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A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome the New Year!

The Old has gone, with its financial panic, its election conflicts, its revolutions, bloodless and otherwise; its joys and sorrows, its hopes and disappointments. May all its lessons be learned well! If they are, the New Year will be the best we have ever had. Happiness depends largely on apt scholarship in the school of life.

Let us all try to be as good as we possibly can during the New Year. If we do, though we will not reach a state of perfection, we will have the approbation of our own consciences. And that means more to us than the insincere applause of the world. And if we really try to do as well as we can in everything, there will be a vast improvement. For there is none who cannot do a little better than he has done in the past.

Prognosticators forecast good times. May the prophecy come true, and may the American people have learnt the importance of prudence in expenditures and investment, so that good times may bring real prosperity, comfort, and contentment among all classes!

A happy New Year and many of them!

WORTHY CHARITY.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the fact that contributions for the relief of the sufferers from the recent calamity in Italy are received at the Deseret News office, and will be forwarded promptly to their destination. Immediate assistance is needed. From the reports it is evident that the disaster is of so tremendous dimensions, and that the destitution is so appalling as to be beyond the power of the Italian government to meet the requirements without outside help. It is but right that we in this country should hasten to do what we can to help those who mourn the loss of all they had near and dear to them on this earth. Italy has sent to this country thousands of her sturdy sons who have done their share in the development of American resources and the production of American wealth. We owe Italy, as well as other countries, a debt, even after the wages of labor is paid, which can best be acknowledged by a sympathy that finds expression in prompt contributions. A dollar given for this object means a bread, perchance, for some poor child who has been suddenly bereft of father and mother. It means clothes for destitute, or medical aid for some wounded fellow-being. It means the saving of life. We hope Utah citizens, in the abundance and security of these mountain fastnesses, will respond freely to the call for aid, knowing as they do, that whatever is done for even the least of the Master's brethren, He counts as being done for Him.

THE OLD CUSTOM.

Anciently the people who inhabited northern Europe kept the 11th of November, St. Martin's day, as New Year's day. They divided the year into summer and winter, and the date mentioned was considered the beginning of the winter. When the Romans became masters, the Germans adopted the Roman New Year's day, January 1. January is named after the Roman god Janus who was represented as a man with two faces, one looking into the future and one backward into the past. He was the deity that was supposed to be the protector of open doors, and for that reason the opening month of the year was named after him. He was represented as holding a staff in one hand and a key in the other. His temple in Rome was always kept open in times of war, but it was closed when universal peace prevailed.

The custom of giving and receiving presents on New Year's Day originated among the luxurious Romans. They developed to such a degree this custom of exchanging presents on so many occasions that the Emperor Claudius prohibited the demanding of presents except on New Year's Day.

Customs live long. Nations may come and go; religions may change, but customs once established live on in some form or another. It would be surprising to ascertain how many customs supposedly Christian, really date back to pagan times. And there can be no objection to their observance, as long as they are good and do not perpetuate superstition.

LET US HAVE PEACE.

May we not hope, as one of the blessings of the new year, for a speedy and satisfactory adjustment of the railroad rates? Prolonged controversy of an acrimonious character on that subject, or any other in which the public generally is interested, can have but one effect. It can but injure the State.

It seems to us that the questions involved could be taken up in a friendly conference between representatives of the business men of the City, and the roads. The business men are not unreasonable. They do not want the railroads to run at a loss. They look to the consumer for the rates the roads charge, and they have absolutely no motive for unreasonable demands. The railroads can have no object in

enforcing discriminating, unjust rates. They know perfectly well that their interests are identical with those of the regions they traverse, and that mutual confidence and good will are the best foundations for prosperity. Why, then, not come together and reason together? Why not go over the entire field of controversy in a friendly way, for the purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory agreement? Such a course should not be impractical, if public welfare is the only desideratum.

There is no doubt that Utah is entitled to the very best rates that can be given. The State has fostered the railroads with tender care, realizing their immense importance as factors of development. It is entitled to good service at a minimum cost. Coal ought to be cheaper than it is, whatever the cause of the high price may be. Wool and ore could, we believe, be transported cheaper, and this, no doubt, is true of many other commodities. May we not hope for a coming together and a satisfactory agreement on the rates?

