

The Best Christmas Gift



Is one that is presently pleasing and will be permanently valued. The Gift things that are displayed here offer a wide latitude of choice of objects that will be prized for a life time.

If you insist that your gift be practical we can show you plenty of useful articles that are beautiful and of permanent value as well. There are.....

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry of all description, Silverware, Novelties, Fountain Pens, Cut Glass, Perfumes and Toilet Articles for Toilet, Table and Desk Use, Etc.,

with a range of prices wide enough for anyone. It does not require a bank account to purchase gifts here; some things that a dollar or two will buy.

Klimek Bros., Jewelers and Opticians,

Buckman Block, Little Falls, Minn.

The Lowest Prices

ON

Christmas Trimmings
Candies, Nuts,
Fruits, Etc.

will be found at

Kleber's Home Bakery

Come and look over our goods before buying and you will find that you are saving money by doing your buying from us. We have the best and lowest priced goods. Our prices are cut down as low as possible and none can compare with them.

Prices Like These:

Chocolates 15c to 50c
Mixed Candy 6c up
Mixed Nuts 12½c to 15c

Tree Trimmings from 1c up

We will have an especially fine line of Cakes, Pies, Cookies and other pastry for the Holiday trade.

USE KLEBER'S

Home-Made Bread

IT'S THE BEST

Kleber's Home Bakery

Vasaly Block

The Dawn of the Year.

Beside the gate of opening year,
While looking at its prospects fair,
I wish you every blessing, dear,
Whose beauty haunts me everywhere;
My heart goes out with throbs of pain—
Beseeching deep the heavens above—
That you may every gladness gain,
With purest peace and smile of love!

Ah! sweet as rose that greets the June,
Is your heart's love, I surely know,
And like the springtide's rhythmic rune
The words that from your presence flow—
All deeper than the deepest sea—
All higher than the sky above—
Is love my darling holds for me,
Within the kingdom of her love!

Beside the portals of the year,
I wish you plenitude of grace,
May all the world befriend you, dear,
And bless the beauty of your face;
For like a song at eventide,
Like tender tones of cooing dove,
Are you my soul's delight and pride,
The queen of all my heart can love!

New Year's Day in China

By
Rev. Frederick Poole.



The Chinese boys and girls—especially the boys—get lots of fun out of their yearly festivals, and the little urchins look forward to their holiday times with as much glee and happiness as does Young America to the Fourth of July, Decoration day, Washington's Birthday, Christmas and New Year's.

There is the Lantern Festival, when all turn out to witness the brilliant display, for the whole country is ablaze with the light of thousands of paper lanterns made in all sorts of fancy shapes. Then there is the Moon Festival, when they worship the moon, and the little pig-tailed boy and his chubby, small-footed sister look up and see, not a man, but a toad, in the moon; for there is a story of a beautiful Chinese lady who drank some medicine which would keep her free from death, and then went to the moon, where she was turned into a toad, and ever since the Chinese have seen a "toad in the moon."

But perhaps the chief reason why the little folks in China look forward to the Moon Festival is because they get all they want of those little moon-shaped cakes which are made only for this occasion. They are very prettily decorated, but oh! so awfully indigestible that the next day the little fellows who are suffering from stomach ache are apt to think that there was a toad in the cake instead of the moon.

The Chinese boys and girls may never have heard of George Washington and the holiday we keep in memory of the Father of his Country, but they know all about the wise and good Chinese official who lived about 450 years before our first Christmas, and who was scolded and degraded by an ungrateful emperor, so that in sorrow and disgrace he drowned himself. Well, his body was never found; and so, to keep his memory, the Chinese, once a year, ever since, have had a Dragon Boat Festival, and the children go out in swarms to see the long boat processions on the rivers, and to watch the offerings of rice and other foods as they are placed on the waters for the benefit of the spirit of the lost minister of state.

