NEW YEAR'S CALENDAR PARTY

BY NETTIE RAND MILLER.

Welcome the New Year with a Calendar Party. Plain white cards, tiny calendars and bows of silver ribbon make the invitations. Cedar and holly wreaths, borders of paper icicles and bells of white and red swinging from doorways and windows lend the New Year spirit. Just inside the door erect an arch of evergreen called the gate of months, bearing the initial letter of each month of the year. Here the host of the evening impersonating Janus, with a mask on the back of his head, and carrying a large key as the symbol of his office, acts as gatekeeper.

In your invitation ask each guest to impersonate the month of his birth. As the months arrive, Janus inspects their symbols before they are admitted into the circle of years. The guests are seated in a ring and as a new arrival is ushered in he is made to stand until the company identify the month of his birthday by the costume he wears. When the right guess is made the player must bow and recite a few lines of verse about his month. Two prizes are awarded—one to the person guessing the largest number of months and the second to the one reciting the wittiest verse.

Making the calendar is the game to play first. Have short questions to be answered with one word written on slips of paper and hung in plain sight about the room. All the letters in the one-word answer must occur in the word calendar. One question might be: It is very costly, it is an exclamation and it is always beloved. The answer is dear.

Dates will give a hilarious turn to the fun. Pass a basket of sugared dates. Inside of each is a slip of paper asking the recipient to act a stunt representing something he would like during the new year.

"I bid you come
good friend of mine,
And hope that you
will not decline
To watch with me,
until next year,
Which as you know
is almost here.
Janus, who keeps
the sacred gate,
Wants you to impersonate
The month of your birth."

Mary Adams Maple Hill Farm
Eight thirty o'clock
Thursday evening
December 31, 1925
——1926——

In the Game of Months the leader starts the fun by asking a player, "What month are you going away." The player makes his answer. The leader then keeps up a rapid fire of questions in regard to the trip. The answers must be in one word and begin with the initial letter of the chosen month.

Just before the old year ends serve the new year supper. To match partners ask the girls to draw cards, each pasted with a picture representing some month or event of the year. The boys draw plain cards printed with the month or name of the event pictured.

The calendar scheme may be used in the table decoration. Six strips of geren crepe paper used as runners across the cloth divides the table into twelve sections. On each section place letters of silver paper spelling the months of the year. Calendars fastened upright by fine wires make the place cards.

S.S. LESSON

January 3. The Son of God Becomes Man, John 1: 1-18. Golden Text—And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.—John 1: 14.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE ORIGINAL GREATNESS OF THE WORD, 1-5.

II. THE APPEARANCE OF THE WORD IN HISTORY, 6-13.

III. THE INCARNATION, 14-18.

INTRODUCTION—This is one of the masterpieces of Christian literature, setting forth as it does the nature of Christ. As a musician may begin with the outburst of full organ, so John begins his gospel with a melodious outburst of faith in the sublime and unique greatness of his Saviour. These eighteen verses called the prologue, form an introduction to the whole gospel and present a summary of the truths unfolded in the following chapters. The general theme is the "Word" or "Logos" a word not found elsewhere in the New Testament in this usage except 1 John 1:1; Rev. 19: 13, and not used by Jesus himself. John is convinced that all the wealth of divine glory is gathered up in Jesus, and he is certain that this Saviour is related to the eternal forces of the world. He selects a term that was peculiar to educated Jews, who regarded the "Word" as one of the mediators between God and man. The Greeks also regarded God as the final reason of the world, and "logos" meant reason as well as word. We, therefore, infer that John was challenging the consideration of Jew and Greek alike in this use of a word familiar to them. He sets forth Jesus as the final revelation of that truth which their people have been vainly trying to discover through philosophy. Christ as the Logos is the final word from the Father. This message can satisfy mankind.

I. THE ORIGINAL GREATNESS OF THE WORD, 1-5.

These verses set forth the relation of the Word to the eternal past, to God and to creation.

V. 1. In the beginning. The reader is at once reminded of Genesis 1:1-5. Jesus is shown to have existed long before his earthly appearance. The Word existed already when time began, and was equal with God. "Jesus has the same place as God," v. 3. The Word is the agent in creation. This is stated in a positive and a negative way for the sake of emphasis. Some denied the divine origin of the world, saying it was made by evil spirits. It is, however, one of the noble beliefs of the Christian Church that all things were created by God. This gives unity and purpose to everything. The world means something new to us when we realize that Christ made it. See 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:16.

