

Year's Day GAMES In Faroff China

of Festivals In the Celestial Empire, a Happy Time For Pigtailed Creditors.

Of all Chinese festivals that of New Year's day is the greatest. Being a peculiarly contradictory race, the Chinese do not observe time by the sun, as we do in this country, but by the moon, so that the Chinese New Year's day may come at any time between the middle of January and the middle of February. As the time approaches, creditors stand on their toes, for by the last day of the year all debts must be paid. The debtor, who cannot pay up must beg for his head until the festival is over. The usual preparation is a general washing up. Household belongings and personal affairs are put through a severe course of soap and water in order that the new year may be begun with clean hands.

When the night of New Year's eve approaches, the sound of the string of crackers begins and is kept up with an incessant din until dawn. The first business in the new year is the sacrifice to heaven and earth. A table is spread with offerings of food and drink, candles and incense, and crackers are let off again just outside the front door. Then the father of the family comes forward and kneels down in front of the table, holding a stick of incense in his hand and knocking his head three times on the ground. Rising to his feet, he places the incense in the center of the table. More crackers are let off, and paper money is burned.

After this ceremony the household gods are worshipped in the same way, and then the ancestral tablets, after which the "living idols" have their turn. The father and mother sit down side by side, and all their children and grandchildren kneel before them and do them reverence, but offerings are not made to the living, as they are to the dead. Then the servants come forward, dressed in their best, and kneel down, bowing their heads to the ground before their master and mistress, receiving presents when they rise.

Long before all these ceremonies are finished it is quite light, but in the early hours of New Year's morning the streets look as deserted as if no one



"KUNG HEI, KUNG HEI!"

was living in the city. The shops are all shut, and the busiest streets are as quiet as if it was an ideal Sabbath of rest.

But the quiet does not last long. Occasional crackers are let off, and strings of beggars soon appear on every hand. They are far more generous than usual and more importunate. They know they will reap a rich harvest on this happy day, for it is lucky to begin the year with good deeds, and it is not long before the streets are filled with a well-dressed multitude starting out to pay New Year's calls.

Custom requires that all the men in China shall call on their relations, teachers and friends, and for three days the visiting goes on. Women are not expected to pay New Year's calls or to see the visitors who come to their houses. As these are men, of course that would be highly improper.

When friends meet in the street for the first time in the new year they stand and bow very politely; they put their hands together and shake them, saying, "Kung shi, kung shi," which means "I respectfully wish you joy," and they often add, "May you grow rich," for that is the Chinese idea of happiness.

For three days the New Year's rejoicing goes on, and then all the poorer classes begin to work again. Large shops and places of business are closed for a month.—Brooklyn Citizen.

Deer of New Year's Calls.
Not many years ago it was the custom in all countries to visit one's friends on New Year's day, and in this country open houses were kept all day after of some ten or fifteen years ago. It is questionable whether it is fashionable to set one's house on fire again.

The Old Year And the New

THE clocks were on the stroke of twelve.
The moon was bright and high:
A footstep broke the frozen crust,
A shadow passed me by,
I saw a veteran, lame and old,
Whose march was almost done.
The lattered knapsack on his back
Was empty, like his gun.

The silver chains began to ring,
I heard a eagle blow,
A dashing soldier, young and fair,
Came riding o'er the snow.



THE BIRTH OF "YAPS" HE BLEW.

The frost was on his cloak of blue
And on his yellow plume,
And on his sword he bore a rose—
A red, and rose—in bloom.

He labored when the aged man
Had fallen in the snow,
And icy winds had made for him
A bed of white repose.
He set the legs to his lips,
The notes of "yaps" he blew,
And then I knew that I beheld
The old year and the new.
—Miss Irving in Leslie's Weekly.

Queer French Canadian Customs.

