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NOW'S THE TIME

Don't be a gloomy pessimist
With future always dark;
No fire is ever kindled
Without there's first a spark.

Success is ne'er accomplished
When atmosphere is blue;
So let the light be ever bright
Which God has placed in you.

It doesn't pay to grieve or borrow
Troubles from the coming morrow;
Now's the time, now's the day,
To cut the ice or make the hay.

WHEN WE ARE WRONG

All of us make mistakes, but some of us never discover that we are in the wrong. If our intentions have been honest and our performance conscientious we do not like to admit, even to ourselves, that we have made a mistake and resent the charge if others say that we are wrong.

No person is always right. Human judgment is very imperfect and partial. We are sometimes wrong when we mean to be right; some times we are willful and obstinately wrong, and sometimes something has blinded our mental sight and distorted our views. But we should always be ready to listen to reasonable argument which may change our view, for blindness of mind is every bit as bad as hardness of heart, and a person who is commonly called "mulish" is the most disagreeable and disliked of all people who, while fancying that they are extremely good, go about setting in motion a great deal of evil. We should therefore strive to see ourselves not only as others see us, but as we really are.

When we are in the wrong and become aware of it what shall we do? If we are truly noble we will first endeavor to set right the wrong, and the best way to do this is to frankly confess that we were wrong, and request forgiveness if that wrong has injured any one. It is no shame to openly confess that we have been in the wrong, but failure to do this is both obstinate and willfully wrong. If we are wrong let us speedily make it right and without delay turn over a new leaf.

DEVELOPMENTS OF 1917

After three and one-half years of the most sanguinary fighting in history, the great nations of the world, together with many of the smaller ones, were still at death grips as the year 1917 closed, with less prospect of an early peace than was thought to exist a year ago.

The greatest development of the year was the entry of the United States of America into the conflict. The throwing of the tremendous resources and man-power of the American republic into the balance on the side of the allies, in the opinion of military experts, has more than offset the advantages gained by Germany and her allies during the past 12 months, and has made possible the continuance of the conflict until a time when a definite military decision can be obtained.

There have been a half dozen or more outstanding events in the past year. Some of these have been of purely military significance and others have been occurrences of a political nature which have had a far-reaching effect upon the titanic conflict.

Chief among the political upheavals of the year was the Russia revolution, which resulted in the overthrow of Czar Nicholas and culminated during the closing months of the year in a counter-revolution which practically eliminated Russia from the ranks of the nations opposed to the central powers. From a military standpoint, the chief events of the year have been the launching of the German ruthless submarine campaign, which was directly responsible for the entrance of the United States into the war; the British offensive on the west front, first in the Arras sector, later in Flanders, and still later on the 35-mile front between Arras and St. Quentin; the Italian offensive against Austria from Tolmino to the Adriatic, and the subsequent offensive of the Germans and Austrians against Italy, which resulted in the overrunning of Northern Italy by the Teutonic allies.

The entry of China, Cuba, Brazil, Siam and other countries into the war on the side of the entente allies, the overthrow of King Constantine of Greece on the demand of France and her allies, and other events important in themselves, were overshadowed by the greater developments of the year.