

## New Year's Duck. **●+●+●+●+●+●+●**

"Oh! Nellie, you should see the lovely duck I got as a present this morning-it's a perfect beauty-I am going to have it for our New Year's dinner," said Mrs. English to her friend Mrs. Lane, who had come in to see her during the afternoon and talk over the Christmas celebration of a few days be-

"Is your duck dressed or alive, Kate?" asked Nellie in some haste.

"Oh! it's alive, I am going to dress it myself," answered Kate, "it's not much trouble to dress a duck-do you think it would be?"

"Well, Kate, I really pity you. must tell you what a dreadful time had with the one we killed last week. it yet makes me shiver all over only to think of it, it was such a terrible day the memory of it will never fade away! I really think my back has not once stopped aching since I picked that duck."

"Do tell me, Nellie, won't their feathers come out, or what was the trouble?" asked Kate. "I am beginning to feel alarmed."

"I'll begin by telling you how we got the duck," began Nellie. "One night after I had gone up stairs with the baby, and John was smoking his pipe -it must have been after 12 o'clockthere was a faint knock at the kitchen door. I heard John going to the door and speaking to some one, and then he baby." and the some one went into the garden to the chicken coop, and presently I heard a loud noise and fuse among the hens. It was Jim Peters. He had won a duck at a raffle at a tavern and asked John to let him put it in our tired a bright idea came into my head, the 21st. From 1582 to 1790 the differhen coop until further notice,

"Now, either the duck did not feel very comfortable or the hens did not feel as much at ease as formerly. I don't know what caused it, but there was a constant war going on among them. Why, I didn't get one egg while that fowl was in there. So I told John to tell Jim to remove it or we would kill it. At last John bought it from Jim and killed it, and said I should formance, roast it for dinner.

to dress it after 9 o'clock I could soon get it in the oven. Then I knew noth- I had never had any bright ideas until ing about ducks; now I am much wiser,

"I asked ma-you know ma just came the day before from the west; it's the ner. first time she had been to see us since we were keeping house. I asked ma whether I should scald the duck or pick it dry. She said she had always picked | dinner, but they had nothing else, and hers dry and had saved the down for her feather beds. So I began to pick it



PICKED AND PICKED AND

PULLED.

picked and picked and pulled until ngers ached-it seemed as though athers were grown in to stay, and so long I was beginning to get so when ma wasn't looking

some boiling water over the hurry up matters. dear me, then the real trouble The hot water made the skin and greasy that it tore off in es, and the down stuck like give enough. ally think if I had saved all four large pillows. ered with another coa

I don't know what all that duck didn't have to cover itself with.

"No wonder ducks never get wet when they go into the water. Why this one's skin was one sheet of fat and feathers.

"When the clock struck 10 that duck looked perfectly dreadful. I wish you could have seen it. I felt so disgusted I almost cried. Then, when ma saw the tears in my eyes she said if I would hold the baby she would pick awhile. So I sat down to rest-why, really, 1 felt so faint I could scarcely stand any longer, just fussing with that borrid

"Now you know how fretful the baby iz-she is teething, and it takes one of



I PUT IT IN THE OVEN.

us to entertain her all the time or she annoys the family on the other side of the house-every time she cries some one comes over to see 'what ails that

to have him move into a single house and then I can let the baby cry all she

and I told her I would skin the duck ence between the old and new style entirely-then no one would find any pin feathers and it would look smooth ing a leap year in the Julian calendar, and sleek all over. It only provoked me that I had not thought of doing it before. I don't know why it is, but somehow my bright ideas always come

"So I gave the baby to ma and told ference in the pres at century is twelve them to watch this interesting per-

"But it was easier said than done. "Now, John killed it before he went My, how greasy that skin was! It was to work, but I thought if I would begin almost impossible to get a good tight hold-I pulled and jerked and wished it was finally skinned and the clock pointed to 10 minutes to 12 and no din-

> "Then I had to run to the corner grocery to get some dried beef-I very well knew John detested dried beef for when John came home he ate his dinner (?) in silence. But I promised to have the duck roasted for supper.

> "With this prospect in view I went to work more cheerfully, yet not very satisfied, I fear. In order to have the duck well done I put it in the oven soon after dinner, and was surprised to see how small it got-the longer if roasted the smaller it grew, and lcoked so funny, something like skinned cat; when in comes John, bringing a friend with him to help eat the duck!

"Well, no one can imagine my feelings. When they sat down to the table I noticed John looking around for something, and finally when he saw the horrid little shriveled-up thing he burst out into a hearty laugh, saying: Why, Nellie, is this all that is left of our beautiful duck?' I never before felt so mortified. John tried to find a tender piece for our guest, but it was impossible to find anything tender on that duck-it was as dry as chips, worse than the driest dried beef, and oh, so tasteless and so dark-do you think I roasted it too long, Kate?

