

YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS



HOW LONG DO YOU HOLD THE DETERMINATION TO KEEP YOUR TEMPER OR QUIT GOSSIPING OR STOP SWEARING? WISE ONES SAY WE PROFIT BY MAKING RESOLUTIONS SINCERELY EVEN IF WE KEEP THEM BUT A DAY

ANY weakling can make resolutions. It needs a strong man to keep them. That is perhaps why New Year resolutions are so often futile. The strong do not wait for high days and holy days to amend their conduct or carry out their resolves. They obey Goethe's dictum: "Seize this very minute, Boldness has genius, power and magic in it."

And so it happens that the large army of people who wait for the New Year before effecting a reformation in their lives are seldom successful in carrying out their intentions. They are not possessed of the spirit of energy and resolution necessary to achievement. It may be argued that it is better to make good resolutions, even though they are not carried out, than not to make them at all. This is open to question, however. Unless one is absolutely determined to do what one has decreed, it is perhaps on the whole better not to make promises to oneself. Unfulfilled resolves continually repeated, tend to weaken the character, and to reduce one's faith in oneself, just as resolutions put into practice are conducive to strength and self-confidence.

Very little tends to overbalance the resolutions of the average person. In fact, many people welcome any excuse to exonerate them from the carrying out of their resolves. One individual determines, let us say, never to lose his temper. He comes down on New Year's morning with a set smile on his face. Alas! it is short-lived. The whole world seems in conspiracy to drag him back to his former frame of mind. The coffee is cold, the letters which look so alluring prove to be chiefly bills and begging epistles, he falls over the doorstep as he leaves the house. All these minor annoyances, which, if rightly met, would have helped him to conquer his weakness, serve but to throw him back into his original state, and before evening he is as bad as ever he has been.



A PUBLIC NEW YEAR'S EVE REVEL

Or, take another very general New Year's resolution, that of getting up at a certain time in the morning. When the day dawns, any reason whatever is grasped at to evade this. The weather is too cold, the alarm was not loud enough, he is sure his watch is fast, he doesn't really feel well enough to risk getting up earlier than usual, and, after all, he asks himself, is there any real reason why he should? A thousand-and-one excuses the average individual will make to himself rather than perform what he has designed to do. The world is full of wobblers of this kind, and the more they wobble the weaker they become.

Another reason perhaps why the average resolution-maker so seldom achieves their purpose is that they attempt too much. They make two, three, sometimes six resolutions at once, whereas to carry through one resolution successfully is quite an admirable feat. As Thomas a Kempis says:

"If every year we could root out one vice we would sooner become perfect men." Impatience is at the root of many defeats. It is customary nowadays to sneer at the virtue for which the name of Job is synonymous, but those who say that patience is the virtue of an ass or a beggar's virtue are not so wise as the Spanish proverb-maker, who said: "Patience! and shuffle the cards." Most people shuffle the cards eagerly enough, but the patience is lacking. Seeking to grasp the stars at a bound they fall back to the earth. And so, if people at the commencement of a New Year adjusted their desires in accordance with their abilities, and instead of sighing for the unattainable made the very most of the opportunities vouchsafed to them, one would hear less of broken resolutions and wasted lives. "Do the duty which lies nearest to thee which thou knowest to be a duty," said Carlyle. "Thy second duty will already have become clearer."

The Turning of New Leaves.

Good resolutions have almost gone out of fashion. On the last night of the year we no longer sit down to review our past lives and resolve to be "better and wiser" than we have been in the past. "It is of no use making resolutions, I never can keep them," is the plea that is usually proffered. This is a mistake, however. It is commendable to resolve (an alarm clock helping one) to get up half an hour earlier than usual in the morning, even though it results—as, alas! it too often does—in one getting up half an hour later. It is what one aspires to be that counts.

If people could live more in the present it would help them enormously in the keeping of good resolutions. So many people persist in being just a little ahead all the time. "Tomorrow," they say, "we will reform," but the tomorrow of their imaginings never dawns. Ancient and modern philosophers have agreed as to the dangers of procrastination. Such widely diverse people as Horace, the Latin poet who flourished in 65 B. C., and pushful persons who flourish (exceedingly) at the present day, join issue in this particular. "Who begins, possesses half the deed," says Horace.