V. 4. "Light," "life" and "Light" will often appear in the sequel. The story of the creation of light is here in mind. Christ is the light of the world. He has been the source of all that is good and true in the universe. He has spoken through the prophets and Psalmists and in the heart of men, and though darkness or evil has made many attempts to destroy the light, yet it has not succeeded, "the darkness did not overcome it." God has been working all the time. The Word is the source of creation and revelation. The life of the world is its light.

II. THE APPEARANCE OF THE WORD IN HISTORY, 6-13.

The Word is heralded by John the Baptist, who is one of the chief witnesses of the mission of Jesus, vs. 6-8. Evidently, some were induced to give undue prominence to John the Baptist and this is here corrected,—"He was not that light."

Vs. 9-11. Coming into the world. The tragic fact is here stated that the Jews did not accept the testimony of John. They refused to believe that Jesus was the true light "coming into the world." This was one of the most difficult of all problems. Why should the chosen people refuse to accept their Messiah? The cause lay in their unbelief, and John's gospel tells of the growth of unbelief as well as of belief. The Jews thought they were God's children by birthright, but John tells them that the new life could not come in that way, "not by the will of the flesh," but only by the personal acceptance of Christ. God's spirit was waiting to direct and bless them and as they opened their hearts to Jesus they knew that a profound change had come over them,—they had become "children of God."

III. THE INCARNATION, 14-18.

This is the grand climax of the prologue. He who has made and guided the world all through its history now condescends to become one with the race.

V. 14. The Word becomes flesh. This is the origin of the term "Incarnation" so familiar in the doctrines of Christianity. Jesus becomes a human personality, though never ceasing to be divine. Now men are able to see, not the reflected light of God, but can gaze directly upon it in the face of Christ. Only Begotten from the Father; a son without an equal. See 1 Cor. 1:15.

V. 16. We all received. John, the writer of this gospel, and his friends, have personally experienced the grace of this divine Logos. All the spiritual needs of the disciples have been met out of his fulness in ever-increasing supplies of grace and truth—"grace succeeding grace in endless profusion." Jesus is the full revelation of God. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

V. 18. A brief recapitulation. God in his pure nature is beyond the vision of mortals. "No man hath seen God at any time." If we are to know God up to our human capacity it must be from one who dwells in God and then comes down to mingle with us. This is what Jesus did, for he originally dwelt in the bosom of the Father. Thus the prologue gives choice to the deepest faith of the author. This is no mere speculation, no attempt to form a new kind of philosophy. It is the result of his spiritual experience. In the fellowship with Christ, John knew that he was in fellowship with God, with the Power that had made and upheld the universe, through whom all grace and truth came.

"But for this world the Word of God is Christ."

A New Year Wish.

I wish you happiness—I wish you gladness—
I wish you every good:
No life is ever free from breath of sadness—
Of course that's understood:
But should some cloud arise to dim your cheer,
God give you courage in the coming year!
May you have loved ones ever at your side,
And friends about your way;
May health and comfort in your world abide
And peace fold wings and stay.
May '26 prove comrade kind and true
In all his dealings with your own—and you!

—Lillian Gard.

It Is New Year.

A new New Year has come to stay,
A year to work and a year to play,
A year to study, a year to grow,
A year for all the winds to blow
From North and South and East and West;
Of all the years may it be your best—
Filled with kindness and love and joys,
A Happy New Year, dear girls and boys!

Putting the House in Order for the New Year.

Whenever Christmas gifts are in the nature of household furnishings, putting them away means readjusting the decorative scheme of one or more of the rooms. Each addition to the furniture should be made to fit into its surroundings and become an integral part of the room. This may mean changing the position of practically every article in a room, or merely slight changes. If the new article is a piano, for instance, or a large talking machine, a davenport or a desk, a cabinet for the dining room or large easy chair for the living room, it is easy to see that decided transpositions of furniture would be required. If the acquisition is a footstool, a reading lamp, a rug or a nest of tables the readjustments would probably be trifling. But whether the changes are large or small the important matter is to have them right.

STUDY THE ROOMS.

