

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

The First Christmas

It often has been stated that the birth of Christ must have occurred four years before the date fixed for the current chronology...

Many students of Biblical history have argued that the story about the star of Bethlehem points to a date for the Nativity not later than May 8, B. C. 6.



THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

then visible in the east a couple of hours before sunrise and must have produced a strikingly beautiful appearance and have been spoken of as one of the most.

Another theory about the star of Bethlehem which has been advanced is that the star seen by the magi is Shaul, the leading brilliant in the constellation of Virgo, the Virgin.

For many years before and after the Christian era the star was changing its place until it was then literally a star in the east, and its movement in that direction may have been the very fact noticed by the wise men of some centuries preceding who expected that the prophecy about the Virgin would be fulfilled when its principal star reached the position noted.

The uncertainty of the centuries in regard to the date of the Nativity in year and month may never be cleared up. Its existence has been unfairly cited as reason for disbelieving the whole narration.

The Old Year And the New

I WATCHED the old year fade, And with its dying light The gloom, at first a shade, Turned into darkest night.



THE OLD YEAR'S FLIGHT.

I watched the old year's flight And then said, with a smile, "Ah, now the new year bright Will bid us live as while."

Thus all along the way Gravestones mark the mile, An epitaph each day, A tomb of tears and smiles.

But 'twill not always be, There'll come a living day, And all things new, and we Shall live in endless May.

—James Daniel Cleaton.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

THE dawn is gray and chilly with the frost, The old year's pulse now flutters, now is still.

A new year? Nay! 'tis but the same old year, The same remorseless round of sun and rain.

Earth ages, and the very mountains nod With years, and we who crawl Upon their breast.

A New Year Proposal. "What resolutions have I vowed to keep the coming year?"

"I'll work for her with brain and brawn, with all my might and main. Until I've won her everything that bonny catty can gain."

"Now, tell me, won't you, maiden fair, what you have vowed to do? I've laid bare my inmost soul to no one but to you."

"I've made no pledges," she replied in so demure a tone, "But if you don't object I'll try to help you keep your own."

VICTORIA COUNTY NEWS ITEMS

L. O. L. No. 952 Elect Officers

Millersmith, Dec. 9.—L. O. L. No. 952 elected a new staff of officers. Our lodge here is in a flourishing condition, and the new staff of officers elected Monday night will endeavor to continue the good work...

Advent of Winter Welcomed at Bobcaygeon

Bobcaygeon, Dec. 9.—The first touch of winter comes with a rush, and like a thief in the night, from a placid autumn evening with nothing unusual to the driving snow...

Weekly News from Powles' Corners

Powles' Corner, Dec. 7.—Miss Hazel Powles returned last week from Toronto, where she was visiting friends the last couple of weeks. Miss Susie Wager was called home from Lindsay to wait on her sister-in-law, Mrs. Wes. Wager, who is quite ill with heart trouble...

On the Track of the New Year

NEW YEAR'S was a long time in settling upon Jan. 1 as the proper time for its celebration. Even now, in Greece and Russia, where the Julian calendar is in force, New Year's does not arrive until twelve days after the year is well on its way in the rest of the civilized world.

Ancestry of Santa

WHAT is Santa Claus' age? The jolly, roasting, pot-bellied, ever young old fellow that we know has made his appearance on earth in so many guises that the secret of his first coming threatens to remain forever veiled in the mist of antiquity.

Don't forget our anniversary services on Sunday, which will be conducted by Rev. Mr. Jones, Janetville. On Monday evening the oyster supper will be held in the hall near the church, after which a good program will be given in the church.

Reaboro, Dec. 8.—The Reaboro Women's Institute continues to hold interesting meetings. The meeting on Thursday, Dec. 6th, was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. McMann, with about fifty present.

The annual meeting of Red Rock cheese factory was held last Wednesday, showing a satisfactory report for the season. The annual meeting of Bobcaygeon cheese factory is announced for to-morrow in the town hall.

The school board have been advertising for teachers again. In engaging teachers last summer the board so happened to hire some whose teaching abilities were better demonstrated than their certificates.

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ALL NATIONS DRINK A NEW YEAR'S HEALTH.

reconciliation took place, New Year's calls were made and New Year's gifts bestowed. There also originated the New Year's resolution, for every Roman resolved on New Year's day to so regulate his conduct that every word and act should be a happy augury for all the days of the ensuing year.

On account of the origin which marked the New Year's arrival not only among the Romans, but among the Teutonic races, the early Christians looked with scant favor upon the whole season. By the fifth century, however, Dec. 25 became the fixed festival of the Nativity, whereupon Jan. 1 assumed a special sacred character as the octave of Christmas day.

The giving of gifts on New Year's day has been superseded largely in Anglo-Saxon countries by the giving of Christmas gifts, but the custom still is retained in France. This custom was one of the most ancient and universal observed of New Year's day.

The Druids distributed branches of the sacred mistletoe. The Roman emperors exacted gifts, and so did the English rulers down to the time of Cromwell.

The world over on New Year's it is a custom to drink to the health of one's friends. The custom of making New Year resolutions and "turning over a new leaf" is universal and, like political platforms, is as much honored in the breach as in the observance.

What a menace to our comfort, What reproof to him that boasts, Those habits that, discarded, Haunt our presence still like ghosts.

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