"Dare to be wise; make a commencement." "Do it now," is the curt command of the modern apostle of "Hustle." Again, Horace says, "If you are ignorant: how to live aright, give place to those who have learned: the lesson."

"Get on or get out," says a manikin, following in more concentrated, if less courteous language the same line of thought on a somewhat lower plane. The one was concerned with the things of the soul and the spirit; the other with worldly advancement. There are some who contend that the two cannot go together, but if (as has been contended by many men of wisdom) what a man is of more importance than what he has, it is well to make spiritual advancement as the years go by. If we have not made progress, we have gone back. The soul never stands still. Time has no terror for those who have learned wisdom.

Pass thou, wild heart,
Wild heart of youth that still
Hast had a mind to stay,
I grow too old a comrade;
Let us part,
Pass thou away.

Some people drag the follies and immaturities of youth into old age. There is wisdom in adjusting oneself to time, to profit by past experiences, and to acquire that sense of proportion which refuses to magnify trifles into tragedies, and to worry over the inevitable.

THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

Dec. 27, 1914.
Germans pushed preparations for the defense of Antwerp. British cruisers and seaplanes attacked German naval base at Cuxhaven. Commander of the German cruiser York sentenced to two years' imprisonment for losing his vessel. German spy disguised as a Moor seized while trying to enter Gibraltar.

Dec. 28, 1914.
New defenses of Paris completed. Germans finished further fortifications on the Rhine. Russians raised siege of Cracow to attack Austrian armies attempting flank movement. American government protested against interference with American commerce by British warships. Belgian minister to United States protested against cancellation of consular exequaturs by Germany. Italian government checked plot to export foodstuffs to Germany. British consul at Salda, Turkey, freed after threat by American consul. United States cruiser Tennessee took 500 refugees from Syria.

Dec. 29, 1914.
Germans re-enforced their line in Belgium. French invested Steinbach, Alsace. Germans repulsed French attacks on Sennheim. Russians declared German advance on Warsaw was checked.

Dec. 30, 1914.
Germans retreated across the Bzura river. Russians advanced in South Poland. French submarine torpedoed and damaged Austrian dreadnaught Viribus Unitis. German airmen dropped bombs in Dunkirk, killing fifteen persons. French aviators made raids in Flanders. Antiwar riots took place in Austria-Hungary. Austria abandoned the Serbian campaign.

Dec. 31, 1914.
French took half the village of Steinbach. Lull took place on most of the western line. Turks invaded Russian Caucasus, advancing on Kars and Ardahan. Thirty French and British warships bombarded Pola. Rockefeller Foundation steamer Masapequa sailed on second trip with supplies for Belgium, and fifth Belgian relief ship left Philadelphia.

Jan. 1, 1915.
Russians invaded Hungary, splitting Austrian army by their operations in Carpathians. Russians in East Prussia driven across border into Polish province of Suwalki. Turks invaded Russia but failed to envelop Russian forces. British battleship Formidable torpedoed and sunk in English channel, 600 lost. German aeroplanes bombarded Dunkirk again. Rockefeller Foundation bought 6,000,000 bushels of wheat in Chicago for Belgians.

Jan. 2, 1915.
Germans began offensive movement against Kielce, Russia. Captured Polish towns fortified by Germans. Turks captured fortified Russian town of Ardahan. Arrest of four German reservists on liner in New York harbor resulted in exposure of big fraudulent passport plot.

CONDENSATIONS

The color magenta is named after a battle which was fought in the year of its discovery. Lake Erie produces more fish to the square mile than any other body of water in the world. Gardner Savage of North Anson, Me., although totally blind for many years, is a telegraph operator and can take apart and repair his instrument whenever necessary.

In Baltimore, as a result of an investigation, experts figured that the minimum amount on which a single woman could live decently was \$6.50 a week. Eighty-one per cent of the department store women in Baltimore get less than that. A Connecticut inventor's clothes prop that will not fall from a line has a hole in one side of the upper end, covered with a flat spring that holds it in place. A paper cap has been invented to be fastened to the end of a cigar as it is made to insure its sanitary condition and also to serve as an advertising band.