Some people never find out that there is joy in giving, because they neve

another duck."

"I think it's a shame, Cyrus, that it would have been enough | we've let Esmeralda grow up without trying to give her some kind of musical ne side was nearly done it training. She can't sing at all." "That's true, Emily-but she knows The temple of the heart. and pinfeathers, and lt."-Chicago Tribune

HERE was an expectant smile on Grandma Bartlett's face. She pulled the shade over the lamp and drew the curtains, shutting room in cozily. The clock on the mantel was ticking the Old Year away as fast as it could hurry him off. It was dusk and New Year's eve, and that was the time for the Pincushion Ceremony at Bartlett's. Fred met Alice on the stairs, and Belle and Arthur came along the hall. Belle

mate pincushion in their hands, Grandma had placed five hassocks in "Come, dearies," she called out, to Arthur's subdued knock. They filed in,

carried Baby Letty in her arms, and

they each bore a bristling little red to-

laughing. "Stools of repentance," cried tall Belle, dropping into her hassock. grandma, my cushion is full of pins. I broke my resolution every other day. I resolved to keep my temper, know, and I got so tired of poking in a pin for a slip, nights at bedtime." "Look at my lazy pins," mourned

"And my behind-time stickers," chimed in Alice.

"I didn't think I did put off things so often," sighed Arthur, and then Baby Letty stuck up her cushion. It was empty.

"Now, dears," said grandma, "proeeed with the ceremony." Solemnly they each tumbled their

pins into a box on the table. Another stood near it. "Why, there's not half so many as lust year, grandma!" cried Fred.

"Why, why! And we all felt so bad-"Clean cushions again," said grandma happily, picking up Letty to hug her. "Now for grandma's New Year's presents,"

There were beautiful books and

being naughty," said Alice, looking up with a smile from her book. "But I wouldn't part with my Resolution "Zare!" she remarked, disgustedly. Cushion for the world!"

Arthur looked at his empty cushion. said. "A clean start for a happy New here." Judge. Year. I say, grandma, how we love

And four impetuous pairs of arms almost smothered dear, gentle grand--Littian L. Price. ma.

The Julian Year.

The error of the Julian year was corrected in the Gregorian calendar by the suppression of three intercalations in 400 years. In order to restore the commencement of the year to the same place in the seasons that it had occupied at the time of the Council of Nice, Gregory directed the day following the "When John moves again I am going feast of St. Francis, that is to say, the 5th of October, to be reckoned the 15th of that month. By this regulation the vernal equinox which then happened "After ma had picked until she was on the 11th of March was restored to continued to be ten days; but 1700 beand a common year in the Gregorian. the difference of the styles during the 18th century was eleven days. The year 1800 was also common in the new calendar, and, correquently, the difdays. From 1900 to 2100 inclusive it will be thirteen days.

> Three Events of 1898. Eighteen hundred and ninety-six

will always be memorable in literary annals as ending the lives of three great female writers-Harriett Beecher Stowe, the novelist, Kate Field, the fournalist, and Gail Hamilton, the versatile authoress. The latter's signature was a nom de plume, composed of the second syllable in her Christian name and of Hamilton, the village of her birth-place. Few identified her spinster appellation of Mary Abigail Dodge.



Should pray to God to-night. "I hope I may never, never again see That Faith may light the altar flame,

And Hope may keep it bright. That Love may bring the sacrifica Which Love delights to give, And all the angels innocent

May tarry there to live. And may no evil spirit Have in it place or part. What is this temple beautiful?

Thirsty Lands. The enormous basin drained by the Missouri river absorbs, as Mr. Greenleaf has lately shown in the American Journal of Science, no less than eightyeight per cent of all the rain that falls upon it, whereas the basin of the Ohio river absorbs only seventy per cent. The amount of rainfall in the course of a year is proportionately greater in the Ohio than in the Missouri basin, and so the former river, although much the shorter of the two, contributes more water to the Mississippi than does its gigantic rival flowing from the west.

Garden Spots of the South. The Passenger Department of the

Louisville & Nashville R. R. has just issued a hundred page book with the above title. It is descriptive of the resources and capabilities of the soil of the counties lying along this line in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Southern Mississippi and Western Florida. It also contains a county map of the above named states, and is well worthy of a perusal of any one interested in the South. A copy will be sent to any address upon receipt of ten cents in silver or stamps, by C. P. Atmore, Gen. Pass. Agt., Louisville. Ky. Semi-monthly excursions South. Write for particulars.

Struck by a Cloudburst.