But the great day of all days for the children in China is New Year's Day. I think, if you were to ask a little Chinese boy what he meant by "New Year's," he would say: "Noise, and plenty of it." For weeks the Chinese are preparing for this great event. Houses are cleaned, and the shopkeeper looks forward to it with great satisfaction, because he knows that his customers, if they have any self-respect, will be sure to pay their debts before the new year; for it is considered a great disgrace to start the new year in debt.

The Chinese know nothing about Christmas, because, you know, that beautiful holiday belongs only to Christian countries.

By the way, boys, ask your father which comes first, Christmas or New Year's. He is sure to say "Christmas," and then you can laugh, and tell him that he is wrong.

Well, New Year's ever comes first in China, and, dear me, what a time of frolic and nervous expectancy it is for the little slant-eyed boys and girls! Lots of firecrackers are laid by in readiness, but none must be let off before the proper time.

Nobody goes to bed that night, but all sit up waiting for the first hour of the new day, when the father, and his wife and little ones, all worship before the spirit tables of their ancestors, and then at the shrine of the household gods.

Then the door is opened and the whole family and servants go out outside and bow down to a certain part in the heavens which has been indicated in the Chinese calendar, and so worship heaven and earth, and receive the spirit of gladness and good fortune, which, they say, comes from that quarter of the heavens.

Then the noise begins, and when I was in China I often used to think that it was

a good thing that the country was so big, for every one of the 400,000,000 are setting off firecrackers at the same time. This is to frighten away evil spirits, and I have thought many a time that those spirits must have a bad time of it during the dawn of the Chinese New Year. If the Chinese had been present at the time that Admiral Sampson's guns had their bad coughing spell before the hills of Santiago on a certain day in July, they would have clapped their hands, and cried: "Good, good! Just like our New Year's!"

Yet, notwithstanding the noise, I always liked the New Year's in China, for after the first day the noise stops, and the shops are all closed for one or two weeks, for it is unlucky to do business during the birth of the new year (except at the back door—but don't say anything about this).

Then, too, we Americans could walk along the streets for once in the year feeling sure that nobody would curse us, or call us "foreign devils," for it is unlucky to use that bad word at such a happy time. Dear me, how I wish that New Year's would last 12 months!

But the first day has come, and the little Chinese children get ready to enjoy it for all it is worth. They are dressed in their best and gaudiest clothes, which are only worn on this occasion. The father has got from the pawn shop his finest silk gowns, which that obliging "relative" has taken good care of during the past 12 months, and, thus splendidly attired, the proud father and his little boys start out on a little visiting trip to his relatives and friends, to "Kung Hi, Fah Tsoi,"—wish them a happy new year and many riches.

"What," you say, "don't the little girls go, too?"

No; they must stay at home, because the little girl is not so important as her brother, and, besides, she would have difficulty in walking far in her tiny "golden lily" shoes, which do not measure more than three inches in length.

But what a day it is for the little boy! He has already got his first present when Santa Claus, that is to say, the boy's father (same thing, you see, as in this country), gave him a little string of copper cash tied on a red cord; for it is unlucky to start the New Year without any money in your pocket, and that is something both you and I agree with— isn't it?

But our little Chinese boy could never carry home all the money that is given to him, for it is the custom for every one whom he visits to give him presents of money, as well as candy and cakes. Of course, the father takes charge of this—I mean the money—and I have often wondered if his little son ever sees his money presents again. I really think that a little Chinese boy must be a good investment for his father on New Year's Day in China.

But the visiting is soon over, and then the little Chinaman is off, sometimes with his sister, to see the sights in the streets. They look at the peep shows and the Punch-and-Judy shows—which, by the way, is a Chinese invention. They spin their tops and fly their kites, until the sound of gongs and drums tells them that there is a theater or a juggling show somewhere near, and off they go, and soon are to be found in the front row, clapping their hands in childish glee at the funny antics of the performers, until the man comes round with the hat, and then there is a patter of small feet as the youngsters scurry away, for the Chinese boys have no use for the hat—like some other boys I know.

