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Wishes the People of Vernonia and Vicinity  
**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

Welcome Strangers, Vernonia Greet You, Glad to Meet You

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**N**EVER a thing to make you mad,  
Never a trouble to make you sad,  
Never a pain to hurt or kill,  
Never the need of a dollar bill,  
Never a worry or never a fear—  
All through the days a happy year.

KATHERINE EDELMAN

*The*  
**New Year**  
*by Anna Deming Gray*

**J**ANUARY 1 was not always New Year's Day, and even now in Greece and Russia it does not arrive until twelve days after the new year has started.

It took longer to agree upon a common day to celebrate New Year's than it did to select a common Christmas.

It was late in the Sixteenth century before January 1 was accepted universally. The more ancient nations had always had a preference for this date, and Egypt, China and Rome celebrated the day with public rejoicing.

In Russia the day was made sacred to Janus and was a time of special sacrifice and prayer at his shrine. He is pictured as a god with two faces, one looking backward and one forward—one youthful and one very old—the Old and the New Year. In Derbyshire an old custom still prevails. At just twelve o'clock the doors are flung wide open and the New Year is ushered in with shouts of welcome.

There are places in England, also, where the Old Year is still swept out, according to an old custom. Men and boys with blackened faces and dressed to look like chimney sweeps, go through the streets with brooms, sweeping.

The practice of burning the Old Year out with huge bonfires still prevails in some places, while in many



districts it is rung out by muffled bells, and just at midnight the bells are un-muffled and the New Year is rung in with joyous peals.

But in no other country is the celebration of New Year's made so important a festival as in Japan. The streets and byways of Tokyo, as well as other cities, look like a vast playground. At a certain time in the day the emperor receives the princes and the princesses of the blood. At another hour all royalty and cabinet members and their wives. The scene is marked with great ceremony.

But all over the city the young people are having quite as good a time as royalty; a festival of pleasure is being held. Sometimes the faces are stung with paint or in scarlet crepe, white silk and brilliant gold fit through all the streets. Very little religious ceremony is observed New Year's day, but upon the third of January the day is given over to worship in the palace, and upon the fourth of January the emperor opens the council chamber and state affairs are begun for the year.

**ARRIVAL OF THE NEW YEAR**

**B**Y MARY GRAHAM BONNER

**B**EFORE the midnight service which would usher in the New Year there was an organ recital.

The church was very quiet, everything was very still. Only the beautiful chords of the organ sounded. A glorious, lighted star hung down, and the Christmas greens were still wound around the pillars and the pulpit and the Bible reading desk.

Sometimes the notes of the organ were deep and low, again they were high, clear, thrilling.

And to every person came new ambitions, new resolves. As they all joined in the opening hymn of the New Year midnight service they all felt better.

The beauty of the organ's music had touched the soul of each.

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**A GOOD RESOLUTION**

**I**T WAS New Year's Eve and Uncle Ben—everybody called him Uncle Ben—said he didn't think he'd make a resolution, and then he'd have none to break.

"Well," said Mrs. Smith, his neighbor, who had brought him a loaf of bread, "if I were you I'd make a resolution to marry before another year. I'm going to quit sewing your buttons, so you'd better think about it."

Uncle Ben did think about it, and mused to himself: "Well, if I had resolved long ago to get married, I'd be married. Other folks keep their resolutions. By Jolly! I'm going to resolve to marry before a year and I won't break my resolution, either."

New Year's day Uncle Ben put on his best bib and tucker and started to church. As he turned the corner he met Widow Bender.

"Well, Uncle Ben, Happy New Year," said she.

"Thank you, Mrs. Bender, and Happy New Year to you. Mine will be a happy New Year, for I'm going to be married."

"Oh, fine!" said the widow, with a look of disappointment. "My New Year resolution is to get married, if I can."

"Well," said Uncle Ben, "that is a provision in my resolution—if I can."

They looked at each other, kitten-like, talked a short time and went on to church.

Every one was surprised to witness a wedding that morning.

When they were congratulating Uncle Ben he said: "Well, a resolution is a fine thing if you make a good one and stick to it."

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**New Year Eve**

Prosperity begins to shine;  
The business outlook's bright;  
For everywhere I want to dine  
They boost the price tonight.

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**A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
and  
**MAY HEALTH AND PROSPERITY BE WITH YOU**

**Silver Fox Pharmacy**

VERNONIA, OREGON

On corner across from Bank of Vernonia

**CHRISTMAS A YEAR AWAY**

Christmas was a glorious occasion in Vernonia. Many family trees brought cheer to the homes and gift presentations were many; in some cases quite elaborate. The churches had special Christmas services and a tree and splendid program was well attended at both the Christian and Evangelical. Community house parties were numerous and the turkey was the bird supreme. On Christmas night the theatre was crowded, as was the Christmas dance. The charitable inclined citizens seen to it that no one was needy, and the Vernonia Community chest yielded about \$40 that was well distributed.

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