An ice cream freezer of English invention in which ice and salt are packed in a cylinder that revolves inside the cream delivers its product in a continuous stream half a minute after the crank is turned. The sun valve, invented by Gustaf Dalen of Stockholm, will be used in connection with the lights on the Panama canal. The sun both lights and extinguishes the light. The inventor of the sun valve recently received the Nobel prize for this clever device.

Clarmont Daniel of Calcutta university, basing his opinion on the statements of the monetary writer, A. De' Mar, estimates that in 300 years between the middle of the sixteenth and the middle of the nineteenth centuries the gold and silver imported by India from the West amounted to \$4,000,000,000.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Congressional Directory Shows Work of Censor

WASHINGTON.—The proclivities of new congressmen to advertise their past exploits and their future aspirations have been severely dealt with by the censor appointed by the joint committee on printing to edit the autobiographies submitted by statesmen for the new congressional directory. One of the features of the new directory is the brevity of many of the biographies. Conservation reigned in the government printing office several years ago when Representative Lindbergh of Minnesota sent in his biography this: "Lindbergh, Charles A., Republican, Little Falls."

There are more than a dozen similar items in the directory just issued. One of them is the biography of Senator Lane of Oregon, who records himself as "Harry Lane, Democrat." Senator Du Pont of Delaware takes up two-thirds of a page reviewing his military and political careers. Senator Saulsbury of the same state takes up the other third of a page. Representative Raker of California and Representative "Cyclone" Davis of Texas each take up more than two-thirds of a page.

Congressman Britten of Chicago modestly repeats that he was the only Republican to defeat a sitting member for election to the Sixty-third congress.

Senator Thompson of Kansas, who predicted a glorious future for himself in the first directory printed after his election, has evidently changed his view, as the new issue contains nothing even related to the radiant. Similar high personal mention which stood out in a former sketch of Representative Littlepage of West Virginia is missing. Harry E. Hull, Republican, of Iowa, says he had only ten days to make his campaign as the successor of the late Mr. Pepper, and that he "made a run that was accepted by the whole country as proof of how the farmers would vote and of the weakness of the Progressive cause." Jeff McLemore of Houston, Tex., asserts that he is "a bachelor and a newspaper man." He also prospected for gold in 1879, but "did not make a strike." Mr. McLemore also says that he "had but little schooling because of his aversion to teachers." David H. Kincheloe of Madisonville, Ky., proudly says he is married and "has one girl now seven and a half months old."

Uncle Sam Now Boosting the Goosefish as Food

THE bureau of fisheries is doing its best to exploit the commercial possibilities of the goosefish and has issued a bulletin upon this unappreciated fish in which it gives ten different recipes by which it may be converted into a delicious and appetizing food.

So little is this fish valued by the fishermen of the Atlantic coast that every year they throw away about 10,000,000 pounds. But goosefish is of a higher nutritive value than the famous New England codfish.

This angler, or monkfish, as it is also called, is a most unsightly monster. It has a very large head and mouth, entirely out of proportion to the rest of its body. It is abundant along the Atlantic coast down to the Carolinas, and on trawl lines and in nets with other fish there are gathered more than 400,000, weighing on an average of 25 pounds each, and giving, when cut into steaks, food that in flesh-building qualities is equal to sirloin steak. All of this splendid food is either thrown overboard or left on the shores to decay, and if it were sold even at the lowest price it would pay the fishermen, for they take it without extra trouble. The appearance of the fish is against it. It averages a length of about three feet, with broad, depressed body, and the powerful jaws are provided with a double row of strong teeth.

The first spine of the dorsal fin is detached and inserted on the snout, and bears a tuft, which serves as a lure for its prey. Its loose, mottled brown skin is covered with numerous short spines, which are regular in size and arrangement around the edge of the jaws. Because of the enormous head, on which there is little meat, there is a good bit of waste to the fish, only 35 per cent of the whole body being used for food. Most of this is edible—in fact, 90 per cent may be used, as the skin and bones form such a small part. One of the advantages in its use as a food for man would be to lessen the extent of its destructiveness to other fish. It is voracious, eating almost every kind of animal of a suitable size that lives in the sea. Besides fish, it feeds on worms, starfish, mollusks, lobsters, crabs and various waterfowl, including ducks and geese. It is excessively greedy, as a single meal sometimes weighs half as much as the fish itself.

