



OOD-BYE, old Year! We have loved thee well, Though thy skies were cold and gray.

Though oft we have sighed o'er pray'r denied,

Or dear ones taken away.

Thou hast brought us strength for the daily task,

Thou hast shown us gleams of light,

Thou hast brought us near some friends most dear,

And given us "songs in the night."

The hours of thy life are numbered now,

And we look with fond regard

On all the pleasure thy days have brought

And forgot what we found so hard;

It is ever so, when we reach the end;

And the pressure of work is o'er;

What we gather our sheaves and count our gains.

And remember our toll no more.

We know thou art bringing us gifts, New Year,

Of wealth, of pleasure, of rest,

And our hearts beat high as thou drawest sign,

For we hope and desire the best.

But, ah, of sorrow, of waiting, of loss,

Thou hast also a hidden store!

It strengthens us all to endure our cross,

Nor faint ere the strife is o'er!

And let us to-morrow with hope begin,

And fix our standard high,

Striving to conquer the weakness and sin

That nearest our souls do lie;

And with helpful work or with kindly thought

Let us lighten each others' care,

For Love can soften the hardest lot,

And lighten the gloom of Despair.

—Once a Week.

THE NEW YEAR.

Could we but glance the new year o'er,
Its hidden depths unveil,
Look on the blessings safe in store,
Whose mercies never fail;

Could we but see the happiness
The New Year seeks to give,
Our daily lives to cheer and bless,
How gladly would we live!

Could we behold the grief and care,
The weary, painful strife
Allotted as our rightful share
In each new year of life;

Could we anticipate the thorns
That in our pathway lie,

Before the smiling New Year dawns

How gladly would we die!

Yet, ignorant of all, we grope
With blind persistence, on;

Upheld by patient faith and hope,
Each daily task is won;

