

## The New Year.

The frosty night wind hurries on  
The strangers' lagging feet,  
And, for a moment, in the hush  
The Old and New Year meet;  
And one goes back to God again,  
And one stays on for joy or pain.

And he who stays looks for thy face  
And finds thee in the night,  
And with swift arms encircles thee,  
And claims thee his by right;  
And one else can come as near  
To thee as he, the Stranger Year.

He will abide his time with thee—  
His own full death do part;  
Therefore receive him tenderly  
And take him to thy heart,  
Not grudgingly, as one who must,  
But generously with love and trust.

Be not afraid to give thyself  
Into our guiding hands,  
For he will lead through day or dark,  
To rough or pleasant lands,  
And he will give thee light or rest,  
The shine or shade as shall be best.

Respond to every word of his  
With faith that does not fear;  
Another speaks to thee through him,  
For God is in the Year;  
Oh, love him, for he comes to bless  
Thy life with good and happiness.

Marianne Farmingham.

## Why Bert Wasn't Whipped.

## A NEW YEARS' STORY.

BY HELEN PEARSON BARNARD.

"Can I go now?" asked little Bert, of a figure at the washbub.  
"Not till ye fetch me wash water."  
"I'll be late to school, 'n' get a licking," objected Bert, with a distressed face. But it had no effect upon the figure at the tub, for it did not turn, and its harsh voice said:  
"Do ye good, warm ye up this cold day."

Which was not very sympathetic, and from a mother, too. But Bert's had a hard time, and often spoke to her little ones as if they were to blame. Bert brought the water, then set out for school. It was a bitter day in December, the frost stung him before he had gone the length of the street, but something besides that made the tears fall over his cheeks. It was the expected whipping. His teacher, Amanda Sprague, never spared the rod—no danger of any of her children spoiling for that. She had a hard set to deal with at "The Corners"; no one had competed for her place in all the fifteen years she had reigned there. So her tall, spare form, with its set face, had become to the minds of the youth in that quarter the very embodiment of discipline. Bert feared her more than anybody else in the wide world. If she glanced at him in school he colored to the roots of his sandy hair, and looked guilty of any infantile crime. Bert had a vivid imagination. Now, as he ran, he saw with his mind's eye, Amanda turning her face as he timidly opened the school-room door, and heard her suggestive inquiry:  
"Bert Goodwin, what did I promise you if you were tardy again?"

The prospect was not very inviting, or stimulating to the intellect; on the contrary, the child was half paralyzed with terror, besides being numb with cold, as he reached the temple of learning. In the entry was Tim Craik, a queer, funny elf, whom even Miss Sprague could not subdue. He had come out on some errand. As the little boy timidly deposited his cap, his fearful condition elicited the elegant inquiry from Tim:  
"Say, bub, what's eating you?"  
"I'm late again, 'n' she promised me a licking."

Tim's eyes gleamed.  
"Too bad! but you'll miss it this morning. We've got a new teacher. Bert struck an attitude."

"Miss 'Mandy gone?"  
"No, she ain't. She's there, tall's ever, 'n' there ain't nobody else; but we've got a new teacher all the same."

"Aw, get out!" returned Bert;  
"yer stuffing on me!"  
"Go on in, and see for yourself," said Tim.

Bert summoned courage and entered the school-room. Miss Amanda was there as usual, in the straight-backed chair on the platform. The little boy shook in his shoes as her keen eyes were turned upon him and the familiar voice called him to her. He thought surely that promise was to be inflicted, but, instead, she took his benumbed fingers in her own and warmed them gently.  
"Why are you tardy, my boy?" she asked, kindly.

"Ma'am?" gasped Bert, too amazed for other reply, his great eyes lifted wonderingly to her face. The child's quick instincts read a different look there, one of the kindly interest. Truly, as Tim said, they had "a new teacher."

That night for the first time in the history of The Corners, at the close of the session, the teacher followed the pupils into the entry, and saw that

their outer garments were fastened securely before they went out into the cold. The uninitiated hands she wrapped with bits of woollen tied on with soft strong yarn. Then she protected several tender faces with old veils. Never had the children of that poor district gone home so comfortable and happy. There were many comments as the children walked to their homes. Tim Craik mocked a group of little girls who were declaring—that "Miss Sprague was just splendid today."

