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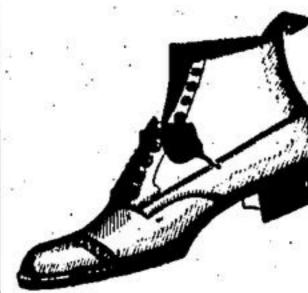
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own talking. Stone & Wellington T. Statham & Son W. WILLIAMS Mill Street

THE NEW YEAR A rosy child of graybeard time, On the purple hills of morn, Aurooled with winter's rime, Yesternight for us was born. Down the grim, blenk western sky

The youngster comes with jollity-The tottering figure died unwept. All the past is left behind-What avails it? Mourn it not! Take the year that here you find Clean, without a blemished spot.

His languid footed brother crept ;

Linked must be with hopes fonras We can soil it or with grace Most its joys and mist of tears. OUR PRICES ARE ALWAYS RIGHT Some and pilgrims on its way Shall fall before the journey's end,

> Whatever time or fate intend. Hope, the siren, whispers now Her sorcerous tale to overy car, · here's a chaplet for the brow Of time's fresh hele, the bright New

But courage is the word to day,

Relect Yamily Manding

CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE A White New Year at the Farm House

By Ada Melville Shaw Company of the Compan

MAY we not consider the matter settled, Mise Edge-"No. it is better to be slow in decid ing, then one is sure. I would like till the first of the year to decide. I am going home, as you know. I will write

"Is there any other plan in your mind P-If I may ask that without be ing obtrusice," There was an anxious wrinkle in Mr. Maye's usually smooth . "No-nothing definite. But I have

a constitutional dislike to settling important matters without a careful examination of all their phases, and this I consider important. Do not you?" "To me-yee. Our linelness is such that we are leath to put lute responsible places those who have not had a long familiarity with its intracacles. And we are still more loath to part with one who has made herself invaluable-as

you have." "Thank you, Mr. Maye. Well, you will hear from me before the first, probubly in person. "I hope so! Well, Merry Christmas, Miss Edgemore, and a Happy New

Year !" Loretta Edgemore smiled at the en phasized "and." She know what meant-the hope of her, return. had worked for fourteen years with the firm of Maye, Daye & Company and now had been offered-a new and strange departure for the old house-a partnership in the concern, with full sale prices, thus saving our customers so per cent. We have the best appliances and the control of one department. They had enly machinize in the Dominion who can operate pneumatic tools properly. We can give references from hundreds of our customers in the control of one department. They had been her bankers during the years of her careful, conscientious service, and the largest and best stock of Granite in the Dominion, or coore than any three dealers in well fitted to her cultured tasto and exceptional ability. That she should hesitate an hour on the question was a urprise to Mr. Manfred Maye, the HAMILTON & SONS senior partner. Indeed, her delay somewhat whetted his over-alort business instinct and he thought he scented another proposition somewhere competing with theirs. But Miss Edgemore vouchsafed him no information save what is recorded in the fore-

going conversation. On the old Edgemore farm all was pleasant bustle. ."Loretty" was coming home for two weeks. She did not vielt home as often these late years as the love of father and mother craved. but, of course, how could it be expected? Years of business life in the city had brought around her many friends interests, and demands that did no touch the farm-chole at all. The dear old people were mighty proud "Lorotty," and well might they be When she was only fifteen sie had begun to have umbitions. With busy young brain she invented ways to oarn money for herself, saved up enough for business college, took s thorough course, and in the twenty five years since her ambition awok she had made a clean, bright business record for herself, culminating in the honor pald her by Mayo & Dayo. "Wifet You haven't forgotten how

Loretty likes those mutten turn-overs have you? And the raspherry put

"No, Just. I have forgotten not! log-mothers nover forget." "Don't they ? What's the matte Lora? Not surry the girl's coming home?" The farmer stretched out ble labour-scarred hand and tenderly touched his wife's check. She shook her head, the tears falling

faster at the loving movement. "I'm just thinking, Josl-maybe I'm getting selfish. They say old people do. But there won't be many more home-cominge for the lass-we're getting well on in years. And-and-I'd like to see more of her. She's our only

due. Tired, ch? Tell you what, when Loretty comes, I'll take you away for a day-our wedding day comes then and we'll go off to the city ourselves. It's all right, Lora, only we must not got in the girl's way. She has ber life to live, you know, when we are gone." It was just a plain old farm-house -

well enred for, but devold of luxury. Joel and Lora wore "plain folks," and in the busy care of field and fireside, cattle and dairy, and all the other work of a farm that is "never done,"

everything about the house here marks pressing his rooy face against the pance, we will sing the old hymn,

