THE GOOD NEW TIMES.

THOUGH the "old folks" talk of the good old times,
When land was plenty and cares were so few;
Yet the "young folks" listen with doubtful smiles,
Convinced they were not as good as the new.

Those were gay sleigh rides, grandpapa, I know;
While lassie ne'er danced lithe as dear "grandma'r;"
But some things could be said 'bout a modern beau,
And a cozy jaunt in a palace car.

Those were wonderful loaves dear "grandma'r" made,
And she broidered your socks with a wondrous darn;
Yet she wondered sometimes, I'm sure, if it paid,
(Would have left had she dared for a promenade
And enjoyed to have spun a little street yarn).

No doubt her papa, great-granpa, you know,
Really frowned when she purchased her wedding dress,
And sighed as he wished for the "good old times,"
When bonnets were cheaper and dresses took less.

While his great-grandpa, I've heard it said,
Wouldn't spare the wool for his daughter to weave;
But sighed for the fashions of Paradise,
And longed for the fig leaves of Mother Eve.

Soon forgotten is pain, when pleasures are o'er,
"Distance enchants us," the poet was right;
Who wanders his memory back to deplore,
The collar too high or the boots all too tight?

The maiden who lingers o'er past hours of bliss,
Forgets as she day-dreams of heroes and rings,
How her hair wouldn't crimp and her gloves wouldn't fit;
For "deeply depraved are inanimate things."

There are bountiful times in these good new days;
There are lives as beautiful, pure and true,
As any who moved to the simpler ways;
And it may be a trifle better, too;—

Since God with infinite, loving design,
Is raising the nations nearer to Him:
And the steady sweep of the centuries,
Ever chants a progressive, happier hymn.

Then a glad New Year, this my earnest wish,
I send in hopeful, jubilant tone;
That the coming year, rich-freighted with love,
May prove the best that you ever have known.
—Exchange.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Lilla's Xmas Presents.

LILLA SPRAGUE seemed to blow in at the door with a gust of wind and a drift of snow. Then, having kicked a pair of snow encrusted overshoes into a corner of the hall, Miss Lilla ran upstairs in a hurry.

"See here, mother," said Lilla, "it's all over now."

"What, dear?" Mrs. Sprague asked, looking up absently from a letter she was writing.

"It's all over—I say, it's all over between Randolph—oh, what a foo—foo—fool I've been!" And she flung herself, sobbing, on a big horsehair sofa.

"But why, Lilla?"

"Don't ask me like that, mother. Don't! I've told you before. And this—this is the sec—sec—second time. Oh!" More sobs.

"I don't understand you, daughter," said her mother, leaving her batch of Christmas correspondence and going to carry comfort to the tragic figure on the horsehair sofa.

"He's run away again!" Lilla roared.

"Done what, dear?"

"The same as he did before."

"What did he do before?"

"Mother, I told you, day before yesterday—ran away from me. He thought I didn't see him."

"Mr. Watts ran away from you?"

"Yes, mother, and I'll never speak to him again. Day before yesterday he at least had the politeness to bow. This time he just turned and went down a side street. He was with that frump of a cousin. I just hate her, and him, and the whole lot."

"Don't be foolish, child. Mr. Watts will be here to explain it all. You'll see."

In answer to this Lilla only rose from the sofa, grimly took off her wraps and hat, muttering: "Yes, I'll see," and disappeared through a door that led to her own room.

Mrs. Sprague did not follow her daughter with any further attempts at consolation, neither did she guess what Lilla was going to do, and that was to write a note:

Dear Sir—In case you may wish to make any explanation of your very strange conduct on two occasions this week, I wish you would spare yourself the trouble of doing any such thing, either personally or in writing. Your ring shall be returned by mail, registered.
"LILLA SPRAGUE."

That little projectile which Lilla fired at her fiance very nearly ended the life of Randolph Watts; at least, so Watts said. He could not think, or he might have seen an easy way out of the horrible maze into which he had got himself. His transgression stared him in the face. He had run away from Lilla—twice—and had even congratulated himself on his escape from her and chuckled over it secretly. How was he to convince her that his evasion was not an evidence of disloyalty to her?