"Oh, yes!" he cried; "shouldn't wonder but her wings was sprouting." About this time, it was whispered about among the scholars, that Miss Sprague had "got religion." It was not from anything she said, for she could scarcely have told how the change began. She had been met by an unseen influence, and shown how she might serve Him just where she stood, by dealing gently with the little ones; that caring for them spiritually and physically was as much her mission as to teach from books.

"If I had only begun earlier," Miss Sprague often said, mourning over lost chances; "the children can never love me now."

She did not know how easily won are young hearts. They met her kindly advances with affectionate trust, clustering about her, escorting her to and from school, bringing her, from their homes, anything they considered choice. Christmas week was vacation. Some of the children, whose homes were uninviting, actually cried because school was not going to keep. They were partially consoled by being let into "a secret,"—some of Miss Sprague's most fervent admirers planned to surprise her New Year's eve.

"What with?" inquired Tom Craik, with good-humored sarcasm. "A mawble clock wot strikes like a church tower every half hour, or somewhat in the fool's line? I seed a big breast-pin down in the store window today. I s'pose the Centre School'd ought to lay out big, seeing as how she's wore herself out a licking of it so many year."

The girls united in a chorus of, "For shame, Tim Craik! She's awful good to us now. You needn't have nothing to do with this."

Nevertheless Tim attended all the secret sessions of the originators, and when it was decided—pennies being scarce—that each should give something that he or she had in the house, he laid awake nights racking his brain for "teacher's present." At these times, when his friends could not see, Tim's merry face wore a look of gloom.

"Mighty poor picking here," he muttered. "There ain't nothing except"—than his eye would linger upon a rusty old rat-trap, that held, not a rat, but a bright eyed squirrel. Tim had spent hours catching, training, and exhibiting him. It was the admiration of his mates, and Tim's one treasure. Tim would take him out, hug him tightly, whispering.

"No, no, I can't spare you, not for no New Year's party!"

But when the "party," a procession of boys and girls, started for Miss Sprague's, Tim suddenly joined them.

"What have you brought, Tim?" whispered several.

"Not much," said Tim, in a queer muffled voice; "maybe it'll make a dinner for teacher's cat."

A wrathful chattering from under Tim's coat revealed the gift. The sudden outbreak was so much like a protest, that the children giggled. But presently they thought what a sacrifice Tim was making, and he was the hero of the hour. So it came to pass that Tim, bearing the cage, headed the Indian file that stole into Miss Sprague's home that New Year's eve.

As each bore something and deposited it silently in turn, there was soon a miscellaneous collection in the little parlor. The procession marched around Miss Sprague with measured step till the last gift was deposited, then broke into song encircled the teacher again, and filed out of the house. Overcome with surprise, Miss Sprague awaited another move from the company, but they did not appear. She hastened to the door. They were already far up the moonlit country road, chanting a hymn. As their fresh, innocent voices floated back upon the still evening, it seemed to the school mistress like heavenly music. With clasped hands and tearful eyes she murmured,

"Of such is the kingdom."

## A Marked Boy.

Years ago there lived in the interior of New York a boy, the son of a farmer, who also worked at the trade of a potter. The boy was a marked youth, because he did with might whatever he undertook. He was a leader in the ordinary sports of boyhood; and, whenever the farm or the pottery relaxed their hold upon him, he would be found repairing some damaged

article or devising a new implement. His father was poor, the farm was small, and could only be enlarged by clearing up the primeval forest. The boy was anxious to acquire knowledge, but his services were so necessary to his father that he could not be spared to attend the winter term of the common school.

But the boy was in earnest. With the aid of his brother, one year his junior, he chopped and cleared four acres of birch and maple woodland, ploughed it, planted it with corn, harvested the corn, and then asked as his compensation, to be allowed to attend school during the winter. Of course, the father granted the wish.

When the boy was seventeen, the father's pottery business had so increased as to demand a more extensive factory. A carpenter was hired to build the new building, and the boy assisted him. So familiar did he become with the tools and trade that he determined, with the aid of the younger brother, to erect a two-story frame dwelling-house for his father's family.

