

A NEW YEAR.

"It's coming, boys,
It's almost here;
It's coming, girls,
The Grand New Year!
A year to be glad in,
Not to be bad in;
A year to live in, to gain and give in;
A year for trying, and not for sighing;
A bright New Year! Oh, hold it dear!
For God who sendeth, he only lendeth."

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Happy Days.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 30, 1905.

GRASSHOPPER GREEN'S SERMON.
"We are by far the most beautiful flowers!" declared the Cornflowers.

But the Black-eyed Susans shook their satin petals scornfully. "No, you are not!" they said.

"Oh, yes, we are!" declared the Cornflowers. "We are blue like the clear sky above, and you—"

"We are yellow like the sun," exclaimed the Black-eyed Susans, "and the sun dazzles everybody and everything, with his wonderful light. What is the blue sky beside him, and what are you, beside us?"

"Sh!" said a grasshopper who had perched himself on a great green blade of grass. "If the sky were yellow and the sun were blue, whatever in the world would people do! And if I should change my green coat, which is colored like the grass, and wore a bright pink one instead, what do you think would happen! The first hungry bird or runaway chicken that spied me would gobble me up in a trice, and wouldn't that be nice?"

"Listen to me," said the grasshopper solemnly; "God made us every one, the

flowers, sky, and sun. And he wants us all to be contented, for that is the only way we can ever be truly happy!" And then away he hopped to find his brother locust.

The Black-eyed Susans shook their yellow heads. "Grasshopper Green was right," they said. "It's best to be contented."

And the Cornflowers waved their blue-fringed petals to and fro. "It is surely best," said they, "and we shall be contented."

SILLY SHEEP.

Joe came home with his clothes, and even his little curls, all wringing wet. "Just knew the ice wasn't strong 'nough!" he grumbled.

"Then why did you slide?" asked auntie.

"'Cause all the other boys did," said Joe.

His aunt gave him dry clothes, set him down behind the stove, and made him drink hot ginger tea. Then she told him a story.

"When I was a little girl, Joe, my father had a great flock of sheep. One day the big ram found a gap in the fence, and he thought it would be fun to see what was in the other field. So in he jumped, without looking where he was going, and down he tumbled to the bottom of an old dry well where father used to throw stones and rubbish. The next sheep never stopped to see what had become of him, but jumped right after him, and the next and the next, although father tried to drive them back, and Watch, the old sheep dog, barked his very loudest. But they just kept on jumping and jumping, till the well was full. Then father had to pull them out as best he could, and the sheep at the bottom of the well were almost smothered to death."

"What silly fellows!" exclaimed Joe.

Then he looked up at his aunt and laughed.

HER DIAMONDS.

A pretty story is told of Eugenie, a princess of Sweden.

She was very much interested in the building of a hospital. As the work on the building proceeded, it was found that it was going to take much more money to finish it than had at first been expected. The building must be delayed!

When Eugenie heard this, rather than see work on the building stopped, she sold some of her precious diamonds that she might give the money that was needed to complete it.

One day after the hospital was completed the princess went to visit one of the wards.

As she stood beside the bed of one of the patients, tears of gratitude filled the eyes of the sick man as he looked into the face

of the princess whose kindness had given him the comforts he was enjoying.

Suddenly the princess exclaimed, as she saw his tears, "Oh, now I see my diamonds again!"

A USEFUL FISH.

There is scarcely a fish that is more useful to man than the cod. As an article of diet—whether fresh or salted and dried—it is a most important addition to our food supplies, and is made use of in various ways for the support of man and beast over a widely extended area. The tongue is regarded as a delicacy, the swimming bladder furnishes isinglass almost equal to that of the sturgeon, and the liver gives us the oil which is so much recommended as a tonic and a food in all wasting complaints.

The Norwegians give cod's heads mixed with marine plants to cows to increase the yield of milk; the Icelanders give the bones to their cattle; in Kamschatka dogs are fed on them; and in icy wastes they are frequently dried and used as fuel. The cod is prolific enough to admit of this extensive use, for one fish will produce 9,000,000 eggs.

LITTLE BUTTERBALL.

They liked to go to the vegetable garden for Uncle Temus always had something to give to "de young missies,"—peanuts, which grow well in that sandy southern soil, or a pomegranate, or maybe a handful of the fragrant tiny magnolias.

"I wonder what it is this time?" said mother, as the two little girls came up the path, walking more carefully than usual.

"What have you in your dress, dearie? Did Uncle Temus give you some popcorn or peanuts this time?"

"Peanuts! O mother, just see! Not peanuts!" Juliet laughingly opened her dress, and there lay a tiny ball of a kitten, just the color of Elsie's sandy hair. Such a tiny mite of a kitten, with big blue eyes!

"That's better than peanuts or popcorn, isn't it, mother? And he said we might keep it for our very own," and Juliet and Elsie danced about with joy, for it was their very first live plaything.

"And, mother, we're going to feed it now."

But first Alice, the nurse, gave it a nice warm bath; then they brought milk in a tiny taffy pan.

It did not know how to lap it up, so they put their little pink fingers into the warm milk and let the kitten lick it off; in that way it learned to feed itself nicely, and was soon so round and fat that Elsie called it "Little Butterball."

Read nothing from which you cannot learn something.