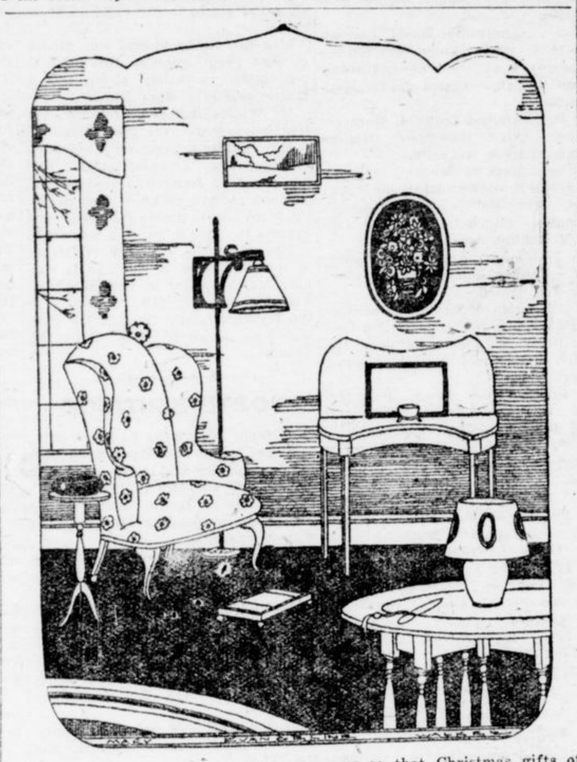
In order that the best arrangement of the room may be found, the home decorator has to study the room to be changed as if it were a problem to be solved in arithmetic or algebra. The room represents so much space and in that space the articles of furniture must be made to fit artistically according to architectural limitations or requirements. For instance, the lighting fixtures of the room make certain arrangements wise. The position of doors makes other arrangements necessary, for passageways should not be blocked. The windows form decided features to be considered; a fireplace is a delightful architectural asset. Long wall spaces call for special consideration. Radiators, registers or other heating elements frequently prevent what would, at first, appear to be ideal arrangements of rooms, etc. In fact there are so many things that have to be taken into consideration when decorating a room or when changing the schemes of rooms, that it is not surprising it takes study to make a room look its best, with the correct proportions accented, the color scheme artistic.

REARRANGEMENT HAPPY TASK.

If the new piece of furniture fulfills a long-felt need, the home-maker has pictured its position in a room many times. It then becomes a simple matter to rearrange the articles to suit it. Usually this means that something is disposed of in that particular room. It is probably relegated to some other part of the house, and then that room has to be rearranged. It is a happy task, however, this re-arrangement of rooms after Christmas, for it means better furnishings and new things.

NEW THINGS WITH OLD.

Whatever the new piece of furniture may be, one thing is sure. It will help to dress up the room if it is properly placed. Since it is new, it may be in decided contrast to the rest of the furniture, making the other pieces look a bit worn. However, this may prove an incentive to polish up the other furniture and give it a new look. Or it may result in the making of an attractive slip cover for an upholstered chair that is a bit shabby. All these things help to put the house in order for the New Year. Be sure that the additional pieces of furniture do not make rooms look crowded. Eliminate whenever possible. Keep only the best of what is necessary, and be very sure that every article is needed either for use, comfort, or for positive beauty of decoration.



It is a pleasant task to rearrange rooms so that Christmas gifts of furniture and furnishings fit into the surroundings like old friends.

Let's Give a Candy Party.

Why not have a candy party during the holidays?

The guests may be received at the door by the original "candy kid," who wears a peaked hat made of brown tissue paper to resemble a cream chocolate. For a watch chain he wears a string of peppermints and carries a large candy cane. He also wears a buttonhole bouquet of all-day suckers.

The Lollipop Tree is a splendid way of starting the evening's fun. Have prepared beforehand a tree from which are suspended by red cords of various lengths hard candies wrapped in waxed papers. Blindfold each guest, one at a time, hand them a pair of scissors and request them to cut a sweet plum from the tree. The candy is their reward if they are successful; if they fail they must pay a forfeit.

Mixed Candy is a good guessing game. Divide the guests into two teams. Each person is given a slip of paper and takes the name of some kind of candy and muddles up the letters so as to make it difficult to recognize the names—as tanupe libretthere for peanut brittle, lochatoce sabr for chocolate bars. Any member of the opposing team has the opportunity to guess what the name is. The time it takes for the opposing team to guess is recorded. Any member of the opposing team who has correctly guessed the muddled word can give a muddled word for the team to guess. The team guessing the muddled word in the shortest time wins one point.

