

FOR THE COMING YEAR

In this valley of life, on each side of which are the mountains of eternity, resolve to walk onward, taking the sunshine and the rain in good spirit, helping any one whom you will meet on the way.

SUPPOSE your life is in the home. Resolve to make that home brighter and better for your presence. Do not spoil the happiness of life that is every human being's heritage. Rather add to the joy of the hearth, so that when you go, never to pass this way again, a loving thought will be your best.

HAVE you children? Then remember that once you were young. Be kind to them. Never let it be said that you needlessly turned a child's laughter to tears.

IF YOU have gossiped either over the back fence or over the tea cups, here is your opportunity to make a change for the better. Of course you cannot recall the unkind word that has gone on with snowball proclivities, growing to unrecognizable proportions. But you can resolve to guard your tongue and to think twice before you speak once.

EACH day read one beautiful thought, do one beautiful deed. It may be just a phrase of your favorite author. The sunset or a sunbeam or a child's golden curls will give a picture, if you are looking for it. And as for doing something—that's easy!

DON'T polish the waiting bench with "hard luck" stories. Stir yourself. Hard luck never caught up with a hustler. This is true of any kind of work. Resolve to fight your battle minus weak excuses.

LOOK at your face. Do the lines curve down or up? It's never too late to smile. A frowner is an unwelcome companion. If persons make an effort to miss you, change the lines!

BE HONEST! Even with yourself. Some beings can believe their own lies. Don't enroll your name on the self-deceivers' list. There is no hope for you if you do.

HAVE you been a little bit shaky toward any ideal of conduct that you have formed? Surely you must have a conduct standard! Well, what's the use if you have ignored it? Make it a potent factor in the coming year. And may that standard be the best ever!

WHATEVER your work, let it be done better than it has been done before. In this world each one is filling a place. If you haven't any special work, make it. Don't be a parasite.

IF YOU have cheated any human being of his right, be ashamed and be penitent. And don't stop there. Resolve to make restoration of that which you have stolen. This may be a word of praise; it may be a dollar and it may be many things. Who are you in this great scheme that you should withhold that which is due?

DON'T be a doormat. The homely rug on which people wipe their dirty shoes has a place; but you are a human being with a spine and a heart and a soul. Doormats must not be on your next year's calendar.

BEING a human being, you have the ability to grow in all ways toward the superman, the ideal. If you grit your teeth and hold back as a recalcitrant, ignorant child, you are sinning. You cannot stand still; you either move forward or backward.

THAT question of love—how are you going to answer it this coming year? If you have closed the door of your heart against it, be merciful to yourself, if to no one else. Let love for some human being enter your door with the new year. It is the greatest force in the world. Let it come into your life!

WHATEVER has befallen you in the past, remember that there is another chance. The new year is on the threshold. Open the door and smile a welcome to it. It is as rich in hope and possibility as you care to make it. The happy new year is up to you!
BARBARA LEE

A feeble voice from the sick bed made both start.

"John!" whispered the sick woman.

"John! It's you, dear John! I knew you would come home!"

The captor and the captive stood motionless, thrilled by the pity in the voice.

"John, won't you come here and kiss your old mother?" pleaded the voice.

"I knew that I should live to see you again."

The middle-aged man whispered into the ear of the thief.

"Her son was killed in an automobile accident last week. Now's your chance. I'll let you go if—"

"You're coming to me, aren't you, John?"

"Yes," muttered the thief, and with unsteady footsteps he staggered toward the bed, found it, and sank down upon a chair. He felt the hand of the old woman close upon his.

"Are you John? Are you my boy? I cannot see. Tell me that you are John," the old woman whispered.

"Yes, I am John," the convict whispered back.

She said no more for a while but seemed to doze. Gently, by almost imperceptible degrees, the man in the room lowered the gas light till it was only a little flicking flame in the darkness. And the thief sat motionless, his hand held tightly in the light clasp of the dying woman.

After a long time she roused herself. "Johnny," she whispered, "turn me so that I can put my lips to your ear." And the convict turned the shrunken old body reverently, and with a new and strange fearlessness. Then the old woman spoke again, and so low and weak were her tones that he could only grasp them by bending his ear till her lips touched it.

"Johnny," she said, "I want you to be a good boy after I am gone. I want you to be good for your old mother's sake, Johnny. There's nobody will ever love you as I have done—nobody in the whole world. You've been wild, Johnny, dear, and people have said hard things about you and called you hard names, but I knew that you were my boy Johnny, my good boy, and that you were good at heart. Promise me you'll always run straight, Johnny!"

Graves promised.

"Then I can go in peace, Johnny, dear. Kiss me." The dying woman half raised herself and Graves took her in his arms and pressed his lips

Cretonne Furnishings for the Bedroom



Cretonne, because of the many beautiful patterns in which it is designed, and its excellent wearing qualities, is made up into a greater number of furnishing accessories than ever before. It will stand much laundering (if the washing is done properly) and it comes in innumerable flowered patterns suitable for the bedroom of man, woman or child.

The best effects are achieved when one starts with plain walls in some attractive tint or in a neutral color, and with sheer white curtains at the windows. Having these, the next thing to do is to select a pattern in cretonne that will harmonize with the wall and be suitable to the person for whom the room is to be prettily furnished.