The two boys cut the timber from the forest, planned and framed the structure, and then invited the neighbors to assist at the "raising." They came from far and near to see what a lad of seventeen had done. When every mortise and tenon was round to fit in its place, and the frame was seen to stand perfect and secure, the veterans cheered the young architect and builder. From that day he was in demand as a master-carpenter.

That boy was Ezra Cornell, the founder of Cornell University.—*Evangelical Messenger.*

"I OWE MY FIRST SUCCESS TO A GOOD HAND-WRITING."—These words by Benjamin Franklin could be truthfully repeated by many a successful business man in this generation. If a good hand-writing was so valuable to Franklin, how much more important is it to a young man in these days of sharp competition and improved methods, when business is done largely by correspondence and everything is a matter of record!

"Address in own hand writing," reads the advertisement, and the applicant for a business position is accepted or rejected largely on account of his hand writing. A neatly written, well composed letter is often the stepping stone to success. Plain, neat and fluent penmanship is in constant demand, and at handsome prices. It is an excellent recommendation. It is a young man's best capital. It secures the situation;—other attainments enable one to hold the place and "work up."

## Young Folks' Column.

Conducted by C. E. BLACK.

CASE SETTLEMENT, KINGS CO., N. B.

## PUZZLE DEPARTMENT.

22. "Attempt the end, never stand in doubt  
Nothing's so hard, but search'll find it out."

## The Mystery Solved.

(No. 50.)

No. 215.—(8) Eight—by changing the first letter to r.

No. 213.—Civic.

No. 217.—"Who shall dare the loaf to steal from him who sifts and kneads the meal."

No. 218.—1. Volga. 2. Till. 3. Tyne.

No. 219.—Aaron.

No. 220.—Swallow.

No. 221.—Eleemosynary.

## The Mystery—No. 1.

N. B.—Contributions and answers respectfully solicited.

## No. 1.—PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

(BY B. V. C., HIGHLAND VILLAGE, N. S.)

1. Where is it said, "The silver is mine and the gold is mine saith the Lord of Hosts?"

2. Where is this passage: "The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen?"

3. Six amateur papers for first correct answers.

## No. 2.—DIAMOND PUZZLES.

(BY "WINTERGREEN," BELLEISLE BAY.)

I. A letter; a scripture name. A girl's name; what boys like to see; a vowel.

II. A letter; a floor covering; a girl's name; to unite; a vowel.

## No. 3.—NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

(BY MARY CLARKSON, WILLIAMSBURG.)

My whole, consisting of 10 letters, was a great soldier.

My 1, 5, 6, 7 is part of a bird; my 10, 2, 3, 4 is a girl's nickname; my 8, 9, 1, 2, 3 is a very useful article.

## No. 4.—BIBLE QUESTIONS.

(BY R. LIZZIE GALLAGHER, WILLIAMSBURG.)

1. What do the fowls of the air never do?

2. What are we to redeem?

3. Who opened the gate not for gladness?

4. What are we to do freely?

5. What are to forgive men?

6. What shall be rolled together as a scroll?

7. What bird did the Lord command to be fed to Elijah?

8. What did John the Baptist tell the soldier to be contented with?

9. Name a maid called blessed by an angel?

10. Where are the words, "The word of the Lord is indeed tried?" (Please give Bible references.)

## No. 5.—CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

(BY "PHILOMATH," QUEENS.)

In man, but not in boy;

"leg," "arm";

"girl," "maid";

build the new building, and the boy assisted him. So familiar did he become with the tools and trade that he determined, with the aid of the younger brother, to erect a two-story frame dwelling-house for his father's family.

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## M. McLEOD,

MANUFACTURER

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No. 36 Dock Street.

McLeod's Absolutely Pure Flavoring Extracts;  
Extracts Jamaica Ginger,  
Dr. Noble's Great Cure for Summer Complaint, Cholera, etc.;  
McLeod's Quinine Wine;  
Tonic Cough Cure;  
Rheumatic and Bone Liniment, etc.

## McLeod's True Fruit Syrups,

Contains no Alcohol, Artificial Coloring or other foreign ingredients.

Strawberry, Raspberry,  
Lemon, Lime Juice,  
Special Blend and Imperial.