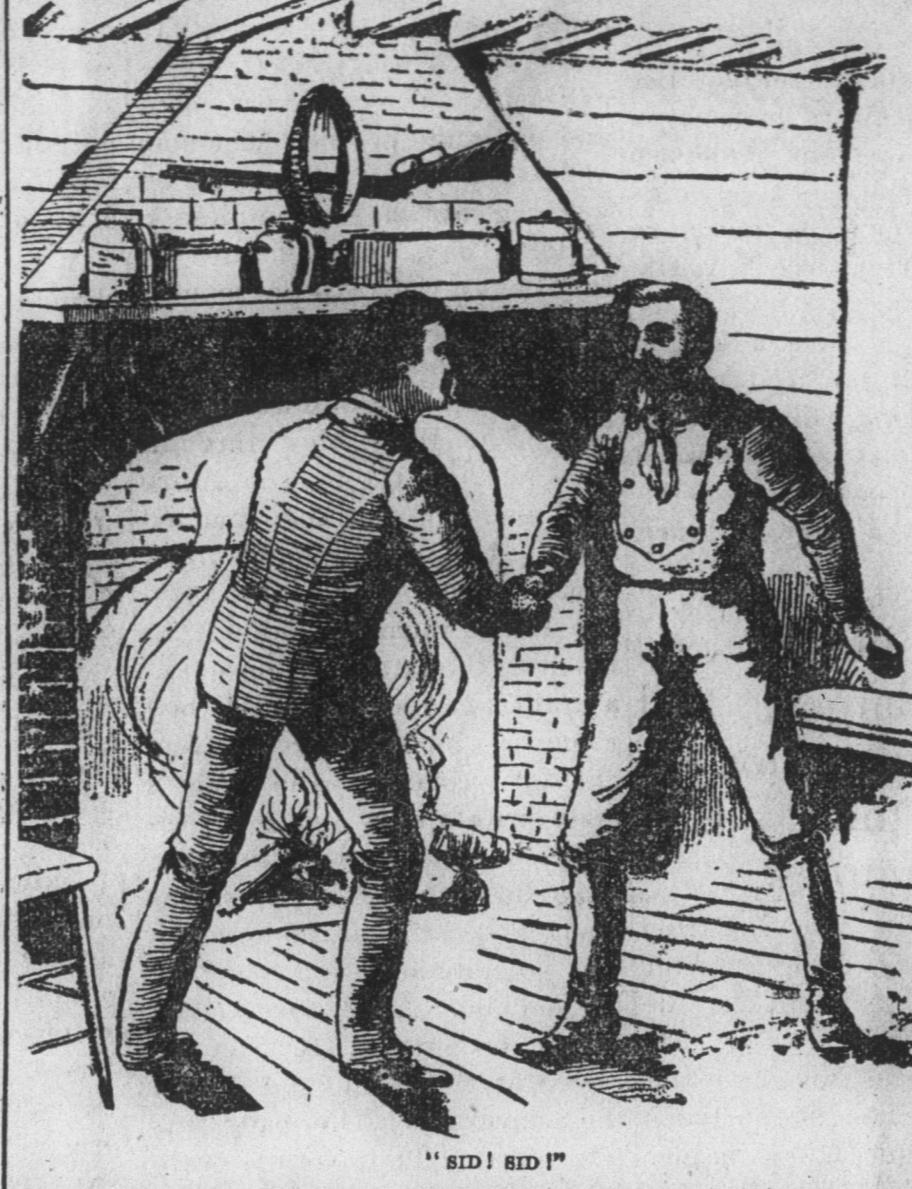
A new year's burden unconquered,

Our inmost hearts benumb,

But sorrows one by one revealed

Are conquered as they come.

—Lurana W. Sheldon, in N. Y. World.



"SID! SID!"

All went well until early in the afternoon, when we came to several miles of bad road, over which we were compelled to drive with the utmost care, despite our impatience. To add to the discomfort of the situation, it was becoming colder, and the wind, into the teeth of which we were driving, was blowing at a fearful rate. Both of us began to feel the cold keenly, and the prospect of darkness coming on soon, and finding us on a strange road, and, so far as we knew, twenty miles from anywhere, did not tend to enliven our spirits.

Mile after mile we urged the tired horses along, until it seemed as if they must drop from fatigue; colder and more fiercely blew the wind down the narrow, high-walled canyon, until I became so chilled that Mr. Brown had to take the reins.

Soon dusk began to gather. By this time I found I had frosted my face and hands severely, and was becoming numb all over. It required much urging from my companion to keep me from falling into that sleep which intensely cold superinduces, and which is always fatal. Finally Mr. Brown drew rein.

"These horses can't go another mile. We shall have to do something," he said. "We cannot keep on going."

He had hardly spoken when he added: "Oh! thank God! there's a light!"

I must have been pretty badly frozen; for, though Mr. Brown said afterwards he talked to me as we passed on to the house where he saw the light, I knew no more until several hours later I found myself on a bunk in a rude, one-room cabin, with Mr. Brown and another man, apparently the cabin's owner, standing over me.

"Good!" said the stranger. "I thought he wasn't too far gone to pull through all right." For which I was duly thankful, and so expressed myself.

Later in the evening, as Mr. Brown and our host sat by the fire, smoking silently, I lay idly watching them, and was suddenly struck with a certain similarity in their appearance. They were about the same size and build, had the same color of hair and eyes, and, though our host wore a thick beard, which Mr. Brown did not, I fancied I detected a certain facial resemblance. Both men, too, had a decided, positive way of speaking, and wasted no words.

Suddenly Mr. Brown drew out his watch and looked at it. "A quarter of twelve," he remarked, gravely—almost sadly, I thought. I noticed our host a quick, keen glance at the other's face. Then Mr. Brown continued, looking dreamily into the roaring flames in the big open fireplace: "I don't know why I should become confidential or communicative; it is not my way. But to-night, the eve of the New Year, is the saddest night of the year, for me; and there has never an old year died, in the last eleven, that has not found me longing for human companionship and sympathy. If I had neither I should go mad, I think."

He paused for a few moments, and seemed lost in painful thought. Then he continued:

"Twelve years ago to-night, I became a criminal and an undecided perjurer. No, you need not look incredulous; it is true. Shall I go on?"

"Sidi! Sidi!"

And there, in the little miner's cabin, out in the wilderness, with the storm howling outside, the New Year and I witnessed as glad a reunion as either of us ever saw.

R. L. KEWENUM.

in case we did not return them in good condition; and, in a half hour or so, we were on our way to H—, well bundled in robes and furs, and feeling quite cheerful over the prospect of reaching H— after all.

The first twelve or thirteen miles of our route was over a good road, and, as we glided along at a merry pace, I had opportunity to take note of my companion's appearance.

He was a tall, large man, well-built and quite handsome, though not extraordinarily so. What impressed me most was his manner. He had a firm, decided, rather slow way of speaking, and his eyes met mine honestly and fearlessly whenever I looked at him. His words carried conviction with them and his straightforward manner gave me the impression that my companion, who had registered as "H. A. Brown, New York," was a man of truth and honor who meant every word he said and on whom one could depend in an emergency. Beyond this and the fact that he was a stranger in that part of the country, I learned nothing. I found him well-informed, a gentleman, and an agreeable traveling companion, and that was sufficient.

"Yes," said the other man, and I thought he seemed oddly eager for the rest of the story, and deeply interested in it.