If the citizens of Utah would realize the importance of working together, and pulling together, for the upbuilding of the State, and act accordingly in all things, great results would follow speedily. The early development, which was truly marvelous, was possible only because the people were united and went to work with a will to build up Utah. Time and energy spent in fruitless contention, however gratifying to some individuals, are a dead loss to the State. Let us have peace, with justice to all, this new year and forever.

MAN'S PROGRESS.

A true reply to the often recurring question whether the world is growing better or worse, would probably be that in some respects it is growing better and in some, worse. Whether the accounts leave a balance on the right side is the question in dispute.

In intelligence man is certainly advancing. If, for illustration, we look at only one line of progress, aerial navigation, the forward strides made during the past year are simply marvelous.

The Wright brothers have performed wonders. Orville Wright, at Fort Myer, Va., thrilled the world with his aeroplanes flight lasting fifty-seven minutes and thirty-one seconds. Before the flight of the same day he had beaten this record by a flight sustained for one hour and two minutes, in the presence of cabinet officials and high officers of the army and navy. Wilbur Wright has made a flight lasting one hour, three minutes and twenty seconds. This was on Sept. 21 at Le Mans. On Oct. 2, with a passenger aboard, he "flew" for fifty-five minutes and thirty-seven seconds. On Dec. 16 he shot up an aerial incline to a height of 240 feet, then dropped fifty feet and stopped his engine, swooping gracefully to the ground without a jar. Two days later he ascended more than 300 feet, in a strong wind, and again broke his record for duration and flight; covering sixty-one miles in one hour fifty-three minutes and fifty-nine seconds.

The world is growing more humane. In the treatment of criminals vast improvements have been made over all methods. Children are being separated from hardened offenders, and the idea is prevailing that while a man may commit a serious crime, there is still room for reformation, and that the duty of society, is to try to elevate and instruct him rather than to degrade and humiliate, except so far as degradation and humiliation may be applied as correctives for the sake of reform. Penologists claim that excellent results in the improvement of discipline have followed the abolition of the lockstep and cropping of hair and similar old prison customs.

With regard to the treatment of the insane, the improvement in methods is still more noticeable. No longer than a hundred years ago mentally diseased persons were kept in cages as beasts, sometimes for years, until they became deformed and misshapen. The world now knows that such unfortunate are not possessed by demons, but that they are diseased, and they are accorded humane treatment.

The peace idea, too, is gradually, though slowly, gaining ground. Last year a dispute by nations was submitted, for the first time, to a permanent court of arbitration, and this is considered an epoch-making event in the history of international law. The court is the result of the meeting held in Washington, by representatives of the five Central American republics. The court sits at Cartago, Costa Rica, where Mr. Carnegie has promised to build a \$100,000 court house. It is competent to determine its own jurisdiction; it has authority to take cognizance of questions which individuals of one Central American country may raise against another, no matter whether their own governments support them or not; it is also authorized to take cognizance of questions between Central American governments and foreign governments. The decisions of the court are to be communicated to all five governments, which solemnly bound themselves by treaty to submit to its judgments and obey them.

This should forever do away with war in Central America. It should be the opening of a Millennium in that part of the world, and give a lesson to all other nations.

Religious truth is also penetrating the world. Ever since the establishment of the Church in this age, the principles of the Gospel have been a regenerating force in the world. It is useless to deny that fact. People have learnt to turn away from the awful pictures of hell of former ages and to turn to God as to a Father, and they are much better for it. They are learning the lessons of toleration, religious liberty, and human rights. The blood given by the Martyrs for the cause of freedom was not shed in vain. It is bearing fruit all over the world. People are beginning to study the Scriptures and ask whether the spiritual gifts are all withdrawn from earth. And behold a mighty movement is unfolding. Science and religion meet at last. "Groping blindly in the dark, they have touched hands across a closing chasm. Feeling for an unknown force, science says, 'Psychology' Re-

ligion murmurs, 'Prayer,' and both breathe God.' Together they have found what is announced as a law of health and healing. The Christ said, 'Ask and ye shall receive.' Only His church seemed to forget the greatest command of all that He gave it, 'The works that I do shall ye also do.' And the gift was lost. Today it is being revived. The message of prophets is being accepted, though the prophets were slain.