While its good qualities are only just becoming known in this country the goosefish has long been a favorite in Europe. It abounds in the North sea and other waters of Europe, and its annual consumption amounts to millions of pounds.

Though called the "sea devil" in Germany it is highly esteemed, and there are many ways of preparing it. It is equally popular in Great Britain and Italy. It is also prepared for sale by smoking, cut into small strips and boxed.

Athletic Paradise Is Planned for Washington

WITHIN ten years the District of Columbia will have one of the most complete public amusement parks in the world, if the present plans of Col. W. W. Harts, superintendent of public buildings and grounds, are approved and supported financially by congress. Colonel Harts has mapped out a comprehensive plan for converting the 227 acres of unimproved land southeast of Potomac park and just across from the Seventh street wharves into an athletic "paradise." The plan is so broad in scope that it can be carried out only gradually. Colonel Harts estimates that ten years should see its completion.

The feature of the plan is the erection of a stadium capable of seating 40,000. "It is not our intention to have a stadium with 40,000 empty seats always gaping across the field," said Colonel Harts. "The tentative plan calls for a U-shaped grand stand with a seating capacity of 15,000. Now, when occasion demands, the two ends of the big 'U' can be extended to the end of the field, and then, if more seats are desired, the 'U' can be completed into a huge oval-shaped stand, seating a world series crowd." In addition to the big field, there will be 13 smaller baseball diamonds for the use of the public. Some of the other features in the tentative plan are: Two swimming pools, one wading pool, two cricket fields, 28 tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, four basket-ball fields and a combination roque and croquet field.

Spanish Becomes Popular Study at the Capital

PROMPTLY at 4:35 o'clock two afternoons of each week a score or more of employees of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce meet in one of the rooms in the department of commerce building to study for a half hour lessons in the Spanish language. On two other afternoons at the same time a number of employees of the bureau gather to take lessons in Russian.

The language lessons were inaugurated by Dr. Edward Ewing Pratt, chief of the bureau, as a part of the welfare work among his employees. No employee of the bureau is required to study Spanish or Russian or any other foreign language. It is a voluntary matter, paid for in cash by the persons who take the lessons. The expectation is that several of the men now taking Spanish lessons will in time be promoted to field duty and detailed to Central or South America on some phase of the bureau's varied commercial activities. Others will have opportunities to turn their knowledge of Spanish to profitable account in private employment.

The growing commerce between the United States and Latin-American countries makes it very desirable that some of the employees of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce have a working knowledge of Spanish. While keeping the practical side in mind, however, the satisfaction which comes to persons who master foreign languages also is not being lost sight of. The Russian language is generally believed to be much harder to master than Spanish, but the growing commerce between the United States and Russia promises to make it well worth while for the few employees who have undertaken a study of the Russian language at their own request.

THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION

DE MAUPASSANT, describing an officer, said that just to look at him made one feel martial. He did not say warlike or bellicose; the idea he wished to convey was much more subtle. In the presence of this officer one assumed the military attitude of mind and body.

This is a phenomenon that escapes the attention of most people—women, however, observe it. Practically every nonmilitary man at the sight of a well set up, fully accoutred soldier instinctively assumes something of a military bearing. And when the drums roll and a marching column of soldiers flashes into view the civilian involuntarily throws back his shoulders and steps out with a tenser, measured tread.

And as with civilians, so with soldiers. The ordinary regiment becomes more military in the presence of the crack regiment. The crack regiment itself gains something more when in proximity to a detachment of troops of heroic, almost legendary, fame, such as the Foreign Legion.

The Legionaries handle campaigns of their own, and probably no body of troops has ever done such constant and arduous campaigning. But France ever and over again has used them also as leaven among other troops. They stiffen the mass, and men emulate their actions.

The Legion was sent out to the Crimea and got no special credit for covering itself with glory, as that had been expected of it, but did reflect great credit on the judgment of those who had sent it out to help to inspire a whole army.