It was only three days before Christmas and Watts had promised himself that, whatever future Christmas might have in store for him, that Christmas should be the happiest he had known so far at least.

That night he lay awake until he was exhausted. Next morning he got up and went to his business mechanically.

The first ray of comfort came with his cousin, Mrs. Sucher—the same whom Lilla had spoken of as a "frump."

"Why, Randolph," said Mrs. Sucher,

"IT IS ALL OVER NOW," SAID LILLA.

as she entered the office, "what is the matter with you? Have you been ill?"

"She saw me," was all Randolph could say.

"Yes. I came to speak to you again about it. I forgot——"

"Oh, it's no use now, Cousin Mattie. She will not 'receive me or my letters'—never."

"Pooh! Did she tell you so?"

"She wrote to me—I mustn't go there."

"Look here, Randolph," said the common sense matron, "this is all nonsense. If Lilla Sprague won't receive me, she must be a ninny——"

"Don't say that!"

"I will say that. But anyhow, her mother will see me. I am going now to call on Mrs. Sprague. And now, look here, about this bracelet."

"Shall we go on with that?" said Watts, with a faint smile.

"Of course we shall, stupid. Higgins says he has tried to set the watch with the face in, as you wanted it, and he can't make any better job of it than Moore could. Now I think I'd better go and take it back to Moore's and tell them to set it with the face out, don't you?"

"Very well," said Watts, with almost childish resignation.

"And then the miniature can go inside with the original crystal over it, eh?"

"Very well."

"And then I'm going straight to Mrs. Sprague's."

"Are you?"

First to Higgins' Mrs. Sucher went, where she took possession of a remarkably pretty and uncommon gold bracelet, a tiny old-fashioned watch and the miniature. Then to Moore's, where she left the bracelet, the watch and the miniature. Then to Mrs. Sprague's.

As Mrs. Sucher entered Mrs. Sprague's private and individual sitting room she heard a whisk and rustle of skirts and a door closed behind a rapidly retreating figure.

"Lilla not well?" said Mrs. Sucher, with an incredulous laugh. "Too bad. These Christmas preparations are unde-

OH, IT'S NO USE NOW, COUSIN MATTIE."

niably fatiguing. I have spent three weeks, my dear Mrs. Sprague, running about town in search of the right present for the right people."

"You must have laid yourself out to be generous," said Mrs. Sprague.

"I am generous. I give my time and labor to help other people give presents. That brings me to the object of this visit. Can you keep a secret?"

"Yes," said Mrs. Sprague, "and I am burning with curiosity. So make haste and tell me."

"Oh, then you know?"

"You were with Randolph Watts when he ran away from Lilla yesterday. How was it?"

"You promise not to tell her?—to keep it for three days? Very well. You see, he wants to give her a bracelet he had made for her, with a very pretty motto on it in enamel. Then he wants to give her a beautiful little watch that belonged to his poor mother, and he has had a little miniature of his mother made to fit in behind the watch. First he took the watch to Moore's. That was the day he ran up against Lilla, when he had the whole package in his hand, and was afraid she would ask him, and ran. Yesterday, just as he was taking me to hold a consultation on that wonderful bracelet, we saw Lilla coming along. I said to him: 'Randolph, if she meets us she'll want to walk along with us, and then the whole plot is ruined. Let's turn down here before she sees us.' But it seems she saw us after all."

On Christmas morning, in spite of many earnest assurances from her mother that that morning would bring a clearing-up if all her trouble, Lilla was as terribly cross and out of tune with the chimes as she had been for four days past. Moreover, she awoke with a headache.

She found a stocking tied to the head of her bed, as she had expected, and took the stocking down and opened it mechanically. Then she found the bracelet with a scrap of paper in which, in her mother's writing, were the words, "Press the spring and look inside, behind the watch." And when she looked a lovely, loving face looked back at her—a face that was very like Randolph Watts' own.

And at the bottom of the stocking—away at the very toe—was another paper which said, "The bracelet ought to tell you why I ran away. R. W."

Then she laid her head and bracelet on her pillow, and wet both bracelet and pillow with tears until her headache was all gone.

