



NEW YEAR'S EVE.

The Death of the Old Year.

FULL knee-deep lies the winter snow And the winter winds are wearily sighing: Toll ye the church-bell sad and slow, And tread softly and speak low, For the Old Year lies a-dying.

He was full of joke and jest, But all his merry quips are o'er. To see him die, across the waste His son and heir doth ride post-haste, But he'll be dead before. Everyone for his own. The night is starry and cold, my friend, And the New Year blithe and bold, my friend, Comes up to take his own.

His face is growing and thin, Alack! our friend is gone. Close up his eyes; tie up his chin; Step from the corpse, and let him in That standeth there alone, And waiteth at the door. There's a new foot on the floor, my friend, And a new face at the door, my friend, A new face at the door.

-Tennyson.

A TOUCH OF NATURE.

A CAR on the Washington Avenue line was jogging along up town. There were only five passengers in the car—three men, a lady, and a little girl of probably six or seven years.

The lady was an austere-looking passenger, who seemed to take little notice of what was occurring or being said in the car. The little girl, a sweet, rosy-faced child, with a slight cloud of sadness over the natural sunshininess of her countenance, sat at the lady's right and frequently looked up wistfully at the immovable face of the woman. The man who sat at the right of the child, and evidently her father, spoke to the little one several times as if to dissuade her from gazing at the lady. But still the little eyes would return to the woman's face and scan it searchingly.

The woman became uneasy under the baby's scrutiny, and shifted a little as if to turn her face from the line of vision of the bright-eyed child. Then the little hand was laid softly on

the lady's. She drew hers away and, turning rather abruptly, asked:

"What are you looking at me for" all the time? You annoy me greatly." This was said more to the father than the child. The baby was abashed for a moment, but that little hand went out again and the sweet voice, with a little tremor in it, piped out:

"Cause you look just like my mamma did. I would like to kiss you."

"Where is your mamma, child?" the lady asked. The voice had softened a little, and through the sternness of the visage gleamed a ray of tenderness.

"My mamma is dead," said the plaintive voice of the child.

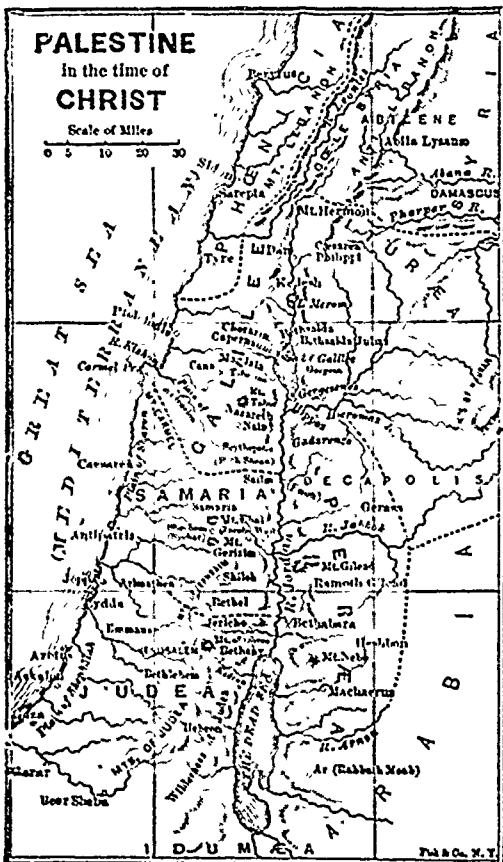
Those four words seemed to break down the barrier that stood between the woman's heart and the pleading little child. Impulsively the lady's arms were clasped about the slight form, and they drew it close to her breast. The two men on the opposite side of the car could not see the woman's face, but the sound of a baby's sob was hushed with a kind, motherly kiss.

The car jogged on, and soon the child was sleeping sweetly, with its little yellow head pillowed on the satin bosom of the woman, while the face of the latter was bent lovingly over the locks of gold.

Here was a picture that even the two hardened men of the world could not look upon without a touch of tears, and as the car moved on there was only the rumble of the vehicle to break the silence.

Who the lady or the child was is unknown to the writer, but the little episode left a pleasant recollection and a kindlier feeling toward humanity.—New York Star.

TAKE a lot of good nature and plenty of fun, And stir them up often together; Then once in a while add a sweet, sunny smile— 'Twill make brightness in dreariest weather.



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