A French Canadian New Year's custom now nearly obsolete was that known as La Quete de l'Enfant Jesus—the collection for the infant Jesus. This collection was managed by the parish priest, who was driven round among his parishioners by the senior churchwarden or the beadle. The gifts that he thus gathered "for the love of the infant Jesus" on the festival of the circumcision were distributed among the poor. Intimately connected with this was another practice of collecting alms for the poor, known as La Guignolee or La Ignotee. The words signify both a custom and a song. On the eve of the new year bands of youthful masqueraders serenaded the various residents of the locality after nightfall with music and song, knocking at doors and windows and begging for offerings for the poor, generally ostentatious, with threats of revenge if gifts were refused. A piece of pork with the tail adhering, called La Chignee, was the traditional offering expected.

A Gala Day In France.

New Year's, not Christmas, is the French day of days. Cards, flowers and bouquets are exchanged in profusion, and visits are made. In the dining room on New Year's morning are assembled the gentlemen of the family to greet the ladies with courtly bow and gallantly to kiss their hands. The gay breakfast over, the children, the youth and those of the family in the prime of life make ready to pay visits. They start forth with pockets and hands filled with remembrances. The older ones, ensconced in easy chairs before the fire, wait for the younger relatives and friends who will come with light and merry talk to make good cheer.

The Children's Day In Russia.

In Russia New Year's is especially the children's day. Among the peasants the old time frolics and games are renewed. It is a practice among the boys to arm themselves with a supply of shelled wheat and dried peas and to go from house to house in the small hours of the morning. They present themselves unbidden in a neighbor's house, where the doors are always unlocked, and pelt him with wheat or peas till he offers cakes or fruit.

"First Footing."

"First footing" is an old, old custom which still lingers in Ireland. It is considered a lucky sign if the "first foot" is a fair man. A dark man, a woman, a red haired or squinting person is supposed to bring bad luck. In the north of England, however, a dark man is preferred as a "first foot."

First Five New Year's Presents.

When pins were invented in Gloucester, England, in the sixteenth century, they were much used for New Year's presents. Later, when money was given to buy pins it was called "pin money," a term which for four centuries has designated the money devoted to festive trifles.

TURKEYS COOKED

::: BY GAS :::

Are better than when cooked in the old way.
The housewife is not tired out by spending most of the day poring over a hot stove, poking wood or coal into the fire-box.

She will be able to enjoy the festivities of the day with the rest of the family
∴ and join in the fun ∴

TRIED IT?

Don't miss this opportunity and you will never go back to the old way
COOKING BY GAS THE EASY WAY

CITIZENS' LIGHT & TRACTION CO

A. WELCH, Manager.



BUILDING A HOUSE.

We can supply you with the lumber you need at a price that will materially economize in the cost. Just come and see us and look over our yards.

Goodale Lumber Co.

Near Depot



BRACE UP, IT'S NEW YEARS

And have some style about you, don't look like a tramp when you are not. Have your shirts, collars and cuffs laundered at the Salem Steam Laundry and you'll look and feel like a new man. Family work rough dry 5c per lb.

Salem Steam Laundry

Colonel J. Olmsted, Prop.

Dorous D. Olmsted, Manager.
Phone 25.
136-166 Liberty st.

A. L. FRASER

Successors to Burroughs & Fraser.

Plumbing, Tinning and Roofing

Cornic, Work, Heating and Building Work of all kinds; estimates made and work guaranteed.

367 State Street, Salem. Phone 1511.

WALL PAPER

We are exclusive dealers in Wall Paper, and carry the finest and most complete line in the city. We can please you with goods and prices. Come and see us.

E. L. Lemmon

299 Liberty St.
Phone 2475

FOR SALE

Fifteen acres, all in cultivation within one mile of Salem. Home barn, and 3 acres of fruit. This is the finest kind of river bottom land can be had on very easy terms for only \$2000.

Don't forget our GOOSE BAY LAND for \$35.00. Buy one and in a few years it will make you some money.

Derby and Willson