A Happy New Year.

Delight and pathos are inextricably mingled with the thought of New Year's day, says the Boston Watchman. It is only a conventional point of time; any other would do as well. Every day closes an old year and begins a new one, but for all that we cannot help feeling that this day, which is agreed upon throughout Christendom for the beginning of a new year, is somewhat unique. The pathos comes from the review of the past, and from the sense that another notch has been cut for us on the stick of time. The delight arises from the anticipation of the new and better experiences of the year to come. What interest any rational person could have in having his fortune told is a mystery. The zest and charm of life consist largely in the fact that each day is like a new page in the story. If you wish to enjoy your book you do not, when it is half read, turn to the closing chapter to discover how it turns out. You do not thank anyone for telling you the plot. It is so with life. There is infinite satisfaction in each day's contribution to the record. You do not want to anticipate it. It would be a curse if anyone could tell you just what the year would bring. It is just as reasonable to suppose that the year will be happy as sad. Who can tell? Who can control that? Are we not in the hands of God? That is the reason for a happy New Year's day.

CHRISTMAS AND THE CHILDREN.

THE little folks are talkin'—they talk like anything
'Bout Santy Claus a-comin', an' what he's goin' to bring;
An' the mother never scolds 'em or tells 'em 'bout the noise;
They're just the sweetest little girls—the best of little boys!

Because they know that Santy Claus knows everything they do,
An' while he's loading up his sleigh he's watchin' of 'em, too!
An' them that minds their mothers, they gets the most of toys—
They're just the sweetest little girls—the best of little boys!

They've just been writin' letters to Santy Claus each day
An' tellin' him just what they want an' showin' him the way
To where the house is, so he'll know just where to leave the toys,
Fer just the sweetest little girls—the best of little boys!

They're gittin' mighty anxious for the days an' nights to go,
An' all of 'em are happy an' they make their mothers so!
She never has to scold 'em or tell 'em 'bout the noise,
'Cause they're just the sweetest little girls—the best of little boys.
—Atlanta Constitution.

Best of All Gifts.

The best of all gifts at the present time is yourself. Make yourself in some way more pleasant and helpful to others. You may have been neglectful of them; be mindful henceforth. You may be quick in temper and have spoken hastily; put on restraint and speak kindly now. Restrain all evil habits and make yourself a joy and a help to others. They will bless you.

A CHRISTMAS WISH

If I wuz Santa, and Santa wuz me,
D'you know what I would do?
I'd load with presents the Christmas tree
And have 'em all marked "For Willie B.,
With p'raps for Charlie a few.

P. S.—I'm Willie B.

First of All.

If Santa Claus would ask the horse,
Who has to pull the loads,
The gift he'd like for Christmas
He would shout, "Good Roads!"

It is better to give a Christmas box than to receive one from a pugilist.

NO HESITANCY IN TRADE.

Usual Shrinkage at End of the Yea. Not Apparent.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The approach of a new year usually brings so much of hesitancy in business that the small shrinkage this year is surprising. Probably never before have the productive forces of the country been so largely covered by contracts at this date, inducing employment and profit far into the coming year. This results not from any mere speculative excitement, but from actual demands for consumption running far beyond the producing capacity hereafter, and pushing it to remarkable expansion. The increase in foreign trade has been significant, compared with the increase of $24,000,000 in payments through clearing-houses. For the week the payments have been 20.3 per cent larger than last year, and 38.1 per cent larger than in 1892.

Demand for cars and other railway equipment is enormous, and also for shipping, both lake and ocean. Tin is weak at 27¾c, and copper declined to 16¾c, but lead and spelter are stronger.

Wool has advanced further, with much speculative buying, though most manufacturers have supplied wants for the present, and are less disposed to purchase at prices now averaging higher than at any time since June 15, 1891.

Wheat has been 3c, and corn a fraction, with a decline in Western receipts of both. Atlantic exports of wheat this week, flour included, were only 3,359,667 bushels, against 5,636,767 last year, and Pacific exports 886,172 bushels, against 556,523 bushels last year.