The last of the "good things" were | Come, let us anew our journey purset in careful array in the pantry. | sue.' We have done it ever since Mother and father were stiff and I can remember-we three!" Lorotta serene in their best clothes, always spoke gaily, but her heart sank as she donned for the first hours of the city noted the look of sadness settle even girl's visit. She came, and they bless | more deeply on the faces of her beed her for her earnest, kindly ways, loved ones. It was a beautiful winter night, that her thoughtful, generous gifts, her loving reverence to their years and last night of the Old Year. They drow parenthood. Ah! yes, they were back the curtains and sat by the hearth 'mighty proud of Loretty !" flut-and | alternately enjoying the starlit scene the trembling old hands secretly of snow-crowned hills and the wonders brushed away the tears that would | that a picture-loving eye always finds fall, for she was their "only one," and "in the hollow down by the flare." their hearts yearned to "aco more of But they did not talk much. Heart-

her." All the silent hunger of love | voices had full away. When the "grandfather" clock in that feeds on its tears and smiles ! They had some long, quiet evenings | the corner pointed five minutes before by the big hearth-fire, and the dear old midnight, they were on their kneed, people listened with wide eyes and and Joel poured out his heart to Godflushed chooks to their girl's stories of | thanks and praise for the past, trust the city. She was always careful to and praise for the present, trust and make a note of things that she knew' praise for the future; and, above allwould please them, and thus they "Keep the steps of our child, crown shared, in some measure, the wide and | her life with thy loving kindness ! varied outlook of her life. Then, leav. We thank thee for her love. Hhe has ing her in charge for a couple of days, been the crown of our old age. Now, these lovers of almost half a century O Father, as she goes back to her went a-jainting to the town where work, bless her and make her a blessthey had known the sunny days of ling! We are old-our days decline-"courting." Mother was resplendent | we may not meet again-keep thou us, to long, soft, warm clock, and fine new | O Lord, according to thy tender bound that was stylish and yet kept | mercy, we pray thee !" the searching wind from aching care; In the distant city gongs were strikand father laughed at the neuralgia- ing, guns were booming, horse and breeding cast wind in his fur cap and | whistles and bells were chancing the overcoat with great fur collar. Who advent of the New Year. In the wouldn't be "mighty proud" of a girl country, the starlit stretches of snow-

like "Loretty"! So they columnted | clad folds lay still under the calm blue their wodding-day with tears and sky. All was well with God's world. smiles, and then-each with a hidden | The frost winked joyially at the folly burden-went back to the farm, for red twinkle from the farm windows. Loretta could only be with them a few They stood, embracing, by the leapdays more, and-who could tell what lng fire. Would another year bring might happen before another year them together again? "I have a New Year's present, dear

In their absence Loretta had gone ones," said Loretta, standing between all over the old house. It was a time them and drawing them close to her. of reminiscence. "Up attle" she found | "Would you like a New Year's presher cradle, and remembered how she out?" "You are our best gift, darling,"

used to rock in it "the little brother that died." In the parlor were murmured the mother, brokenly. the old albume with the queer, Loretta's laugh was salted with faded, old plctures. But, more happy tears. "Well, that is just it. memory-awaking than all olse, There is no place on earth like this were the unchanged scenes from the door home, and-I'm going to stay in low windows with their shining, time- it! Mother! Don't cry! Oh, father, scratched little pance. The distant did you want me so ? You, I will be bille, the rolling pasture, the dark your girl again-till death part us!" woods, the winding creek-what was The next morning, when Joel had there in it all that woodd her so and gone out to give a New Year's "extra" moved her to tears? She looked around to his faithful gray, Lora opened the on the age-stained walls, the old, well- little parlor door and looked in. Then

own gifts of later years - what it must doving voice, full of queer little joy be to spend one's life in such surround- | quavers. lings! What a contrast to the suite of "Loretty! Do tell me! Am I drazy rooms, the artistic wall-paper, the -with joy! The old house looks all Pereinn rug, the books, the pictures! new. The wails look fresh, the rooms Ah! but this was home, dear home look bigger and less old-fashioned than where the Lord's honor had kept the before, and I do not feel tired this hearth, where her own character had morning like I have generally been been moulded, where her father and lately."

mother had lived out the record of a ."It is all true, I am going to stay Time thought was busy until "the love is better than more business sucwedding party" returned. Then there | come and brings with it a far greater were tellings and tears and laughter pleasure and satisfaction."

