

**What Will You Do?**

What will you do with the New Year?  
The question is asked to-day,  
To you who are travelling onward,  
To the land that is far away,  
The old year is gone forever—  
It has bid you a last adieu;  
Ah, children dear! consider,  
What will you do with the New!

Do you wish for a happy New Year,  
Without one anxious care?  
Then turn to the face of Jesus—  
Lift up your soul in prayer,  
Trust yourself to his keeping,  
Follow him as your guide,  
Willingly work in his vineyard,  
Closer press to his side.

Do you wish for a holy New Year!  
Then sit at the Master's feet,  
And ask for his Holy Spirit  
To guide your faltering feet;  
Then resting upon his promise,  
Without a doubt or fear,  
You may step out with gladness  
Into the fair New Year.

**OLD ALMANACS FOR THE NEW YEAR.**

Sometimes we hear it said, of one thing or another, that it is "as useless as last year's almanac." But I know a man who treasures old almanacs as worth a thousand times more to him than the same number of this year's almanacs would be, and I myself greatly prize an old pocket-memorandum book of the year 1867. On the margin of the calendar, opposite the 1st of July, is written the word "Hurrah!" I enjoy reading that. A useless calendar it may be in one sense, but I would not sell it for a car-load of those of 1900. Why not? Has it still a purpose to serve?

On New Year's Eve, in the quaint old German city of Nuremberg, the lighted windows along the deserted streets tell of festivities indoors until the bell of the ancient church peals out its first stroke of twelve. Then the fun-loving Nurembergers come rushing out, making the streets resound with all manner of clatter and din. Immediately bonfires begin to blaze all through the town. The ancient city wall, the many-windowed, many-gabled roofs of mediæval houses (some of which were the abode of men like Durer, Sachs, Krafft, Vischer, and Peller), the ancient castle, with its five-cornered tower, the Hangman's Bridge, the "Beautiful Fountain" in the market-place,—all these are aglow with the jolly flicker of scores of bonfires, fed by thousands of—what? Last year's almanacs! It is said that the demand for these almanacs during the last few days of the old year is so great that the shopkeepers carry a large stock to meet it. Old almanacs "to burn," sure enough! And why not? Have they not served their purpose?

I asked why the old almanacs should not be treasured, and now I ask why they should not be burned. Both questions suggest an important truth for the new year. If I tell you what that truth is, it will not be worth so much to you as if you work it out for yourself.

In the meantime, let us note that Moses advises the children of Israel to "ask not of the days that are past," and David says, "I remember the days of old," although Paul says, "Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on."

**SEEKING AFTER GOD IN JAPAN.**

In her lesson one day a young Japanese came to the word "Creator," but did not know its meaning. Turning to the dictionary, she read, "Creator, one who creates;" but was still in the dark. She turned up a larger dictionary and read: "Creator, one who creates; a name given to God, who made all things." A startling thought to her, for she had never

heard of such a God; and it filled her mind by night and by day. She looked at the stars and said, "that God must have made all these stars." The sun and even the trees suggested the thought, God made them. She went to the temple and looked at the image of Buddha, and she said to herself, "It is not you, Buddha, for I never heard you made anything."

When she went to Tokyo an old woman in the same house said to her: "Tasshee, I am going to a meeting, come with me."

"What meeting?"  
"A meeting to hear about God."  
"Oh, no," said Tasshee, "I do not want any of your gods. I have a God of my own, if I only knew where he is."

Tasshee, however, went to the meeting. The missionary opened the Bible and read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Tasshee was startled. "Why," she said, "this is the God I am looking for," and she became so agitated that she could hardly keep her seat, and so eager was she to put the question, "Where is he?"

When the meeting was over she rushed to the missionary and said, "Tell me, where is this God that made the heaven and the earth?" Her desire was met by proper instruction. She came to the next meeting and heard, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begot-

**AN INTERESTING ITEM ABOUT JAPAN.**

In Japan there are no cows; the Japanese neither drink milk nor eat meat. There are but few horses, and these are imported mainly for foreigners; there are but few dogs, and these are neither used as watchdogs, beasts of burden, nor in hunting; there are no sheep, and wool is not used in clothing—silk and cotton being the staples. There are no pigs; pork is an unknown article of diet. There are no goats, mules or donkeys in Japan.

Twice a year the adherents of the Shinto faith in Japan cut small figures out of paper and throw them into the river, the idea being that with the immersion of these figures their own sins are washed away.

The Shinto priests of Japan scrupulously practice cleanliness in their religious service. Their garments are always spotless, and they even bind a slip of paper over their mouths so that their breath may not pollute the offering.

Japan claims the oldest wooden building in the world. It is a log storehouse of Yara, that is now used to shelter some of the Mikado's art treasures. An age of one thousand two hundred years is claimed for it. Some of the logs are nearly worn away by the weather.—Selected.

The sick man watched the wood first send out little puffs of smoke, and then burst into flame, and replied: "Of course not; it's burning itself!"

"And so are you when you warm yourself with alcohol; you are literally burning up the delicate tissues of your stomach and brain."

Oh, yes; alcohol will warm you up, but who finds the fuel? When you take food, that is fuel, and as it burns out you keep warm. But when you take alcohol to warm you, you're like a man who sets his house on fire and warms his fingers by it as it burns.

**A New Leaf.**

He came to my desk with a quivering lip—

The lesson was done.  
"Dear teacher, I want a new leaf," he said;

"I have spoiled this one."  
In place of the leaf so stained and blotted,

I gave him a new one, all unspotted,  
And into his sad eyes smiled—  
"Do better now, my child."

I went to the throne with a quivering soul—

The old year was done.  
"Dear Father, hast thou a new leaf for me?"

I have spoiled this one."  
He took the old leaf, stained and blotted,  
And gave me a new one, all unspotted,  
And into my sad heart smiled—  
"Do better now, my child."

—Anon.



Ring Happy  
Bells  
Across the Snow

Ring out the old, ring in the new—  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow.  
The year is going—let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring in the vallant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kinder hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

ten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Here again Tasshee was startled. A God of love! Her gods were gods of hate, of revenge, of anger. This God gave his Son. All the gods she had ever heard of never gave anything; the people had to give them offerings.

This thirsting soul received the water of life. Tasshee is now a Christian teacher, dispensing the water of life to others, telling them of a God who spared not His own Son, but gave him up for us all.—Church at Home and Abroad.

**LIKE A HOUSE AFIRE.**

A patient was urging with his doctor the necessity of his taking a stimulant. He argued that he was weak, and needed it. Said he:

"But, doctor, I must have some kind of a stimulant. I am cold and it warms me."

"Precisely," came the doctor's crusty answer. "See here, this stick is cold," taking up a stick of wood from the box beside the hearth and tossing it into the fire, "now it is warm; but is the stick benefited?"

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