

Hard To Figure
I know not why I always think a new year will be fine, and feel it will not put a kink in glowing plans of mine; or why a year seems on the blink when 'tis in its decline. "I've muddled things this year," I say, when I regard the past; "I've let my kopecks fly away like leaves upon the blast, but doubtless after New Year's Day improvement will be vast. The new year brings a change of luck to every human freak; my bank account the old year struck, and made my coffers leak, but now I'll save a silver buck, and maybe two, each week." The new year has a magic touch, or so, methinks, it seems; she is a vampire and as such she brings us hophead dreams, and ere she dies we get in Dutch, with all our burnished schemes. I know I simply can't be wise, my deeds are all mistakes, I travel with the bonehead guys whose high resolves are fakes; how then shall I to wisdom rise because a new year breaks? In folly I've grown old and gray, and in my Moated Grange 1 count great that I exelaim on New Year's Day, "Now things will take a change!"


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"Friends, the taxes are indeed very heavy, and if those laid on by the government were the only ones we had to pay we might more easily dis-
charge them; but we have many others, and much charge them; but we have many others, and much more grievous to some of us. We are taxed
twice as much by our idleness, three times as twice as much by our idleness, three times as
much by our pride, and four times as much by our folly; and from these taxes the commissioners cannot ease or deliver us by allowing an abate-ment."-Benjamin Franklin.

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