> WISE AND OTHERWISE A well-to-do Scottish lady one day

Will you be quite so busy this next aid to her gardener : "Man, Tammay year? You couldn't come in oftener. wonder you don't get married. could you'f" said Joel, looking wist You've a nice house, and all you want fully at his "girl." She made an at to complete it is a wife. You know. ractive picture in her tailor-suit of blue, her snowy collar and ouffe, her tastofully dressed bair, her general air "Quite right, missus, quite right," of refinement and case and kindliness sald Tammas, "but he didna keep bis

> lob long after he got the wife." "It's hard to lose a beautiful daughtor." said a wedding guest sympa-

> "It's a blame sight harder to lose the homely ance," replied the old man, who had several yet to go. . "What subject have you taken for your address at the Civio Club ?"

"Woman's moral obligations as

dutiful and-beautiful, child! - but | citizen. "What a lovely subject. And what are you going to wear P" A vell dropped from Loretta's eyes Had her father always been as white "That new gown I brought home with me from Parls. And just think ; I had it so cleverly packed in with my was to night? Had mother aged thus old clother that the custom house in in ten minutes? Why, ten years ago

spector nover discovered it was thore." she was plump and rosy and brownhaired. How was it her eyes had been "Talking of ante," said the Amer oan casually, "we've got 'em as big as Lora got up and moved about th orabs out Wost. I've seen tham fight room striving to regain her self-con with long thurns which they used as lances, charging each other like knights in a tournament."

> The English traveller smiled. "They don't compare with the ante saw in the East," he said quietly. The untives there have them trained as beauts of burden. One alone could trail a ton load for miles with ease. Sometimes, however, they will turn and ornal the life out of their drivers. The American asked the name of the particular kind of ant. The reply was elephants!

than they had been ever since her

"Uan you stay and watch out the Old Year with us, child ?" they asked aquare little parlor had the same horse. the city till the second. Yes, we will of us have developed any of our bair set that Enretta used to slide off have an old-time watch-night. We powers to the limit. There are untried, In valuationpis to keep awake on the will have note and apples and stories undreamed of possibilities in us all. tonely Sundays when only the parlor before the fire. Then father will pray, Believe in them. Depend on them. daughter of Mr. James Moore, former- proper bathing, and by proper modi Acton. was used. The walls were dingy, and and then, while the little New Year is Oall them into action.

TWENTY YEARS AGO Reduced From Our Issue of January 2nd, 1800

Captain J. Thompson, of Toronto, has succeeded the lady officers of the Balvation Army, here. Venturous boys had some narrow escapes on the pond the past week.

Rov. R. J. Maloney preached in St. While round the fire we greet you all. Joseph's Church on Sanday evening, So, bairns, come all to the frolie play, and left on Monday to assume his To-morrow, you know, is New Year's duties as assistant priest at Arthur. Mr. F. Hehlveren will commence

lunday, January 12th. That last week's weather was springlike may be known from the fact that a wild duck was seen on the pond on Sunday, and a very lively frog was seen in a neighboring creek the day race was on. But at the very begin-

The heavy downpour of rain on to win stumbled, and lost a yard. It Christmas Eve caused considerable was only a yard, but it cost him the anxiety among the owners of the dams | race. He didn't start right ! strongly built dam resisted the flood, and by morning all danger was averted. high at New Yoar's.

October than the latter part of Decom- | hadn't started right ! wettest of the season. On Christmas ovening the Methodist

Rev. W. E. Gifford, Chicago; address | mother, and had burt ble friend. by Rev. T. Albert Moore, Hamilton ; Thurston: "If and Perhaps," John | not started the day right. Nicklin: "The Little Gnome," Willie Gifford; "My Christmas Treasures," Perryman: "The Letter Writers," Olifton Olifford; "The Line that Touch | it necessary to give up the evenings at Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine," Clara Moore: "The Stolen Custard," Willio McNabb; "Bob's Potticoats," reserved furniture, the few books-her | she called her daughter in a low, won-Eddle Moore : "An Old Time Lullaby." Jimmle Brown : "Neighbor Jones,"

> Bolla Stephenson, Ida McNah and Ada] tainment was greeted with a crowded | hard. He hadn't started out right.