But twilight finds the tired little folks at home, for they are afraid to be out at dark; and little John Chinaman closes the day in eating sweetmeats, or in taking his turn at beating the unmusical gong, or in diving among the mass of red paper in the courtyard, where the fireworks were let off by his father and big brothers, in search for unexploded single crackers, which he at once puts to their proper use, until, tired out with his day's exertions, he is put to bed, and is soon sound asleep, dreaming of cakes and candy, copper cash, and Punch-and-Judy shows, and "Cr-cr-cr-crack—bing—bang—boom!"—Sunday School Times.

TIME FOR RESOLUTIONS.

They Come as a Happy Thought at the End of the Dead Year.

Oh, dear, another year gone, life slipping by, a herd of old mistakes, faults, trooping out the portals of the old, dead, used-up year into the new. It is uncomfortable. Banish them, wave them back!

With what force?

Ah, a happy thought—fresh resolutions! They stand beside one instantly—that Aladdin's lamp of belief in yourself is a remarkable "stunt." The crisp, brand new fairies smile at the ancient, ghostly crew, nod with their shining crowns, and, soft-muttering, the ragged lot sink to the shadows of the things we try not to remember.

We do this every year, forgetting that we have told the same story time after time and that the law of consecutive justice rolls on serenely while we babble and remain ourselves.—N. O. Times-Democrat.

In the New Year.

Let us not be unjust, ungentle, selfish, pushing, grasping, vain, hard, pessimistic. Let us get the best out of friends and workers, not by pinching them down, but encouraging them up. Let us be true and without fear. Answer our letters, keep gratitude as the foremost impulse, pay our bills, and say our prayers.

As Usual.

She—What kind of Christmas present shall I buy you while I am out, dear?

He—Oh, any cheap trifle, Maria. Remember, I can't afford to spend much this year.—Woman's Home Companion.

Union Provision Company,

Successors to

Kerrich & Moeglein.

ALL KINDS OF FRESH AND CURED MEATS

Everything that a First-Class Meat Market Carries

Get Your

Christmas Meats, Oysters and Provisions

From the Old Reliable.

PRICES ALWAYS RIGHT.

Union Provision Co.

A GREAT

...BIG SALE ON FURS!...

On account of the warm weather we are compelled to sell our furs at a reduction. They will be sold as low as we can possibly sell them. Everybody is welcome to come and visit our fur store. You will be surprised to see the prices and will be satisfied to buy. This is the first opportunity you will have to buy furs at such low prices.

This Sale Begins Tuesday, Dec. 13 and will continue during the Holidays. We have over 3,000 coats and scarfs. We have all grades that you can select from. We will also have a

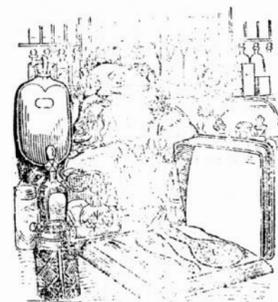
Reduction on Ready-Made Coats

for ladies and gentlemen. We have a big line of fur-lined muskrat coats, made from the backs, with Alaska Otter trimming. All kinds of working coats and dog skin coats.

A reduction on furs made to order. We also repair all kinds of furs and remodel them in the latest styles and dye all furs. We buy raw furs and pay the highest prices.

107 Broadway **Max Ravel**, Signor Building
FUR MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Wulling's Drug Store



For Christmas
Use and
Holiday Beauty

We are prepared to furnish everything worth having in perfumes at 25c and up—soaps, toilet articles, cut glass, atomizers and hot water bags, tooth, nail and hair brushes of many sizes, many mountings, etc.

Deck out the toilet table of a discriminating friend here

Wulling's Drug Store

SPECIAL for the HOLIDAYS!

To anybody buying between the 15th and 24th a gallon of Liquor for \$3.00 at our store

We will give FREE

A Large Bottle of Wine or Liquor

This does not mean any change. Our prices are as low as ever.

California Wine House,
LITTLE FALLS MINN.