that, although this man has had more than his share of sorrow in his career, he has developed the inestimable faculty of making the best of every situation, and of always facing the sun and turning his back to the shadows. The life habit of cheerfulness and optimism has brought out a sweetness of character and a poise and serenity of mind which are the envy of all who know him. Although he has lost his property and the most of his family and relatives, yet he radiates sunshine and healthfulness wherever he goes. A man who can laugh outside when he is crying inside, who can smile when he feels badly has a great accomplishment.

We all love the one who believes the sun shines when he can not see it.

A potted rose in a window will turn the face away from the darkness toward the light. Turn it as often as you will, it will always turn away from the darkness and lift its face upward toward the sun.

So we, ultimately, shrink from cold, melancholy, inky natures, and turn our faces toward the bright, the cheerful and the sunny. There is more virtue in one sunbeam than in a whole atmosphere of clouds and gloom.

As the Gulf Stream leaves a warm, soft climate in its wake as it flows through the colder waters of the ocean on its way from the Gulf to the North Pole, so a happy, joyous, sunny nature leaves a warm trail of sunshine wherever it goes through the cold, practical, selfish world.

Lydia Marie Child used to say: "I think cheerfulness in every possible way. I read only chipper books, and hang prisms in my window to fill the room with rainbows." This is the right kind of philosophy—the philosophy of good cheer, the greatest medicine for the mind, the best tonic for the body, and the greatest health food known.

Your ability to carry your own sunshine with you, your own lubricant, your own light so that, no matter how heavy the load or dark the way you will be equal to the emergency—will measure your ability to continue and to achieve.

Don't Let Your Past Spoil Your Future.

There is nothing more depressing than dwelling upon lost opportunities or a misspent life. Whatever your past has been forget it. Do not drag it across the New Year line. If it throws a shadow across the present or causes melancholy or despondency,

there is nothing in it which helps you, there is not a single reason why you should retain it in your memory and there are a thousand reasons why you should bury it so deeply that it can never be resurrected.

The future is your uncut block of marble. Beware how you smite it. Don't touch it without a programme. Don't strike a blow with your chisel without a model, lest you ruin and mar forever the angel which lives within the block; but the marble of the past, which you have carved into hideous images, which have warped and twisted the ideals of your youth, and caused you infinite pain, need not ruin or mar the uncut block before you.

This is one of the merciful provisions that every day presents to every human being; no matter how unfortunate his past, every day every human being has a new uncut block of pure Parian marble before him, a new chance to retrieve the past, to improve upon if he will.

Nothing is more foolish, more positively wicked than to drag the skeletons of the past, the hideous images, the foolish deeds, the unfortunate experiences of the past into today's work to mar and spoil it. There are plenty of people who have been failures up to the present moment who could be wonders in the future if they could only forget the past, if they only had the ability to cut it off, to close the door on it forever and start anew.

They Cannot Let Go.

Some people's minds are like a junk shop; they contain things of considerable value mixed with a great deal of rubbish.

There is no system or order in them. These minds everything, good, bad, or indifferent. They can never bear to throw anything away, for fear it might be of service at some time, so that their mental storehouses are clogged with all sorts of rubbish.

If these people would only have a regular house-cleaning at the beginning of the New Year, and throw away all the rubbish, everything of a doubtful value, and systematize and arrange what is left, they might amount to something; but no one can do good work with his mind full of discord and confusion.

Get rid of the rubbish. Do not go through life burdened with non-essential meaningless things. Everywhere we see people who are handicapped, doing everything to a great disadvantage, because they never will let go of anything.

They are like the overcareful house-keeper who never throws anything away for fear it may be of use in the future, and whose attic and woodshed, and every closet and corner in the house, are piled up with rubbish which, "might be wanted sometime". The habit of throwing away rubbish is of inestimable value.