The windows first are provided with curtains of the cretonne. A box seat is covered with it and provided with two or perhaps three cushions with the same covering. Then one proceeds to make the small conveniences that are to be used on the dressing table or chamber.

There must be a pin cushion, a glove box and a handkerchief box. There may be other things—a little cabinet for trinkets, a wash bowl holder, a photograph frame, a candle shade, a wastebasket, a laundry bag, etc. But one must not overdo even the pretty cretonne, by making too many accessories and putting them in evidence in the room.

STATE TROOPS TO BE REORGANIZED

Adjutant General Will Make Report to Governor.

WANT GREATER ENLISTMENT

Illinois Is Short One Regiment and Artillery and Engineers' Corps Are Not Up to the Full Quota.

Springfield.—Adjutant General Frank S. Dickson is expected in a short time to reply to the letter of Governor Duane of some time ago in which the governor asks about the prospects of Illinois' compliance with new rules of organization of the Illinois National Guard.

Circular 8, from the federal war department, based on the provisions of the old Dick bill, passed in 1903, and which, in 1908, after a lapse of five years, was declared to be operative this year, has been received by the adjutant general's department. This bill provided for a reorganization of state national guards into brigades instead of divisions, where the new law required a greater enlistment than the state felt it could reasonably support.

Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio come specially under the jurisdiction of the bill. Under the provisions of the Dick bill, this state does not now have enough troops and organizations to qualify under the division formation. For one thing, the state is short a regiment. She is short also in her artillery, engineers' corps and signal corps organizations. Consequently, the state's troops will have to be reorganized under the brigade form, with the retirement probably of an entire brigade.

At present the First brigade comprises the First, Second and Seventh regiments and has headquarters in Chicago. The Second Brigade has the Fourth, Fifth and Eighth regiments and has headquarters in Decatur. The Third and the Sixth regiments are automatically eliminated; nor is there the Ninth regiment, which would be required for the organization of the Third brigade. It is likely therefore, that the Third regiment will be attached to the First brigade, and the Sixth to the Second brigade.

Adjutant General Dickson has been informed of the national guard situation by the state. As soon as his reorganization plan is in shape, he will advise Governor Duane, and on this reply the governor will base his reply to the national war department as to the feasibility of the reorganization at this time. Although the time for the reorganization was originally extended five years and afterward extended a second five years, it is believed that if Illinois does not feel equal to the financial responsibility of making the required changes that another extension of time may be had.

Former Governor Gets Position.

Former Gov. Richard Yates of Springfield will be member of the new public utility commission of Illinois. This announcement came in an Associated Press dispatch from Chicago. The statement was made in connection with Governor Duane's announcement that Mr. Yates will accept the place. The governor stated that he will name the other members of the commission within a few days.

The new commission will be one of the most important and most powerful departments of the state government. As a member, former Governor Yates will share with five other members the practical control of all utility corporations within the state. Their jurisdiction will extend to matters even of minor importance.

Former Governor Yates will be one of the minority members. As to the other minority members there is much speculation. Political gossip of several weeks ago connected Raymond Robins of Chicago with the position, and it is known that much influence has been brought to bear in Robins' behalf.

The governor will name three Democratic members of the commission. It has been said that County Treasurer William O'Connell of Chicago will have first call on the position as chairman of the commission, though nothing of even semi-official nature on this point has been said.

Former Governor Yates was appointed several weeks ago to membership on the state railroad and warehouse commission, which body at the close of the year will be dissolved and its duties absorbed by the new utility commission. At the time it was generally rumored that Yates' appointment meant a graduation before the end of the year to a berth on the more important commission.

Illinois Corporations.

Secretary of State Woods issued certificates of incorporation to the following:

Charles Jacobs Drum company; capital, \$10,000. Incorporators, A. Hale Voltantine, N. A. Kaufmann and William C. Dunn.

S. A. Liebenstein company, Chicago; capital, \$8,000. Incorporators, Henry M. Goldsmith, Samuel A. Liebenstein and Benjamin P. Ruckberg.

General Products company, Chicago; directors increased from three to five.

The Turn of the Page

By FRANK FILSON

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"Come along, 752," said the head warden cheerfully, clapping an enormous hand upon the young man's shoulder. The chief wants to say goodbye to you."

The convict stepped out of his cell and followed the head warden obediently. Three years of discipline had taught him to ask no questions, to demand no reasons. He hardly dared to hope that the pardon board had granted his petition.

"Tention! Eyes front!" said the head warden mechanically, and the convict mechanically obeyed. But the governor stretched out his hand and took the convict's in a hearty clasp.

"The board of pardons has granted you your freedom, Graves," he said. "I strongly recommended it at the last monthly meeting. I know that you will run straight in future. If you shouldn't, remember that the dishonor and shame will be mine, and it will be just so much harder for the rest of us. Here's a letter from your mother in Mapleton," he added, handing the missive to the prisoner.