For selecting partners have two dishes of candy, there being only two pieces exactly alike, one in each dish. Pass one dish to the ladies and one to the men. Partners are secured by matching candy.

The really novel feature of the party, however, is the following arrangement: Laughable designs are certain to be produced by some of the guests. Have prepared ready for working several pounds of creamy fondant of various colors and flavors. Have also bowls of blanched almonds, walnut meats, raisins, stoned dates, cocoanut, candied cherries and pineapple. Divide the fondant in equal portions between the partners and instruct them to go to the table, choose the materials they prefer for their favorite candy and mold it in any shape they desire. A prize might be offered for the one obtaining the most original and novel results.

Another Year.

Another year has brought its meed of blessing,
Its meed of honor, and its meed of praise;
Its meed of love each day, each hour, caressing,
Its meed of comfort for the weary days.
Its meed of suff'ring, haply, and of sorrow,
That we might learn some lesson that was meet;
Or gather strength for some unforeseen morrow,
While sitting silent at our Master's feet.
Its meed of opportunities, abundant,
For sowing precious seed of golden grain;
For filling out the love of God, redundant
As summer's sunshine, and as autumn's rain.
What of the vintage, Soul? When comes thy Master,
Shall He find fruitage fair, or naught but leaves?
If He should come to-day into thy pasture,
Would He find barren land, or many sheaves?
O Soul! each year, each moment brings Him nearer,
And happy are we if with brimming hand
We wait our Lord, than whom none could be dearer,
And in His holy presence perfect stand.

—Jennie Wilson-Howell.

MAKING THE MONEY GO ROUND

BY CLARA INGRAM JUDSON.

A Happy New Year to you all!

Sometimes as we say that phrase to family and friends, it rolls off the lips so glibly that we fail to catch its full significance. Think a minute of all the meaning it carries.

It says we have a new year—a whole new set of three hundred and sixty-five days. To be sure there are years behind—many of them full of joys and sorrows; and there will be years ahead. But this particular new year—1926—is now. The past is wiped out and in the joyful present we have a chance to start all over with a clean slate.

The place to start is at the bottom, and study the financial side of home-making. The first week in January is the ideal time to study the finances of the family. Work is not too pressing, and in most cases father and mother have by now a fairly definite idea of the amount of money they should have for the expenses of the coming year.

The first step is to figure up how much money there is likely to be for all the expenses of 1926. This means actual income, not the little earnings of individuals—those will come later. You don't know much about the next fall if you live on a farm, but probably you do know the receipts of the 1925 harvest and can make a fair guess on how much there will be to spend during the months ahead.

All businesses have expenses and the farm business is no exception. There are taxes, insurance, repairs and improvements to be paid for Figure the bare necessities first and then see how much of the income is left. Let the children help with the figuring; nothing else will give them so good an understanding of father's responsibilities.

THINGS WE MUST HAVE.

Is the amount left only barely enough for living expenses? If so, this is hardly the year for making big improvements. If it seems a comfortable amount, then here is the time to figure out what changes should be made or buildings put up. Of course these things may not be done for some weeks yet, but the figuring is done to-day before too definite plans are made either for improvements or living.

That point settled and the total farm expenses subtracted from the gross income you now have what is called the net income, which is the business way of saying that this is the money the family has for running its business. The last paragraph was farm business but now we're going to talk about home business.

So that's the money we have to make a home on. Maybe it's a lot; maybe it's very little. Anyway, we know it's ours, and we intend to do our very best to make it get for us all the satisfaction and comfort it can.

Next we're going to put down all the things we simply have to have. We'll write shelter, food, clothing and education and then we'll make those words more interesting by seeing just what the money must get us under each one.

For shelter we will need fuel, household supplies, maybe taxes and interest, household repairs, postage, gasoline, household service and all the kinds of expenses that are needed to make a house a home. Perhaps you counted some of these items in with your farm expenses. That's all right —just so you count them somewhere. On a farm, home and father's business are so mixed up that it is hard to tell which is which. But if you put the main farm expenses down under that heading the small ones may not matter so much.