At the municipal nominations the attendance was not as large as usual, but there was no lack of candidates nominated. They were : HECONDER NOMINATOR CANDIDATE

MAN.H W. Hemetreel ohu Harvey COUNCILLORS Anderson II. Pearson

J. Hiterp Thos. Harding MoLant A. Mol'herson Of the above, Mesers, Hondorson

and H. P. Moore withdrew at the so that all now in the flold are: Reeve. W. H. Storey : Councillors, J. Ander HOM, J. Harvey, James Brown, W. E. Smith, John Konney, Dr. Lowry, John Williams, John Cameron, A. Speight, W. Williams. At the School Trustees' nomination

hore were present last Thursdaythe Returning Officer, Alex. Grant Lather Lyman, Trustee Harding, and the carataker of the hall. The nomnations were : Geo. Hynds, by Alex. Grant and T. H. Harding t Francis, by T. H. Harding and Lather Lyman ; James Matthews, by Lather Lyman and Alex. Grant. These were declared elected, and with Mesers, W. II. Storey, T. II. Harding and A. Nicklin constitute the Board. MARIERO-In St. Alban's Church,

on Dec. 28th, 1880, by Rov. G. H. Cooke, Mr. Herbert J. Law, of Boston, to Hannah M. Jermyn, sister of Mr. R. | keep warm unless you prefer them B. Jermyn, murchant.

MARRIED-At the realdence of the ly of Kramova.

THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR Come, balray, come to the frolie play,

To-morrow, you know, is New Year's The cold winds blow, And down falls the snow, But merrily, merrily dance away.

There's Johnny Frost with his head so

Would fain be in the warm firelight Hat if he should try, Up the chimney ho'd fly. And thaw full quickly out of sight.

Ho's stopped the streamlet's noisy Hung frost-work o'er the waterfall; The flowers are all dead, And the wee birds fled, Hat they'll all be back at the sweet Spring's call.

Wo'll not sleep a wink till the year comes in. Till the clock strikes twelve and the fun begin; And then with a cheer To the new born year,

How the streets will ring with the roaring din 1 A bilthe new year we wish you all, Several thorough duckloge are report. And many returns to bless you all, And may each one you see

day; Though cold winds blow, ovangelistic services in Guelph on Yot merrily, merrily dance away. And down falls the snow, -Alexander Smart.

THOIR TRATE

The pistol shot rang out, and the ning the man whom many had picked

and neighboring properties. Council- | College had opened, and begun, but for Harvey's pond, which covers nearly the autumn days woord the student 00 acres, rose with alarming rapidity. | out of doors. "I can leave this history Although the flumes and waste gates | till later." he said ; "and I can easily were open the water rose half an inch | make it up." And white his fellows while Mr. H. was at supper. . But the | worked, his days slipped by in idleness. The time of testing came apace, and the student began to see the wasted For years the water has not been so | past. In carnest now, he gave blutself to the work, but somehow dates The weather on Christmas was do- and facts will not stay fixed with a lightful, more like the early part of few hours' study, and he failed. He

ber. The day before was one of the! His mother got up at six o'clock to get his breakfast ; he slept until seven. Then he came down, and found fault Sunday School anniversary was held. | because the steak was not done just to The weather was fine and attendance his taste. He slammed the door belarge. The programme consisted of hind him as he passed him on the choruses by the scholars, reading by street. He had spoiled the day for his

But that was not all. At the office kindergarten song, "Merry Christmas" | things did not go just as he would by the infant class; solo, "Jack and | have them, and what he said and did Jill." Daley Nicklin; solo and chorus, made a young man with whom he "Rock-a-Byo-Baby" by six little girle; and been talking about becoming a also recitations as follows: "One Christian, say, "Well, now ! I wonder Small Boy's Christman," John Ed- if he really meant it when he said wards; "A Problem in Threes," Edna | 'Christ does save a man.' " He had

The young man rose from the altar, knowing that Christ had given him Edith Nicklin: "My Dollie," Eva | now life, and resolved to be falthful to lils new Master. But he did not think the rendezvous in the barber shop, and he saw no harm to an occasional game of pool with some of his old friends at the pool room. Before long, bla prayers lost their ferver and availing John Ramany. A Harmonious Dis- | power, and the struggles of the Bible cord was given by Missos Annie and heroes lost their interest for blos. One day a terrible temptation met

