

A MODERN MIRACLE
A NEW YEAR'S STORY

It was the last day of the old year. London had recovered from its Christmas festivities—and their after effects—and was preparing to see the new year in. In the misty hours of the December afternoon two young men were gazing through the windows of a Piccadilly club at the people who were hurrying up and down that thoroughfare. "Well, Densham," said the younger and darker of the two, "are you meditating any lofty and noble resolutions for the new year?" "I am afraid that is not much in my line," replied Lord Densham in a slightly affected tone. "But I am thinking of making a great alteration." "Really! Are you going to change your tailor or only let your mustache grow?" "Don't be flippant," said his lordship in quite a melancholy tone. "The fact is, Briarley, old boy, I'm going to get married." This was drawn out slowly and with a deep sigh, as though the speaker felt he was making some mighty self sacrifice for humanity. "I thought you looked jolly blue about something, but wherefore the gloom?" asked Briarley. "Nobody compels you." "I have to marry in self defense," proceeded his lordship. "It is sickening to feel that you are being run after by all the girls and all their matchmaking mammas. But the worst of it is that I've fixed on two girls, and I can't for the life of me decide which to have." "And who are the favored couple be-

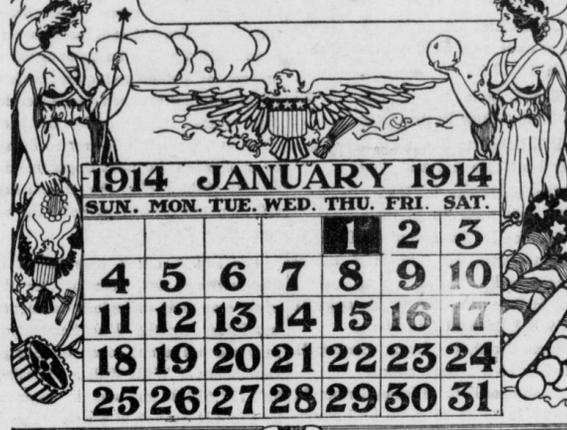
tween whom Paris the Second has to judge?" "One is Daisy Molyneux, the little thing with the blue eyes and the good figure, you know. Of course she is very jolly and awfully fond of me." "Yes, and the other?" "Sibyl Castlemaine, your or cousin, isn't she?" "Do you think Sibyl cares for you?" "I am afraid there is not much doubt of it, old man," said his lordship mournfully as he languidly smoked a pipe.



HE OPENED HIS ARMS AS THOUGH HE EXPECTED HER TO CREEP IN.
clean shaven chin. "I used to fancy you were rather fond of her at one time, but of course it is impossible." "Utterly!"

IF YOU WERE BORN IN JANUARY

YOU will be successful in carrying on big business projects, will have originality, will be magnetic, kind hearted, loyal and a good story teller. You will be a quick thinker and a born leader, will make many acquaintances and will love travel. You should marry young, preferably a person born in May, July, February or November. You should wear a white onyx, ruby, moonstone or garnet. You will look best and do your best work wearing brown, garnet, silver, gray, navy blue and black. Great persons born in January: William McKinley, Alexander Hamilton, Daniel Webster, Benjamin Franklin, Joan of Arc, Kaiser Wilhelm II., Lord Byron, Edgar Allan Poe, T. De Witt Talmage and Gustave Dora.



"Well, look here, old chap; I shouldn't ask everybody, but which of the two girls do you advise me to have? They're both nice, loving little girls, and it's an awful bore to have to choose. Which would you ask?" "Well," said Briarley slowly, "I should advise you to have Daisy Molyneux." "Thanks awfully, old chap. I only just needed an impartial opinion like yours to help me decide. I'll propose to Daisy tonight. She is going to be at Lady Vivyan's dance, and so is Sibyl, so I can get it settled either way. Will you be there?" "Yes, I expect so."

Lady Vivyan's rooms presented a gay and brilliant scene that evening. To welcome the new year with dancing and revelry, with music and mirth, was typical of the giddy social whirl in which hostess and guests revolved. Lord Densham arrived early. He was attired with his usual care and correctness, and he wore also an air of determination that suited him very well. It displaced the appearance of indifference and listlessness which usually made the hereditary legislator look limp and flabby. He speedily discovered that both Daisy Molyneux and Sibyl Castlemaine had come, and he sought Miss Molyneux that he might acquaint her with the honor he proposed to do her. It was considerably later when Cecil Briarley arrived. He was not in the best of spirits and did not intend to do much dancing. One of the first persons he noticed was his own cousin. "What, Sibyl—you not dancing?" "No; I haven't been here long." "Shall we sit down somewhere until some one comes and claims you?" "By all means. It is quite a long time since I've had the chance of talking to you, Cecil."

