

OLD TIME NEW YEAR CALLS NOT MUCH IN VOGUE NOW

Young Men Used to Call on Lady Acquaintances the First Day of the Year and Drink Their Health---Extracts From the Diary of Eli Perkins a Noted Humorist Tells How Game was Played--Young Ladies Dressed up for the Occasion.

Time, the relentless, has seen the almost entire disappearance of the custom of New Year's calls. It was not so very many years ago that every five young man looked forward to the pleasure of calling on his lady acquaintances the first day of the year to drink her health and "bring good luck."

This custom was prevalent in the days when men who are now middle-aged were boys—the time when, instead of saying "Go to it," they said "Get there Eli!" They said "Get there Eli" because Eli Perkins was then a well known humorous lecturer and writer and to keep a lecture engagement he made a difficult journey in

record time, and "got there." The way Eli tells in a kind of diary of his calls one New Year's day will not be exactly in accord with sentiments of the present day, but can at least be relished as a little look backward into the recent past.

5th Heavenue Hotel, N. Y.,
1 a. m., Jan. 2.

I don't feel like writing today; my head aches. I made New Year's calls yesterday—made 125 calls. I finished them about 12 o'clock—a—n hour ago.

I had my call list written off and commenced at Sixteenth street and came down. My idea was to make 125 calls of five minutes each. This would make 625 minutes, or ten hours. I think I did it. I worked hard. I was an intermittent perpetual motion. I did all anybody could do. If any fellow says he made 126 calls he—well, he's guilty of a libel. I tried it. I made my 125th call with my eyes closed and at my 126th I swooned on the hall stairs. Nature was exhausted. Oh, but wasn't it fun! It is nothing to make calls after you have been at it a spell. The last twenty calls were made with one eye closed. I was actually taking a mental nap all the time. My tongue talked right ahead all the time from force of habit. Talking

came as easy as ordinary respiration. All I had to do was to open my mouth and the same words tumbled out:

"Hap—new year, Mis-Smite!"
"Ah! Mr. Perkins, I'm delighted—"
"May you have man'hap'returns—by-by!"
"But aren't you going to drink to—"
"Thank—spleasur—(drank); may you live (hic) thousand years!"
"By-by" (sliding into the hall and down the front steps).

I started at noon. Made first call on young lady. She said: "You have many calls to make. Won't you fortify yourself with a little sherry?"

I said (hic) would, and drank small glass.

Called on married lady on Fifth Avenue, you know "William was off making calls too." We drank old port to Absent William.

On 9th street met a sainted Virginia mother, who had some real old Vir-

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Would Wake Up Smothering.**

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ginia egg-nogg. Very nice egg-nogg. Abused the Yankees and drank two glasses with Virginia mother.

On 46th street met a lady who had some nice California wine. Tried it. Then went across the street with Democrat friend to say New Year's and get some of old Skinner's 1836 brandy. Got it. Mrs. Skinner wanted us to drink to skinner. Drank to Skinner and ate lobster salad.

Met a friend who said: "Let's run in and see (hic) Coe, the temperance man."

Coe said, "Temperance is wise these times."

"Fac," sez I. "Les drink to him."

Drank twice to temp'ance. Drank to Mrs. Temp'ance; drank to children.

Drove round to Miss Thompson's—Thompson's famous for rum punch.

Tried two glasses with Miss Thompson. Very happy—house looked lovely—ate brandied peaches—good many lights—pretty girls—drank th'r health—drank claret, then Roman punch.

Went out leaving a Dunlap hat for a Knox and a \$12 umbrella in the rack.

Happy thought! Took Charley Brown in carriage with driver and got on outside with self.

Charley said, "Let's drop in on the Madison Heavenue Masons."

"All right." Dropped in. Miss Mason says: "Have some nice old Madeira?"

"Yes, Miss Mason—will have some my dearie."

Drank to Mrs. Mason and ate boned turkey to young ladies. Young ladies dressed beautifully—wore court train and shoes a la Pompadour. Left overcoat and umbrella and changed high hat for fur cap—saw span of horses in a carriage drawn by Charley King—charley tightly slight—said he'd been in to Lee's, eating boned sherry and drinking pale turkey.

Now all called on Lamb's on 34th Avenue. Old Lamb was round—drank brandy peaches here and ate more pony brandy. Young ladies beautiful—high heeled dress and shoes décolleté—great many of 'em—nice Roman punch 4th monogram on it—presented large bouquet in corner to Mrs. Lamb—exchanged hat for card basket and slid down front banisters.

Called on Vanderbilt. Hang (hic) Vanderbilt! Vanderbilt didn't 'ceiv calls. Carried off card basket and hung Charley's hat on bell-knob—usdd Vanderbilt's cards to make other calls with—kept calling—called steady—called between calls—drank more—drank everywhere—young ladies more beautiful—wanted us to come back to party in evening—came back—grand party—Gilmore's band furnished by music—drank more lobster salad—drank half a glass of silk dress and poured rest on skirt of Miss Smith's champagne in corner—slumped plate gaslight green silk down on to—nice ice cream—dresses wore white tarlatan young ladies cut swallow-tail—sat on young ladies' hand and held stairs—very (hic) happy—fellows must ha' been drinkin'.

11 p.m. Left party—carriage outside wanted me to get into Fred Young and prom'nade over to the Stewarts.

enue Hotel and told the driver to drive roun' to carriage—came up to letter and wrote this room for the Com(hic)-veriset—pulled coat off with bootjack and stood self up by the register to dry—then wrote (hic)—wrote more (hic)—U-I Perk(hic)ins.

"Drunk again John!" "So am I, meenister; so am I!"

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and Closes

Thursday Jan 3rd.

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Help along the Greater Production Movement by your Presence.

J. N. Ferguson, M. E. Hagerman

President Secretary

We take this opportunity of thanking the people of Fredericton and vicinity for their generous patronage during this present year and trust that they, one and all may have a

"Merry Xmas"

and a

"Happy and Prosperous New Year"

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"HAPPY NEW YEAR"

Also to those who are not friendly, the same greeting is extended, and as "Little Johnnie" prayed, so do we, that "God bless everybody."

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