

JOHNNY'S NEW LEAF



BY
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JANUARY FIRST

"ON NEW YEAR'S DAY," SAID JOHNNY JONES
"YOU START ALL OVER NEW,
AND DON'T DO ANY OF THE THINGS
YOU ALWAYS USED TO DO.
NOW I JUST THINK I'LL CHANGE MY PLANS
AND TRY HARD TO BE GOOD.
FOR WHAT'S THE USE OF BEING WHIPPED
AND GOING WITHOUT FOOD.
I WON'T ANNOY THE OLD FOLKS.
I WON'T EVEN TEASE THE CAT.
WILL GO RIGHT WILLINGLY TO SCHOOL—
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
I'LL RUN ALL ERRANDS MIGHTY QUICK
UNLESS I DROP DOWN DEAD.
SO POP WON'T HAVE TO USE THAT STRAP
OUT IN THE COLD WOODSHED.
I'LL BRING THE WATER, FETCH THE WOOD,
GET EARLY OUT OF BED,
AND COMB MY HAIR AND WASH MY HANDS
AND SEE THE CHICKS ARE FED.
I'LL KEEP AWAY FROM MISCHIEF, SURE
MAMMA I'LL NOT ANNOY.
I'LL TURN THE NEW LEAF OVER—
I'LL BE A MODEL BOY."

JANUARY SECOND!!!

"SAY, WHAT'S THE USE—YOU CAN'T BE GOOD.
THIS LIFE'S A SORT OF TRAP.
YOU STUMBLE ONCE—AND THEN YOUR DAD
GETS OUT THAT SAME OLD STRAP.
I TRIED TO DO THAT ERRAND QUICK—
MET BILL WHILE ON THE WAY—
AND STOPPED A MINUTE, ONLY ONE,
TO WATCH SOME DOGGIES PLAY.
GEE WHIZZ! AN' WHEN I GOT TO SCHOOL
I FOUND THAT I WAS LATE.
THAT TEACHER MADE ME WASH MY HANDS
AND DO SUMS ON MY SLATE.
WHEN I GOT HOME MY MA WAS MAD
JUST COZ I HURT TH' CAT.
SO SHE TOLD DAD WHEN HE CAME HOME
"WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
THE SAME OLD STORY, DAD KICKED UP—
HE'D RATHER SEE ME DEAD—
THAT MEANT ANOTHER SERIOUS TIME
OUT IN THAT DERNED WOOD SHED!
WHEN I GET OLDER I'LL SKIP OUT,
TO STOP ALL THIS ABUSE.
I'LL BE A PIRATE, YES SURE,
BUT, SAY, NOW, WHAT'S THE USE!"