The queen of Spain 80 years ago was in a hard fix with a civil war on her hands. The Carlists, whom she was fighting, were just as good soldiers, as her own, if not a shade better. Then the Queen's generals had an inspiration of genius. If they could only get the French Foreign Legion into their army they felt the shade of advantage would move over to their side. So the queen bought the Foreign Legion from the then king of France, and for four years the Legion belonged to Spain.

In the present war, part of the French Legion has been sent to the trenches of France and Flanders and Alsace and to the Dardanelles. Part of it remains in Africa, its normal habitat, doing some mighty vigorous campaigning in the Moroccan part of France's wonderful new African empire.

The Americans and other foreigners who are enrolled as volunteers in the French army are put in contact with the Legionaries, and this, while giving them scope for their fighting qualities and assuring them an opportunity for genuine campaigning, is the highest measure of protection for them. It guarantees them against foolish rashness, as well as against being led into traps or losing their head in critical moments.

Fighting is routine work with the Legionary, just as sailing a yacht is to the expert mariner. The winds may be different on each trip and the craft is never handled twice in the same way, but the expert knowledge of the technique of his trade makes the Legionary and the skipper each acquit himself of his task in finished fashion.

Officially the Foreign Legion is composed of eight thousand men. In reality it is understood it has nearly double that number, and the Legion becomes readily a whole army corps, with the addition of some of France's colonial troops.

France for hundreds of years had regiments of German, English, Irish, Scotch, Swiss, Italians and other foreigners enrolled in her armies, but the present Foreign Legion may be considered as dating from 1831. One brief rule in its constitution says that the enlisting colonel may accept a man even though he does not present a birth certificate or identification papers. Wherefore the names of the English and American Legionaries have been Smith, Brown and Jones; of Germans Muller, Schwartz and Weis; of the Italians, Rossi and Grossi; of the French, Petit, Legrand and Leclair, and so on.

The recruiting officer reads the candidate a warning lecture. "Don't you know what the Legion is, monsieur? Surely there is something better you can do. Severe campaigning in Africa or in China for a sou a day, or a few sous as you begin to advance, is no bed of roses. You had better think it over a day or two. No? You already are aware? Very well, mon cher enfant," and his tone changes as he now speaks as a colonel to his soldier: "There is a glorious career down there for the right kind. If you are a good and faithful soldier you may go far. Good luck!"

The recruiting colonel or an officer. In the latter case he is discreetly questioned on the point, and it is suggested, for his own benefit, that he confidentially inform his colonel when he arrives at the training quarters in Africa. One who has been an officer in a European army is usually taken into the corporals' class and may be advanced within a couple of years to be a sergeant of the Legion.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

A state lunch in China comprises 146 dishes. There are 692 pawnbrokers' shops within a radius of ten miles from the Royal Exchange in London. Mrs. Catherine Roberts of Richmond, Mo., is cutting her third set of teeth at the age of seventy-six. The teeth appear to be well developed, and it is thought she will have a full set when the ordeal is past. A Kansas county superintendent of

schools has decreed an old-fashioned husking bee for every schoolhouse in her district. Improvement and increase of the school libraries is the purpose for which funds are being sought. Few hospitals in civilized lands can equal the record of the hospital for eye troubles carried on by H. T. Holland of Shikarpar, India. In one month 700 operations, largely for cataract, were performed in this institution. Seven hundred out-patients are sometimes treated in a single day.

Corn Clubs In Brazil

The corn-club idea, which was received with so much enthusiasm by American schoolboys, has recently been introduced in Brazil. The minister of agriculture of that country considers it a splendid means of increasing the nation's corn crop, and with the help of the department of commerce has succeeded in starting over 300 boys' corn clubs during the past year. The bulletins of our own department of agriculture dealing with the corn club movement have been translated into Portuguese for the benefit of the boys of Brazil, and have done a great deal toward making the experiment a success. Already the clubs have accomplished encouraging results. At the first Brazilian corn exposition held at Sao Paulo recently, under the auspices of the National Society of Agriculture, many boys were awarded prizes for their fine exhibits of corn.