Failures for the week have been 221 in the United States, against 248 last year, and 33 in Canada, against 22 last year.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, $1.00@1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, $16@20.
Beets, per sack, 75@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 75@90c per 100 pounds.
Peaches, 65@80c.
Apples, $1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, $1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Watermelons, $1.50.
Nutmegs, 50@75c.
Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 22c per pound.
Eggs—Firm, 30@31c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—9@10c; dressed, 11@13c.
Hay—Puget Sound timothy, $12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, $17.00@18.00
Corn—Whole, $23.00; cracked, $23; feed meal, $23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, $21; whole, $22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, $3.35; blended straights, $3.10; California, $3.25; buckwheat flour, $6.00; graham, per barrel, $3.80; whole wheat flour, $3.10; rye flour, $3.80@4.00.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, $16.00; shorts, per ton $17.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, $20.50 per ton; middlings, per ton, $22; oil cake meal, per ton, $35.00.

Portland Market.

Wheat — Walla Walla, 50@51c; Valley, 51c; Bluestem, 52c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, $3.00; graham, $2.50; superfine, $2.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 35c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, $16@16.50; brewing, $18.00@19.00 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, $17 per ton; middlings, $22; shorts, $18; chop, $16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, $9@11; clover, $7@8; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 37½@40c; store, 25@35c.
Eggs—18½@21c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3.00@3.50 per dozen; hens, $4.50; springs, $2.00@3.50; geese, $7.00@8.50 for old; $4.50@6.50 for young; ducks, $4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 14@15c per pound.
Potatoes—50@60c per sack; sweets, 2@2¼c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, $1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, $1; beans, 5@6c per pound; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 3@4c per pound; tomatoes, 75c per box; green corn, 12½@15c per dozen.
Hops—8@11c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, $5.00; light and feeders, $4.50; dressed, $5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, $3.50@4.00; cows, $3@3.50; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 8@8½c per pound.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Nevada, 12@15c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12@16c; Valley, 18@20c; Northern, 10@12c.
Hops—1899 crop, 11@12c per pound.
Onions—Yellow, 75@85c per sack.
Butter—Fancy creamery 24@25c; do seconds, 22@24c; fancy dairy, 21@22c; do seconds, 19@20c per pound.
Eggs—Store, 25@27c; fancy ranch, 36c.
Millstuffs — Middlings, $17.00@20.00; bran, $14@15.00.
Hay—Wheat $7.00@10; wheat and oat $7.50@9.50; best barley $5.00@7.50; alfalfa, $6.00@7.50 per ton; straw, 35@45c per bale.
Potatoes—Early Rose, 40@50c; Oregon Burbanks, 60c@1.00; river Burbanks, 45@65c; Salinas Burbanks, $1.00@1.25 per sack.
Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, $2.75@3.25; Mexican limes, $4.00@5.00; California lemons 75c@$1.50; do choice $1.75@2.00 per box.
Tropical Fruits—Bananas, $1.50@2.50 per bunch; pineapples, nominal; Persian dates, 6@6½c per pound.

The Marriageable Age.

A spinster who is still living in hope says the marriageable age is anywhere between the seminary and the cemetery.—Chicago Daily News.

The Typewriter Invention.

A statistician has proven that the invention of the typewriter has given employment to 500,000 people, but he fails to state how many cases of weak stomachs it has induced. All people of sedentary occupation need Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It helps nature to bear the strain which ensues from confinement.

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His Misfortune.

Teacher—Try to remember this: Milton, the poet, was blind. Do you think you can remember it?

Bobby Smart—Yes, ma'am.

"Now, what was Milton's great misfortune?"

"He was a poet."—Columbus (O.) State Journal.

"A Miss is As Good as a Mile."
If you are not entirely well, you are ill. Illness does not mean death's door. It is a sense of weariness, a "tired feeling" a life filled with nameless pains and suffering. In 90% of cases the blood is to blame. Hood's Sarsaparilla is Nature's corrective for disorders of the blood. Remember
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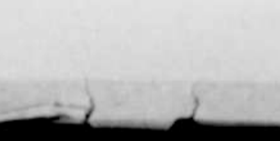

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