Clark. There were lieavily-laden him and he yielded, and when he came to blingelf he was far from home. He The Disciples' Sunday School Enter- got back, but the journey was hard, so house on Itiday night. The school | Start right ! At the very beginning children gave a number of excellent | break with those questionable resorts, choruses and recitations, and Everton's when men know you have changed splendld choir gave several selections. | your allegiance. They will honor you Roys, Bronnenstaul, of Everton, and for it. Begin every day with a quiet Munro, of Erin, were present, and the talk with your master; ask him so to churches of the town were represented | guide your life that you will not go on the platform by Rave. J. W. Rae, where he cannot be with you. Then Dr. Glfford, G. B. Cooke, G. H. Brock, when temptation comes, turn your R. B. Cook, and Mosers. D. Honderson I back upon it just as soon as it enters : and H. P. Moore. Mr. Hugh Black, don't argue, don't question. Give it of Eramosa, made an admirable chair- I no chance to gain a foothold. Half of man. The Christmas Arch was very the battle lies in the first few minutes the first gardener that ever lived had pretty and bore presents for the of the fight. Start right !- Stanley S. Swortley.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

"A Happy New Year" le beginning for each of us! Wonder how many of our boys and girls have made good resolutions, and then have found, like the little girl, that "If not broken they are about all cracked!" Did you over notice when we try so hard to be good and do right, everything imppens to make us mad? That is the way the mes Sharp old tempter comes to get us to forget our good resolutions. But each time wa conquer his temptation it makes us stronger to resist the next one. We have a friend strong and tender, ready to help us when we feel our wonkness. Hero is a good motto for each of us in 1910; "I am but one, but I am one. cannot do everything but I can do something. What I can do, I aught meeting; others have since withdrawn to do; and what I ought to do, God | helping me, I will do."

STEWED OYSTERS

Not oyster stew, if you please ! was nover called that in the old times, and I don't believe it has that name applied to it in the South, even now. Add a half-plut of hot water to the llouor drained from two quarts of oystors. Put a little salt and pemper with it, sot over the fire and lot it boll up once. . Turn in the oysters and let hom cook for not more than five minutes, or until the gills begins to orimp. Watch carofully for this stage, as overy second boyond it means injury to the flavor of the oyster. Add two tablespoonfuls of butter and a large cupful of bolling milk. Take from the fire immediately and serve as soon as possible. Nover let them stand at the back of the stove and tough and tasteless, -The Delineator.

Don't try to provent colds and Illbridd's father, Church St., Acton, on ness by coddling. Create a vigorou Ohrletmas Day, 1880, by Rav. Dr. healthful body by proper cating, Offford, Mr. J. H. Donny, to Maggie, proper exercise, proper clothing,

Chopping Mills Oatmeal Shorts *** The best at lowest prices. Cash for Wheat and Oats. HARRIS & CO. *** HORTOP

The **EXCELSIOR**

Flour

Bran

Having recently installed some of the latest improved machinery for bread making, is now in a better position than ever to supply our customers with Bread, Cakes, etc., of first-class quality.

stock of Groceries and Confectionery.

Ice Cream, and all kinds of Fruit in season.

you to come and let the new styles do their | they found no time for fixing up." . The

Loretta noticed that the dear feetonce "light as a fairy's dragged a little. Bilence sat with the group before the dying fire. Then the good-nights were quietly But lo that quiet house three hearts kept watch. In Loretta's room the lamp burned all night; and under "There, there, Loral You're a its glow lay open hor Bible at the under-spored words: "Honor thy

father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." When the day before New Year's came, it seemed to the daughter that her parents were grayer and feebler

"Well, daughter, you'll be on your

"I expect I shall be busier than over,

ather. But I will write just as often -

"Why, mother, dear, what is the

matter?" for now sobs were shaking

She shook her head. "Don't aind-

me," she cald, brokenly, "but-I love

you-Lorotty-and-you're all wo've

got - and - my old heart - gots -

we're old and-you mustn't mind."

halred, as bont, as tromulous, as

ungry-like. That's all. You've been

"Lonely ! Oh, daughter-1"

vay to the city soon agula.

oftener if you are lonely."

the mother's elight form.

"holden" thus?

at breakfast. "Yes, indeed. I do not need to be le

Believe in Your Possibilities

Believe in your possibilities. Make up your mind that you are capable of doing better than you have ever done. gone as far as he can, there is a fulling off in the quality of his work. It pays to expect big things of yourself. Fow