Probably you have receipted store bills or an account which will help you decide how much to figure for food. And as for clothing, let mother and the older children write down the most necessary clothing that must be bought.

As for education, if some of your girls and boys are nearly grown, you'll want to talk about their schooling and see how much money there will be for that—that's a necessity as well as the other things. And there should be something, if you can passibly manage it, for magazines, books, radio and church, for those bring education to all.

Now add these things together and what do you suppose you have? A budget.

And it's a good one, too, for it's home-made and cut to order. Compare this budget of spending with your income and see how it looks. Too little to be spent? Or too much? If it's too little, so much the better for then we can put in savings and fun money and some more clothing.

A budget is only a plan for spending—it isn't a mint. But a budget will make your dollar get you the thing you want most and in that way it sometimes seems to make your dollar worth as much as two or even three.

And a budget does one other fine thing, it shows us what our dollars will not get—that's very well worth knowing.

One day I talked with a woman who had used a budget to show her what her income would not do. This is the story she told me:

"We rented fruit land, a large farm, and we were sure we were to be successful. But there was a killing frost in May and that first year we barely got along. Next year there was a frost the last week of May and again our trees and our hopes were blasted. I hate to think of what a hard year that was.

"The third year the spring was fine and we were so happy and hopeful. But just when the trees were loaded with bloom a northeaster not only killed the blossoms but broke down the trees as well.

"That same day I made a budget. I set down on paper the cost of all the things we simply had to have—our clothing was threadbare and our pantry a joke. I added it up to see how much I needed. And then I set an incubator full of my best eggs. Now you should see our business. I wish every family would stop getting along blindly. They should figure out what they need, as we did, and then set their brains to work."

Well might she be proud for in three years she and her husband had built up a nationally known business. They ship fine baby chicks, getting them to destination before feeding is needed.

You see, they took the thing they could do and did more of it. They are now happy and prosperous. If they ever do have a good fruit year, they will make a lot of money; in the meantime they are comfortable and are educating their children. And that business was started by the wife making a budget to find out what she couldn't buy till she got the money!

So if it appears that you haven't enough money to provide all the things you have to have, cut down where you can, but set the family's brains to working on how to increase the income till it fits the outgo. Chickens, butter, a lunch room on a hard road, more gardening, canning, sewing—what you do will depend on your market and your tastes. But everyone can do something some time of year and the children can help as well as the grown folks. Maybe you have tried this before and it didn't work. So much the better for you, for then you know what not to do, and that's a real advantage. Don't repeat mistakes, avoid them.

A Musical Stunt for Your Social Evening.

There is a class of people who are continually on the alert for new ideas in the way of entertainment at social evenings, club meetings, etc. Here is a musical stunt which might suit their purpose admirably, for it introduces the element of music, without which no social evening is complete, and also smacks of considerable originality.

The idea referred to, it is learned, has already been tried, and has proven very successful. Here it is:

A program is prepared in advance, giving the name of the performer and the nature of the selection, somewhat after the following style:

MUSICAL RECITAL.

1. Violin Solo—
   Name .....
   Composer .....
   Mr. John Hopkins.
2. Piano Duet—
   Name .....
   Composer .....
   Miss Reta Dixon and
   Mr. Walter Harris.
3. Cornet solo—
   Name .....
   Composer .....
   Mr. Albert Defoe.
4. Piano Solo—
   Name .....
   Composer .....
   Miss Betty Gladstone.
5. Etc., etc.

On the evening of the party, each guest is given one of these programs. As the number is rendered, the blank spaces are filled in by those who are fortunate enough to identify them. The one to fill all the spaces correctly is the one to win first prize.

In selecting the pieces for this program, the performers and the hostess are the only ones who know what they are to be. The hostess sees to it that they are pieces likely to be known, but not so familiar that they could be identified at once. For instance, to select such pieces as Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" or Handel's "Largo" would be of little interest to the program.

Instead of having individual performers, the phonograph or player-piano, it might be mentioned, could be used effectively to render the various numbers, in which case the idea would be the same, viz., to guess the names of the respective compositions and their composers. Try this stunt sometime in connection with your own social evening!

New Year's Resolution.

Let me be a little kinder,
Let me be a little blinder,
To the faults of those around me
Let me praise a little more.
Let me be, when I am weary,
Just a little bit more cheery;
Let me serve a little better
Those that I am striving for.