The pretty little seaport town of San Pedro, Cal., narrowly escaped being washed into the Pacific ocean Tuesday night by a cloudburst. Several streets were cut to a depth of twenty property stored therein destroyed, The Great Britain, Ireland, France, and damage to property will exceed \$25,000. | Spain,

Low Rates for Homeseekers Going South On the first and third Tuesday of each month tickets will be sold to set tlers from Chicago to points in Virginia and the Carolinas at greatly reduced rates, both one way and round trip. Send for particulars and free pamphlet descriptive of the farm lands, climate, markets, etc. Address U. L. Truitt, Northwestern Passenger Agent, C. & O. Big Four Route, 234 Clark Street, Chicago.

Cureteus.

Essie sat listening to the muttering of thunder that preceded a summer shower. "Listen, mamma!" she said, with tiny, cautioning hand uplifted: "I always feel as if you paid us for | "zey're tackin' down carpet up in beaven." Then, when the storm burst and the rain came pouring down. "somebody's upset ze water pitcher an it's comin' froe. I guess zat's gran'pa. "I'm glad those pins are gone," he He allus was so callis when he was

The Modern Mother

Has found that her little ones are improved more by the pleasant Syrup of Figs, when in need of the laxative effect of a gentle remedy than by any other, and that it is more acceptable to them. Children enjoy it and it benefits them. The true remedy, Syrup of Figs, is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Company only.

As you go forward in life, never expeet too much, never hope for too lit tle.—Dr. Jowett.

## JOYS OF MATERNITY.

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Why so Many Women Are Childless-A Problem That Has Puzzled Physicians for Centuries.

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but few

mistakes,

and every

thoughtful person must admit that a cause exists. why so many women are childless. The subject buffles the theories of physicians, Such cases are curable nine times out of ten, as evidenced by thousands of letters on file at Mrs. Pinkham's office. Many a darling baby owes its existence to Mrs. Pinkham's advice and the Vegetable Compound, This

is not to be wondered at when such testimony as the following explains itself: "I have taken three bottles of your Vegetable Compound, one package of Sanative Wash, one box of Liver Pills; and now I have a dear little babe four weeks old, and I am well. I have to thank you for this.

"I have spent \$200.00 for doctor's bills without obtaining any relief. For my cure I only spent \$5.60.

"I had been a victim of female troubles in their worst form; suffered untold agonies every month; had to stay in bed, and have poultices applied. and then could not stand the pain.

"My physician told me if I became pregnant I would die. I had bladder trouble, itching, backache, catarrh of the stomach, hysteria and heart trouble, fainting spells and len-

you wonder that I sing the praises of these fils?"-Mss. Ggo. C. Krnc

corrhoen. Can

We offer One Hundred Dellars rewater any case of catarrh that cannot cured by Hall's Catarrh Oure. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo. We, the undersigned, have known F. F. Chency for the last is years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm. West & Truax, Wholesale Druggists, To-

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His Turn.



Wille (crying)-For goodness sake, papa, don't go in the house. Mamma's just thrashed me, and you'll be next!

A Draid Relic.

The yule log in England is a relic of Druidism. Its name is believed to be a corruption of the wheel log, a wheel in Druidical symbolism typifyfeet by raging torrents and a number ing the march of the sun. The lightof dwellings were undermined and in ing of the yule fire is reminiscent of some instances carried down grade and | the sacred fires kindled by the Druids stranded on adjoining lots. Basements in midwinter at the round towers were flooded and a great quantity of which yet remain in many parts of

California.

If you will send your name and address we will send a representative to your home to explain all about the advantages of Phillips-Rock Island personally conducted Tourist Car Excursions to California. Address A. Phillips & Co., 91 Adams street, Chicago. John Sebastian, G. P. A., Chicago, Ill.

A lithograph printer in New York has been discharged for making a theater poster on which appeared a policeman in a green uniform and a basket of blue roses with yellow leaves.

The lighthouses on the Denmark coasts are supplied with oil, which is pumped on the waves in time of

Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.—Disraeli.

Good books, like good frie more enjoyable.—Bronson Alcott

matten allays pate, curse what colle, to cause to A French peasant has constructed wooden bicycle, of which even the nat

are made of wood. For Lung and chest diseases, Plac's Cures the best medicine we have used.—Mrs. L. Northcott, Windsor, Ont., Canada.

The fisheries of the Persian guif yield a great quantity of small pearls storer. Free \$3 trial bottle and treat send to Da. Kann, 33 Arch St. Phi

The spider's eyes are not in his head, but in the upper part of his thorax.

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Investigator-You can't fool me. My mother-in-law always brought her trunk with her. -- Buffalo Times.

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Old Jackson-What you ward fo? Cuffee-So I won't have to

round when I cum back.

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discharge. Syphilis (blood Gonorrhopa. See. materrhea. Varicoccio.

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