"Twelve years ago, there was, in a certain city in Ohio, one of the happiest families that ever lived. To-day they are scattered far and near, and I am the cause of it.

"My father and mother were both living then, and on Christmas and New Year's there was always a merry gathering of children and grandchildren at the old home. There were five children of us—three girls, all married, my younger brother, Sidney, and myself.

"That year we were all gathered as usual under the home roof for the last time, as it happened.

"I need not make a long story of it. On New Year's eve it was discovered that a certain sum of money that had been in the safe at my father's office was missing—money that had been left there for safe-keeping by a friend, who called for it late in the afternoon; father leaving the house and going down to the office with him to get it.

"That the money had been taken there was no doubt, and when my father learned that Sidney had locked

GIVES ANOTHER MILLION.

John D. Rockefeller Makes His Fourth Donation to the Chicago University—His Total Gifts Amount to \$3,600,000.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Following P. D. Armour's gift to the city of an institute of technology comes a Christmas present of \$1,000,000 for the University of Chicago from John D. Rockefeller. Monday the faculty received a letter from Mr. Rockefeller giving notice of his intention to present 1,000 5 per cent bonds of the total value of \$1,000,000, principal and interest payable in gold. The bonds are to be delivered to the university December 2, 1893. It is less than ten months since Mr. Rockefeller made a contribution of a like amount in almost the same manner. This addition to the funds is made for the further endowment of the work of instruction.

This is Mr. Rockefeller's fourth donation to the university. The first was for \$600,000, given in May, 1889, for the purpose of founding an institution of learning in Chicago. The second was \$1,000,000, given in September, 1890, to enlarge the scope of the institution. The third was \$1,000,000 in bonds given in February of the present year, for the further endowment of the university.

The present donation of \$1,000,000 makes a total of \$3,600,000 from Mr. Rockefeller alone.

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AFRAID OF FIREBUGS.

Milwaukee in a Panic Over the Large Number of Recent Big Fires—Belief That Incendiaries Are at Work—Two Tanneries and Big Street Car Barns Comprise the Latest Losses—Two Firemen Meet Death.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 28.—An incendiary fired one of the wooden additions of the tannery of the Becker Leather company on Commerce street at 8 a. m. Tuesday. The flames spread to the tannery of Conrad Brothers, adjoining, and that establishment was entirely destroyed. The main building of the Becker plant was saved. A pipeman named Thomas Sullivan was killed by a falling wall, and George Rickmann, of the fire patrol, was suffocated in the Conrad tannery. Julius Huebner, a fireman, had his back broken, and other firemen were slightly hurt. The loss by the fire will foot up \$25,000, of which \$100,000 is on the Becker tannery and \$125,000 on that of Conrad Brothers. The property was well insured.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 28.—The street car barns and electric plant of the Villard line were totally destroyed this morning between 1 and 2 o'clock. The loss will approximate \$300,000. Many horses and cars were burned.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 28.—There is a genuine firebug scare in this city, and what more there seems to be good grounds for alarm. Conservative citizens are now thoroughly alarmed and steps are being taken to guard against further loss by fire as much as possible. That incendiaries are at work in this city is no longer doubted by any one conversant with the circumstances surrounding many of the recent fires.

Another fact that is now attracting attention is that all the fires of mysterious origin have occurred when the weather was best suited to their spreading. On rainy days or when the weather was mild and no wind blowing there have been no fires, excepting those where the origin could be clearly traced. Another curious feature is that 50 per cent of these big fires have occurred in the Third ward.

So large have been the losses and so apparent has it become that incendiaries are at work that insurance men are becoming alarmed, and a number of outside companies have ordered their local agents to take no more insurance here, and in several cases have ordered them to cancel many of their risks. Property owners and business men are alarmed and a mass meeting will be called to consider the matter.

John P. McGregor, vice president of the Northwestern National Insurance company, said his company would at once reduce its risks in this city provided there were any more mysterious fires. Fifteen special agents, representing a large number of outside companies, arrived here Tuesday for the purpose of making an inquiry into the origin of the many fires. Others are expected.

At the meeting of the common council late Tuesday afternoon a resolution was passed requesting the municipal court to call a grand jury for the purpose of making an investigation into the causes of the many recent fires.

An extra force of watchmen has been engaged to watch the business district and nearly all the big down-town establishments have employees on guard in them. There is a very bitter feeling in the city, and threats of lynching the criminals, should they be discovered, are freely made by men who are usually temperate in their language.

FAMINE AND CHOLERA.