"A Bright New Year and a sunny track
Along an upward way,
And a song of praise on looking back,
When the year has passed away,
And golden sheaves, nor small, nor few!
This is my New Year's wish for you!"

Dairy Industry Prospers.

Canada continues to increase her prestige as a dairying country and there is no apparent halt to the remarkable progress the Dominion has been making in this regard. On the contrary, butter production is increasing at a very gratifying rate, and the product is finding such favor in outlying markets that little trouble is being experienced in disposing of the surplus above domestic requirements and the figures of export are swelling each year.

Figures of butter production constituted a record in 1924 when the Dominion accounted for an output of 184,290,908 pounds, or an increase of 21,000,000 pounds over that of the previous year. The Prairie Provinces of the West, where dairying has shown such phenomenal development, contributed substantially to this increase, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta together producing a total of 47,582,804 pounds of butter, as compared with 39,374,388 pounds in 1923, an increase in volume for the year of 20 per cent.

FURTHER INCREASE, PRODUCTION AND IMPORT.

A further considerable increment will be recorded in Canada in 1925, and the Prairie Provinces, where dairying is yet a comparatively new industry, will again largely share in this. The Province of Saskatchewan, which used to be considered entirely a wheat territory, in the first six months of 1925 produced 6,392,462 pounds of butter, compared with 5,109,090 pounds in the same period in 1924, an increase of over 25 per cent. The increase in the case of Manitoba is even greater, this being up to the end of May, according to the Provincial Dairy Commissioner, 52 per cent. Alberta, which produces more butter than either of its sister provinces, is likewise showing a healthy increase.

The export trade in butter is developing in a similarly gratifying manner, testifying to the high quality of the Dominion product. During the twelve months ending June, 1925, Canada exported butter to the extent of 25,096,120 pounds valued at $8,934,794, as against 13,668,379 pounds valued at $5,031,634 in the previous corresponding year. Shipments went to the United Kingdom, United States, South America, South Africa, West Indies, Alaska, China, Japan, Germany, Belgium, Cuba, Holland, New Zealand and other countries.

FAVORED IN UNITED KINGDOM.

One of the outstanding features of the butter export trade is the business which is developing out of Vancouver, particularly that via the Panama Canal to Great Britain. During the past two years or so Alberta butter producers have developed a strong market in Great Britain, where dealers have been quite pleased with the product despatched. Recently a consignment of six thousand boxes, aggregating 113 tons, the largest consignment of butter to leave Vancouver at one time, went to the United Kingdom market. At the same time butter shipments to Japan and other countries of the Orient are increasing, this country having taken 165,957 pounds of Alberta butter in the first six months of the present year.

Though Western Canadian butter export to England is very gratifying, and showing remarkable increase, it does not yet loom up largely against the imports from other countries, and in every consideration at the present time there exist vast possibilities for expansive development of this trade. In the first five months of 1925 the striking increase was recorded in exports to the United Kingdom of from $4,025 in 1924 to $255,000 in 1925, and in the total year's butter trade Canada occupied seventh place among all countries supplying Great Britain with butter.

The progress Canada has made in dairying in recent years, particularly in Western Canada, which a short while ago was largely dependent on importation, has been remarkable. The Dominion is making a strong bid for dairy leadership among the countries of the Empire, which, taken in conjunction with her successful penetration of other countries, with general trade developed under particularly favorable conditions, augurs well for the future of the industry.

The First of January.

Every first of January that we arrive at, is an imaginary milestone on the turnpike of human life; at once a resting place for thought and meditation, and a starting point for fresh exertion in the performance of our journey.

The man who does not at least propose to himself to be better this year than he was last, must be either very good or very bad, indeed! And only to propose to be better, is something; if nothing else, it is an acknowledgment of our need to be so, which is the first step toward amendment. But, in fact, to propose to one's self to do well, is in some sort to do well, positively; for there is no such thing as a stationary point in human endeavors; he who is not worse to-day than he was yesterday, is better and he who is not better, is worse.—Mirror of the Months.

If you think it a good idea to rob Peter in order to pay Paul, you can qualify as a member of some bloc or other.

Saxon daggers, and other relics, discovered at Luton in the making of roads, have been identified by the British Museum authorities as over 1,400 years old.

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