Graves read it and the governor watched him curiously. The young fellow had impressed him favorably ever since he had entered the penitentiary three years before to serve a first sentence for forgery. He had been a model prisoner; but he seemed curiously hard. Even now he seemed unaffected either by the letter or by his release.

"Yes, sir, I'll run straight in future," he answered.

"Good," answered the governor. "And my advice to you is, go home to your mother. You have about thirty-seven dollars coming to you. Go home, face the world in your home town, be a man and begin your life anew. You will find people kinder than you imagine. Good morning."

He grasped the prisoner's hand again and dismissed him. Graves went out. Subdued and deferential though he seemed, he remained totally unmoved.

As a matter of fact, Philip Graves was deeply moved, but for all that he had not the least intention of returning home. He took the train to the capital and spent his money in two days of riotous living.

The second evening found him penniless. It was cold and dilmally wet, and the long tramp through the dismal streets had not raised his spirits. He slipped on the sidewalk and buried his head in his hands. That was the first time he had ever seriously considered the game.

"I didn't know," Graves babbed,



There Was Somebody in Bed.

reverently to her forehead. And not daring to stir, he remained thus half through the night.

The vital fires had burned themselves out; gently and imperceptibly the life had faded out of the old frame. The dead woman's placid smile seemed like a benediction.

Graves rose up. "I'm ready now," he said to the man.

"Go!" answered the man, pointing to the door; and the ex-convict shuffled along the carpet, his face working, his cheeks stained with tears. He halted at the door, hesitated, and shuffled back again. He went up to the man.

"I don't want to go," he muttered. "I want you to call the police. Say, 'I've got an old mother like that in Mapleton, and she's alive and wants me to come home. Do you think if I went that I could ever become a man again? I've been in prison three years.'"

The man's hand fell on his shoulder, just as the head warden's had fallen. He seemed sorry for him; it was odd, to come to think of it, how kind men were to one another.

"My dear fellow, I believe that Providence sent you here—Providence, which is only another name for God," said the man. "Go back and face the world anew in your home town."

Why, that was just what the governor had said!

He held his hand out and the other took it and grasped it warmly. Suddenly Graves remembered. He pulled out from his pocket a handful of shimmering rings. He placed them upon the dressing table and walked lightly out of the room. He did not shuffle now, for his heart was filled with lightness and for the first time in years he was at peace.

"I'm going home!" he murmured. The rain had ceased and the air was keen with frost. From the four quarters came the sound of distant bells. And then Graves remembered that this was the New Year.

The book was still open and the new page had been completely begun.

EXCELLENT DESIGN THAT PRESERVES NATURAL FIGURE

White May Be Made Over Into Creamy Hue. Just Now So Much in Popular Favor.

ONE must concede the real beauty of this costume, which appears to be built on lines almost independent of those prominent in the present mode.

The skirt is not broad at the hips (in common with many new ones) the short train is not a mere wisp, or trailing end, and there is plenty of room to walk in. This is one of those good designs which define the natural figure with ample drapery and can afford to ignore or only suggest the fads of the season.

The skirt is full across the front and draped at the left front and at each side of the back. The bodice is very low and somewhat too meager to be worn without a yoke of fine net under it. With the present style of low cut necks—"V" shaped and otherwise—very fine nets are used with gimps made either with a high or round neck. They fit the skin and are immensely becoming. It is only the lady of dazzling fairness who can afford to dispense with them.

Beads, beaded bands and ornaments, are used for garniture on the gown pictured.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.



Have you ever noticed that cream colored lace is usually more expensive than white lace, even of the same pattern?

Not being able to buy any cream lace cheap, it occurred to me that there must be some way of changing white to cream. I asked a friend about this, and she gave me the following advice, which I have since put into practice with fine results:

Buy five or ten cents' worth of French ochre (a powder) at any paint store. Mix three parts of ordinary white talcum powder with one part of the ochre for a light cream color, or, if a darker shade of cream is desired, use more ochre. Put the mixture in a bowl and rub the lace as though washing it in the powder, a little at a time.

The white lace will become a lovely cream. But be sure and do the work in a room where the powder can be easily dusted away, as it settles over everything.

White for Winter.

We are to wear a great deal of white this winter. White serge, very heavy, yet supple, is to be used for coats and skirts, and quite often it will be trimmed with white fur, or again with dark. White evening cloaks and mantles in rich satins and furred are always lovely, and white house dresses in the new brooches have their own appeal to the artistic.

Grandmother's Collars.

Grandmother's old collars of fine and sheer embroidery can be used as they are but the heavier ones of old crocheted lace may be rejuvenated by going over the design in color. Fill in the principal figure with French knots worked in colors to match the gown or in Bulgarian colors. This may be done with heavy silk or cotton in washable shades.

Fashion Novelty.

One of the loveliest of the season's fashions is the chiffon scarf that is combined with a fur boa. The boa is attached to one side of a long chiffon scarf weighted with long bead tassels. This scarf is to be drawn about the hair and neck, while the boa falls artistically off the shoulders.

Jeweled Garter Fasteners.

Jeweled suspended garter fasteners are one of the modern woman's extravagant fancies. Some of these have pendant settings dangling from them—the question is, do they tickle? The fancy, of course—but in addition to that, do they tickle?

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.