Russian Peasants Dying Like Flies from Hunger and Disease—Finlanders Starving.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Standard says that a British consul who has visited the famine districts of Kieff, Bessarabia, Khartoff, Khourss, Razan, Orel, Tula and Vorenesh, reports that the peasants are dying like flies from hunger and disease. There are no signs of relief from the horrors of the hard winter. In Sebastopol he learned from a trusty source that cholera is raging on the Circassian shores. Hundreds of deaths have been reported in the last fortnight. A dispatch from Paris to the Standard states that there are four cases of Asiatic cholera in Dunkirk.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 28.—The famine in north Finland is increasing, and there is a movement in Sweden to renew the subscriptions of last year for the aid of the starving Finanders. Many villages are snowbound and it is feared that whole communities have perished, as nothing has been heard from them for a number of days.

TRAIN LOST IN THE SNOW.

Train in Kansas Demoralized by the Severe Storm—Many Cattle Perish.

WICHITA, Kan., Dec. 28.—Snow fell again Monday night, and after a brief intermission resumed operations about 10 o'clock Tuesday. Railroad men say that traffic in Kansas is badly demoralized. Every train is pulled by two locomotives, and still many are so far behind time that they have been almost lost sight of. Monday night, for the first time in ten days, a train got over the Wichita & Western, but the road is again blocked, and Comanche and Clark counties are shut off from the world. Arrivals from Englewood report terrible losses among stock in that section, and on the ranges in No Man's Land thousands of cattle, they say, have died.

Official Vote of California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 28.—The vote of California cast at the general election was officially announced Tuesday by Secretary of State Waite. For presidential electors Thomas R. Baird received the largest vote cast for a republican candidate, 118,027, and was the only republican elected. Eight democratic electors are chosen, R. A. Long, with 118,174, receiving the highest vote. The full strength of the people's party in the state was 25,311, of the prohibitionists 8,096. The congressional delegation stands: Democrats, 4; republicans, 3.

The process of canning fruit by heating, steaming and sealing air tight, was in the habitants of the old city of Pompeii, as made evident by the discovery of several jars of figs in that buried city evidently prepared according to our present process.

The department of agriculture in South Australia is encouraging the growth of raisin grapes and has imported 40,000 cuttings for distribution among farmers.

VANDYKE married a lady for her money, and was disappointed on finding she had none.

WHEAT PROVED HIS DOWNFALL.
E. S. Corser, a Minneapolis Real Estate Dealer, Dabbles in Wheat and Is Forced to Assign—Liabilities of \$1,000,000.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 27.—A loss of \$250,000 in wheat during the last thirty days has led to the failure of E. S. Corser, which was announced Monday. His liabilities are stated at \$1,000,000. The failure created the most intense excitement of any that has occurred in this city for years. Corser is the head of the real estate firm of E. S. Corser & Co., one of the largest in the northwest, and Corser's failure will cause the suspension of the firm. It was wheat and not unfortunate real estate deals that caused Mr. Corser's suspension. The firm embraces besides Mr. Corser, Lester B. Elwood, Walter E. Badger and Austin B. Belknap. It is difficult to arrive at the true state of affairs until the matter is placed in the hands of a receiver and the liabilities and assets have been carefully figured up. It is thought from present prospects that Mr. Corser will be able to meet his obligations nearly in full.

The estate will show a fair valuation, the real estate assets amounting to nearly \$1,000,000. The assets will amount to about \$15,000 in excess of the liabilities. The amount received by the unsecured creditors will largely depend upon the management and successful handling of the estate by the assignee, the greater part of the property being real estate. The assignee has not been appointed yet, but will probably be selected this week, and it is likely the papers in formal assignment will not be issued until later in the week.

Mr. Corser was fifteen years ago president of the city council. He is at present president of the real estate board, and has just declined a renomination to that office. While not regarded as a wealthy man, Mr. Corser has been looked upon as one of the substantial men of the city, and it has always been considered that he was safe and conservative in his business policy.

Friends called on him to offer aid in tiding over the present difficulty, but he decided it was best to let matters take their own course and do the best he could under the circumstances. He has a large farm in the Red River valley and raises considerable grain, and in connection with his own product has gone extensively into wheat dealing.

Though Mr. Corser himself is confident that his assets will nearly or quite cover his indebtedness there are those of his creditors who are far from feeling so confident. Four of the local banks cover nearly \$100,000 of his paper at the present time, all of which is said to be unsecured. The Hennepin county savings bank has \$5,000 of this and the Nicollet and First national and Security banks about \$3,000 each. An official of one of the above banks offered to sell his paper for 25 cents on the dollar.

The immediate cause of Corser's failure is wheat speculation. It is