There is improvement in many respects. Bloodless revolutions testify to the general thirst for liberty and the growth of mankind from a condition of weakness and slavery. Nations are reaching out for one another across the seas in an effort to establish one grand brotherhood. But on the other hand, there are discouraging facts. Lynchings and crimes of violence seem to be on the increase. Disregard for the marriage covenant is becoming more and more general. Selfishness in business transactions is the rule. Disregard of law and authority has grown to alarming proportions.

But in spite of all, God rules. The education of mankind is in the hands of Providence whose plans are seen no less plainly in the pages of history than in nature, or the written Word. And those plans will be accomplished. Man will finally become worthy of companionship with holy beings in celestial glory.

Happy New Year!

The plot of grass doesn't thicken.

The real liberty of the press is "leave to print."

Guide lines are always of the progressive type.

Castro achieved notoriety but Gomez seeks fame.

In politics Ohio is the "dark and bloody ground."

Naturally the thread of many a discourse is twisted.

"Free thought" is very liable to be gloven thought.

It isn't the flower of the family who makes the bread.

What a racket the New Year made when it came in!

The Taft smile is seen in the "dry" state of Georgia.

The snake charmer who came to grief didn't charm wisely.

The early shopper got the pick but the late shopper got the reduction.

There seems to be a good deal of smoke about this firemen's fund matter.

When the cow hoids him the farmer feels that it is the wrong kind of an uplift.

If Hercules had to clean the Augean stables these days no doubt he would use a vacuum cleaner.

Why not turn Henry loose on Pittsburgh? It would be fresh fields and pastures new for him.

C. P. Taft and J. B. Foraker have the great satisfaction or knowing that they defeated each other.

Talk about free raw material. Just look at the statistics of the commissioner of immigration.

When the extraordinary session of Congress meets the "stand pat" may have to step lively.

Christmas having come and gone the keen edge is wearing off the politeness of some of the little boys.

A woman justice of the peace in Evanston, Ill., says Adam was a loafer, while Eve was a hustler.

Make your New Year resolutions good and strong; frame them; hang them over the parlor door and keep them there.

It was considerable of those New Yorkers who threw eggs at a taxicab to first fill them with carbolic acid, thus deodorizing them.

Historian Ferrero goes into raptures over the shoulders and arms of American women. "Arms and the shoulders I sing," he might say.

If the organ of the Pseudo-American party could only experience a change of heart! Then it would see that it is its own distorted vision that makes things look awry to it.

THE SKELETON OF INTEMPERANCE.

Reader, have you a skeleton in your house? If so, I sincerely sympathize with you. There are many homes where this grim, gaunt monster stalks through, stands with bloodshot eyes, that peer out hearts like spears of steel; with outstretched hands whose very touch is more horrifying than the fangs of the most poisonous serpent. This skeleton is with you, the first in the morning, shadows us through all the long day; hangs as a funeral pall over our homes, crushes the sunshine out from our hearts, blasts all our fond hopes—hopes that we have nursed in our hearts, with prayers for their consummation. We feel haunted. There is a something ever present, it is in the very air we breathe. There is a heaviness in the atmosphere that seems to bear us down. We feel overburdened; the light has gone out of our homes; darkness is over all; our home is haunted; there is a skeleton in the house! Spirits—spirits that intoxicate! Oh, the demon! The green-eyed monster! The vile serpent! The dreadful skeleton! It has ruined our home. It has broken a true wife's heart. It has stolen life's sweets. It has deprived our children. It has taken the necessities of life away from them. Tomorrow, happiness, peace and contentment, all are lost. The skeleton has driven them out. Spirits, intoxicating spirits—poverty, misery, want, starvation walk in its shadow. It is with feelings of sadness and an aching heart, that I see this skeleton entering your home. But, when it is our own; when those we hold so dearly dear to our hearts come feeling home the things piece like arrows, so fearful is the blow that we feel humbled, crushed,

O THE WATER.

