

The New Year. Silent and white... Marking the posts... Like sheeted ghosts... Then ever were spun by mortal skill... Fringes were woven by weavers, where... The world is dressed like a bride in white... Although the poor old year died last night... Dear on the cold pier... His work is done... Through future time... For deeds sublime... The new-born year... From the gray walls... Is not for shrouds... For the days that... Or the years dead... The white dove... Emblem of peace... Sit down to cheer... The soft young year... So ring the soft... Of the good time... Ring loud and clear... For this New Year.

The Universal Christmas Feast.

It would have been a wild prediction of the optimist three centuries ago that the time would ever come when on one day in the year everybody in Christendom would have a good dinner. And yet it is almost reached. The gospel of humanity has almost reached the point. It is perhaps a wasteful and excessive mode of showing our humanity, but there is this good about it, that the feasibility of accomplishing it on one day will suggest the possibility of making at least decent dinners more common to people generally, and that when a man has once tasted the pleasure of a prodigal meal, he may be induced to some personal exertion of industry and thrift to procure himself the pleasure again.

We know by statistics that there is food enough to satisfy everybody if it were properly distributed, and the lesson that it can be distributed one day is a most important one. The course of it is that it is human nature to depend upon charity when once charity is accepted, and so to lose the one priceless thing to us, man, which is independence. But the beauty of Christmas is in its recognition of common humanity and common dependence on something beyond humanity, and the charity of it is not a concession that can puff anybody up or hurt any man's pride, but a diffused good feeling, and a drawing together in a common life of all sorts and conditions of men. Here in the United States it is literally of all sorts and colors, a comingling of people under one privilege absolutely unparalleled. And to enjoy the Christmas of humanity we are not required to eat the same sort of dinner, any more than we are required to have the same sort of creed. The plantation negro with "peanut and corn" (brown cracklin', just grabby "way dar chile") is just as much alive to the odor of the anniversary as the English nobleman with his traditional roast beef and plum pudding. We have learned by the hard discipline of a new country that we can make a very thankful meal for the day out of wild turkey and canvas-back ducks, flanked by a green goose, with appropriate accompaniments. People can get used to anything if they only have the right spirit.

Indeed, it has been said that it is not so much what we eat on Christmas day as what we give away that raises our spirits; but this is to be understood in the limits, for it cannot be denied that there is such a thing as universal hunger on Christmas day that will not be allayed any more in the case of a rich man than a poor man by the remembrance of a good deed warmed over. But the best sauce to a good dinner is the thought that nobody else within reach is hungry. And better even than the dinner of the day is the universal spirit of good-will that breathes year by year, and deepens, we are sure. The drawer has not intended to make a homily by way of accompaniment to anybody's repast, and is satisfied if it can send a light ripple of laughter round the world—Charles Dudley Warner, in Harper's Magazine for December.

A Sense of Honor.

The following is taken from an editorial in The Century for December: "There is little doubt that the thing which most needs to be preached to this generation of Americans, by ministers of the gospel, by both clerics and lay instructors of the youth, by all who have public influence or private authority, is—a sense of honor! It is not shown and insisted upon that every position in life where one person is employed by another to do a certain work, imposes an obligation to fulfill the duties of the place with an honorable and undistorted regard for the interests of the employer. It must be shown that this view of employment applies to the cook, the errand-boy, the cashier, the legislator, the Governor, the President. This is a trite, and apparently simple, and perhaps somewhat stupid view of the opportunities of a "smart" and ambitious young American of our day; but unless this commonplace view of responsibility is laid hold of by increasing numbers in the future of our country, we will not say that our society will go to pieces, but we will say our calamities will increase, and that we will get into troubles, and not soon out of them, compared with which the dangers and distresses of the past will seem almost insignificant."

Proverbial Philosophy by the Hotel Clerk.

Faste it in your hat that the people of the highest position should give importance, as a rule, make the least trouble. It may seem an absurd proposition to some people, but hotel clerks were really not invented for the sole purpose of answering foolish questions. It isn't the "loudest" or most loudly person who receives the greatest attention. Every hotel in the land has sheltered bigger men than you. Don't spend half your time trying to devise ingenious ways to make trouble for the servants, and the other half in making a row over your bill. A little genuine civility to waiters and employes goes further than an attenuated "tip"—and further than a big "tip," with the politeness left out. The hotel was not built for the express convenience and exclusive accommodation of any one person. This is official, and will pay you to remember it. There may be plenty of faults about the hostelry you honor with your presence, but don't make the mistake of trying to correct them. There is nothing in the Constitution of the United States to force you to remain if you are not satisfied.—Hotel Register.

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Marlboro' 7:23 " Marlboro' 3:50 " "
Hills 7:28 " Hills 4:00 " "
Leeland 7:32 " Leeland 4:10 " "
Halls 7:37 " Halls 4:25 " "
Mullikin 7:41 " Mullikin 4:30 " "
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