

ing that divine message, that can see our children transgress the laws of God and wandering from the path of truth, and fold our arms and say, "Well, our children are responsible for themselves?" Where are your children tonight, brother? "Well, they have gone out on the street. We do not like to be too severe with our children. We do not like to encompass them around with too great a restriction, for fear they will rebel." How about your horses and cattle? How about your poultry? Do you lock your door when your chickens go to roost? "Oh, yes, we do that." Well, how about your children? There is not a man within the sound of my voice today who has entered the sacred precincts of God's holy temple and has received a wife for eternity that received her until he took upon himself the obligations that pertain to God's Holy Priesthood under the everlasting covenant. God has never given us a child to bless that union that He has not made us responsible for it being taught the laws of God and warned of the iniquities that will pollute it. We are required to watch over our children. They are given unto us as an heritage from the Lord. We should not be hypocrites; profess to believe with our lips and then let our lives be a living lie, giving evidence to our children that our actions do not bespeak that we believe in God. Actions are louder than words. We may preach to our children from early morning till late at night; we may preach to them from the time of their birth to the day of their death, and if we are dishonest in our practices, if we sneer at the proclamation of the Word of Wisdom, scoff at the man that will pay his tithing, ridicule the sacred walk and conversation of those who live in immediate communion with God, while we invite society meetings to our houses and indulge in every kind of extravagance, with the poor thronging our streets clamoring for the necessities of life—if we live in this way, our children are witnesses of our hypocrisy and deceit, and God's scourge is in His hand to whip us until we come to exhibit a sincerity and a justification that only the pure in heart can exhibit before the people of God and the children of the world. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

NEW YEAR IN CHINA.

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HE Chinese will celebrate New Year day this year with quite as much enthusiasm as they ever have in the past, notwithstanding their terrible punishment by the Japanese troops. The majority of the Chinese people, in fact, hardly know that a war has been going on, and nothing could make them give up their New Year celebration. It occurs later than ours, and comes on the edge of the

spring. It is, however, the great festival of the year, and it is a sort of a Fourth of July, Christmas, birthday and Sunday mixed up together. Every man, woman and child in the empire is a year older on New Year day, and all trot about and wish each other "many happy returns." It is the only Sunday that the Chinese have throughout the year. The working people labor from ten to twelve hours every day, and they put in thirty solid days every month. At New Year all lay off for a rest, and for about two weeks they do nothing but call, eat and amuse themselves. For ten days before the New Year the country goes wild in the preparation. The stores all have low prices and new goods, and the bargain counters are thronged quite as much as they are in America. Every one buys presents, and all who can, get a new suit of clothes for the occasion. Those who can't buy, borrow or rent, and the Chinese on New Year dress in satins, furs and silks. It is about the only day in the year when the whole Chinese people are comparatively clean. Every person is supposed to take a bath the day before, and this for the majority of the people is the only time they get bathed during the year.

A NATIONAL PAY DAY.

New Year is the national pay day. All accounts must be squared up at that time, and the man who can't raise enough to pay his debts has to go into bankruptcy. The laws are such that the creditors can enter the debtor's house and take what he pleases if there is no settlement, and families club together and make all sorts of compromises to keep up the business reputation of the clan. I was in China just after New Year this year, and I found lots of bankrupts. It is a great day for the pawnbrokers, and their shops are crowded with people who want to pay their debts and redeem their best clothes, in order to get them out of pawn before New Year. There are crowds who want to pawn other things, in order to get money to pay their debts, and the Chinese probably patronize the pawn shops at this time of the year more than any other people in the world. Pawnbrokers receive very high rates of interest, and they are protected by the government. Speaking of bankrupts, they are not permitted to begin business again until some settlement is made, and when I wanted to buy some pictures in Shanghai I was told that the artist who kept them was a bankrupt, and that he could not open until he got more money.

AN EMPIRE PAINTED RED.

The Chinese paint their whole country red, figuratively speaking on New Year, in more senses of the word than one. Red is the order then which denotes good luck and prosperity, and all the New Year cards and invitations are on paper of this color. Every child gets its New Year's present wrapped in red paper, and red inscriptions are pasted over the doors of the houses. These inscriptions bear characters praying for tortumes, wealth and happiness, and they are posted on each side of the outer doors of the houses. New pictures of Chinese generals are put on the front doors, and the houses are scoured and made clean. Among other things, eggs are dyed red, and are offered to the gods, and dinner parties

are gotten up in bright vermillion. The red used is that which you find around our firecrackers, and the Chinese spend more money on firecrackers on New Year than we do on the Fourth of July. The night before every one is firing of packs of crackers, and there are all sorts of fireworks, including birds and fishes, and scenes of all kind in fire. The firecrackers are used to scare off the evil spirits, and hardly any one goes to bed the last night of the old year. The Chinese say that the man who sits up the last night of the old sees the first sunrise of the New Year for ten years in succession will certainly have a long life, and there are sorts of New Year superstitions.

HOW THE BOYS TAKE IT.

The children of China all expect to get something on New Year, and they generally receive presents of money in the shape of copper cash, wrapped in red paper. On the last night of the year they run through the streets, shouting out good resolutions for the next. One says: "I want to sell my laziness," and another says, "I am ready to sell my folly, in order that I may be wiser next year." They go out with their fathers to make New Year calls, and, where families can afford it, they give their children new clothes in honor of the occasion. They carry lanterns through the streets, and have balloon-like fishes of paper, which are tied to sticks over their houses in honor of the occasion. All men who have had children during the year buy lanterns and hang them up in sign of rejoicing over their good luck. There are games of all sorts, and many of the boys come out with new kites. There is dancing in the streets, and there are jugglers and dime museum shows and all kinds of theatrical entertainments. The people have festivals and there are family reunions. The rivers are covered with oil paper, which is set on fire, and the harbors become flaming masses. Everywhere there are shrines, with burning joss sticks before them, and the people fairly go wild.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CALLS.

All people receive visitors on New Year day, and the relatives who call are taken into the ancestral hall, and they worship the ancestors of the family. After this the young people go in and pay homage to their parents and elder brothers, and then go to their schoolmasters and teachers. The emperor has a New Year reception in Peking, and it may be that the foreigners will be received this year, although they have not been in the past. The emperor sits on the dragon throne, and the princes and all the officers go in and get down on their knees and bump their heads on the ground before him. The day after New Year the officials all go to the temples to worship, and for about ten days afterward there are all sorts of New Year ceremonies. The second day is called ladies' day, and if the weather is good the women go out into the country to picnics. They dress in the brightest of silks, their faces are painted in honor of the occasion and their little feet are in costly shoes. They wear a great many clothes, and it is wadded cotton and not coal and wood that keeps China warm.

WINTER IN CHINA.

The winter is now at its worst in the Chinese empire, and the whole northern country is frozen up solid. This means