"Have you never heard of Tantalus?" asked her cousin as he led her to a secluded corner. "Who was he? An ancient god, wasn't he?" replied Miss Castlemaine. "Was he a relative of Bacchus? The spirit decanters are named after him." "No," said Cecil very seriously. "He was a young man who longed for a certain prize just out of his reach." "And this is apropos of what?" inquired Sibyl. "Tantalus would have been happier if his prize had been out of his sight as well as out of his reach. In order to escape the madness of Tantalus I have been letting my prize go out of sight. They are waltzing very nicely," he added, drawing her attention to one of the couples floating near them. "Lord Densham and Daisy Molyneux?" "Yes, Densham's a nice fellow, isn't he?" "Ye-es. I suppose one would hardly call him shy or modest, would one?" "When a fellow like that can choose any girl he likes—when he knows they are all like pretty apples asking to be plucked—it is enough to make him conceited."

"And other fellows jealous?" added Sibyl mischievously. "And I suppose none of the pretty apples can be strong enough to refuse to fall into his hand?" "It would be a modern miracle if they did." A little later Briarley was trying to soothe his feelings with a cigarette in the smoking room when Lord Densham came up to him. "I say, old chap, a funny thing has happened. Daisy Molyneux has refused me." "By Jove! Were any signs of insanity ever noticed in the family before?" asked Cecil. "No, I believe not," answered the peer, falling, as usual, to see any sarcasm in the question. "I tried to point out to her what it meant, but she stuck to it. Nice little girl too."

"Well, I'm awfully sorry, Densham; really I am." "It doesn't matter so very much. Miss Castlemaine is here, isn't she?" "You see, I can ask her and get it settled. I think I'll go find her. I'm rather sorry I wasted my time over that other silly girl. Anyway, it makes my choice much easier."

When Lord Densham suggested to Sibyl Castlemaine that they should sit the dance out in the conservatory she saw that he meant to propose to her, and his lordship perceived that under the circumstances there was nothing to be gained by beating about the bush, and so he quickly led up to the business he had come to negotiate. "It is rather serious to be standing on the edge of a new year," he said. "Dear Miss Castlemaine, I want to be a better man in the future than in the past, and you, only you, can help me. What is needed to make my happiness complete, to crown all my hopes and perfect my manhood, is a woman's love. Sibyl—let me call you Sibyl, my love—will you be the woman? Will you marry me?"

In the seclusion of the conservatory he opened his arms a little, as though he expected her to creep in, and he expanded his chest to receive the burden of the dainty little head that was to nestle gently on it. But it was a night of surprises. "I am very sorry you should have asked me this, Lord Densham," said Sibyl gravely. "I am conscious of the vastness of the compliment, and I am not blind to the advantages of your offer, but I do not love you." "You don't love me?" repeated his lordship in a tone of disappointment that had a suspicion of incredulity in it. "You don't love me? But surely that is only a matter of time. When you have seen more of me, when you know me better, Sibyl!" "My decision would not alter, Lord Densham. Will you please take me back? I am engaged for the next dance."

With a wonderful smile on his lips, in which mortification, pity and surprise were blended, he politely offered her his arm and led her back to the ballroom. As they entered it they almost ran into Cecil Briarley. He was about to walk past them when Sibyl said: "Oh, Cecil, here you are! You're just in time." Densham yielded her up with his customary smile. They were about to join the dancers when it was announced that the mystic midnight moment had arrived, and those who cared to do so were to go to the open windows and on to the doorsteps and the balconies to listen and wait for the solemn peal that was to mark the annual recommencement. Briarley got a wrap to throw over his cousin's shoulders, and then they went to the farther corner of the long balcony. "Are you thinking of the new year?" asked Cecil. "No; I was thinking of Tantalus." "I hope you pity him."

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Notice is hereby given that Lem S. Ward, whose postoffice address is Leavenworth, Washington, did, on the 22nd day of September, 1913, file in this office sworn statement and application, No. 012928, to purchase the w $\frac{1}{2}$ n $\frac{1}{2}$ s $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 18, Township 25 north, Range 18 east, Willamette Meridian, and the timber thereon, under the provisions of the act of June 8, 1878, and acts amendatory, known as the "Timber and Stone Law," at such value as might be fixed by appraisal, and that, pursuant to such application, the land and timber thereon have been appraised, \$55.45, the timber estimated—board feet at \$1.00 per M, and the land \$60.45; that said applicant will offer final proof in support of his application and sworn statement, on the 24th day of January, 1914, before John Koerner, United States Commissioner, at Leavenworth, Washington.
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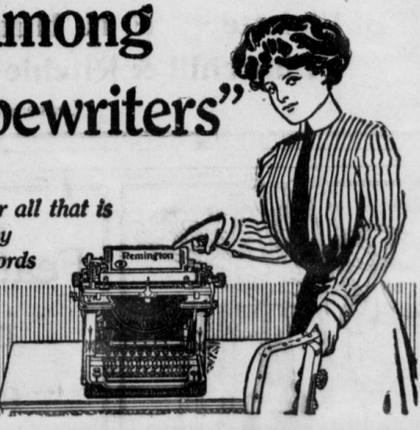
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