

MINNIE. 10 cents; candies, 15 cents; dinner, etc., \$1.00.

A Cheery Hourly for New-Year's Day.

BY CALLED DUCK.

The Old Year goes; the New Year comes— All hail its first-born day! While horns blare and drums thrum...

THE OLD POCKET-BOOK.

A New Year's Story.

It was New Year's Eve. Every store was open, from the grand palaces to the narrow stalls where pennies were treasures.

sent in a supply of groceries that seemed inexhaustible. They took wagon brought a pair of warm blankets, rolls of cotton and flannel, shawls and a great square of thick, warm carpet.

Mattie, comforted and cheered by this sudden influx of plenty, rallied little by little, gaining strength in the well warmed room, with good food and an ease of mind long a stranger to her.

No body knew the story of the old pocket-book, and Mattie did not guess who sent her such noble New Year's gifts; but the rich merchant finds no happier thought in his record of the year than the generous act that opened it, and the memory of Mattie's happy face and voice as he last saw them in the dark entry of her dwelling-house.

Distributing Christmas Presents. The Christmas tree and the time-honored stocking are the common and generally satisfactory methods of distributing Christmas presents, and so often have they been celebrated in song and story that they have become a foremost place so long as rhymes stand for reasons and tradition exercises its influence over the imagination.

Christmas trees for the children, the first of which deals in stockings and comforts, and the latter in cheap dolls and boxes of candy, varied by books and oranges, which last must be considered the most sensible. But though you can hardly improve upon the idea of the Christmas tree for persons in whose hard lives few poetical associations find a place, yet, socially, we sometimes want a method to vary the monotony and ease the monotony.

Another way is to have a ship arrive and unload its cargo, among which is a package for every body present. Christmas suppers sometimes close with the introduction of a huge bean pie, which the host anatomizes for not making its appearance before, and laboriously cutting into it discovers paper parcels instead of a savory pie.

An amusing method is to have them come in the form of spiritual "manifestations." A curtain is drawn across one end of the room, the company sit around a circle of chairs, and a young man with a number, and ask the spirits for them with some manifestations. Mounted on steps inside the curtain the distributor throws one parcel after another over the top of the curtain.

Wood Books. In the museum at Hesse-Cassel, Germany, is a library made from five hundred European trees. The back of each volume is formed of the bark of a tree, the sides of perfect wood, the top of the book is a thin slice of wood.

Wooden Railroads. The following description of a wooden railroad now in use in Bay County, Mich., will be interesting to those residing in sections rich in hard wood, but where the dearth of iron or the thinness of population prevent the use of metal rails.

There are, first, logs laid crosswise, about five or six feet apart. The logs are from twelve to sixteen feet in length. Then the rails are laid on these logs, and the ties are laid on the rails.

Among the Burmese the marriage knot is very easily undone. If two persons are tired of each other's society, they dissolve their partnership in the following simple and rapid manner: They take two lighted candles, and shut up their hut, sit down and wait until they are burned.

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