San Francisco Bulletin.
But it is literally true that traveling by sea, as most people now travel, is actually less perilous not only than traveling on land, but even than dwelling on the land. It is only the very green voyager that has the feeling of going forth to face strange perils—such a feeling as Washington Irving describes in his essay on "The Voyage." The experienced traveler has a pleasant feeling of security when he steps aboard a great liner. He knows that he is free at last from the myriad dangers among which landmen dwell: from automobiles, and horses, and gas asphyxiation; from falling houses, and swarms of insects, and typhoid-breeding water. He knows that in the event of collision the water-tight compartments will be closed so that the ship cannot sink. He knows that if one propeller shaft breaks there is another or two to move the vessel. He knows that if the breaks out it can be confined to one compartment and flooded. He knows that should a boiler burst in his engine room the boiler doors would close automatically, so that the steam and heat could not invade the ship. He knows that hundreds of men, composing the crew, are on the alert by day and night to ward off danger. He knows that no wind that ever blew, no weight of water ever raised by a storm, can break the huge steel frame of the good ship. And he knows finally, that should the ship, in spite of all human calculations, fall into distress, the wireless telegraph will summon help from hundreds of miles in every direction.

"TRIAL MARRIAGES" IN RUSSIA.

Chicago Record-Herald.
It will be remembered that the first suggestion of temporary contract marriages, or marriages expressly limited to ten-year terms, came from that bold radical and disciple of "the comic spirit," George Meredith. Some of his admirers were shocked, while others regarded the idea as at least semi-murderous in conception and intended effect. But the writers of short stories saw "trial marriages" artistically speaking, in it, and two or three attempted to depict the misery, the injustice, the cruel misunderstandings that trial marriages of limited, renewable unions would entail. Later an American woman, an educator and student of sociology, in an elaborate text-book on the family, threw out the hint that in the future one solution for the evil of hasty, ill-considered unions and equally hasty divorces may be sought in trial marriages. That hint raised a veritable storm of criticism and censure. Now, curiously enough, it is at a national congress of Russian women, the first of the kind ever held in the czar's empire, that experimental marriages are seriously proposed and defended. Several delegates, it is reported by cable, argued that the union for life is often "immoral" and the cause of deceit, sin and unhappiness, and that experimental marriages should be tried in the interest of morality, the true home, the welfare of society.

JUST FOR FUN.

Too Literal.

"Well, yes," said Old Uncle Lazzarberry, who was intimately acquainted with most of the happenstances of the village, "Alma Stang has broken off her engagement with Charles Henry Tootwiler. They'd been going together for about eight years, during which time she had been incuticating into him, as you might call it, the beauties of economy; but when she discovered, some lately, that he had learnt his lesson so well that he had saved up two hundred and seventeen pair of socks for her to darn immediately after the wedding, she 'peared to conclude that he had taken her advice a little too literally, and broke off the match.'—Puck.

A Woman's Threat.

"Well, if that ain't the limit," mused the postman, as he came down the steps of a private residence.
"What's the trouble?" queried the passing citizen, who had overheard the postman's noisy thought.
"Why," explained the man in gray, "the woman in that house says if I don't come along earlier she'll get her letters from some other carrier."—Chicago News.

The Call of the Links.

A well known Scotch author and a young friend had spent the whole day on the links and had had some close and exciting matches.

As they left for home the elder man remarked: "Do ye think ye could play again tomorrow, lad?"

"Well," answered the youth, "I was to be married tomorrow, but I suppose I can put it off."—New York Herald.

Mortal Offense.

"I'm going to beat your block off!" "What for?"
"You offended my wife."
"But, my dear sir, I merely refused to elope with her as she wanted me to."
"I know it. And here's where you get trimmed."—Cleveland Leader.

Don't Blame the Man.

She—They've just been married, you know, and he kisses her every morning at the door when he is leaving.

He—Of course.

"I suppose he'll stop that as soon as the honeymoon's over."

"He'll have to. She won't go to the door with him after the honeymoon's over."—Yonkers Statesman.

"How does he raise the money for his explorations?"

"Why, he lectures about the Eskimos in New York and about the New Yorkers on the Greenland circuit."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Z. C. M. I. Great Sale Continues Saturday.

Enormous reductions on regular stock in our Suit and Cloak Department will be in evidence tomorrow.

All Furs (excepting natural mink and squirrel), all Children's Coats (except the new velvets), all Flannelette Short Kimonos and Dressing Sacques, All Dress Skirts (except voiles and stouts), a line of Ladies' Colored Coats, a line of Ladies' Black Coats, All Opera Cloaks, Percale and Fleece Wrappers, All Silk, Satin, Net and Lace Waists (except long sleeves), Cloth Dresses Half Price and Jumpers at 25% Off

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