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 made 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 shortlived. 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-makers so seldom achieve 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 proverbmaker, 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."

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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 learn d 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 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 half 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 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 tense, 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 over and over again has used them also as leaven among other troops. They stiffen the mass, and then 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 Weiss; of the Italians, Rossi and Grossi; of the French, Petoit, Legrand and Leclare, 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 son 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 can generally tell at a glance what army the candidate has served in and if he has been a sergeant 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 the troubles carried on by H. T. Holland of Shikarpur, 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 Paolo recently, under the auspices of the National Society of Agriculture, many boys were awarded prizes for their fine exhibits of corn.

WOLVERINE News Brevities

Harbor Springs.—Schools and theaters here are closed by order of the board of health because of scarlet fever.

Lansing.—Governor Ferris has appointed George Dunlop of Cadillac as state humane officer for Wexford county.

Menominee.—Three hundred employees of the J. W. Wells Lumber company are in strike because of a cut of 14 per cent in wages. They demanded the return of the old schedule.

Grand Rapids.—Prizes will be offered jointly by the Michigan Audubon society and the West Michigan Fish and Game Protective association to those who care for birds and especially quail during the winter season.

Muskegon.—Blank petitions for placing the name of Theodore Roosevelt before the Michigan primaries for the Republican nomination for president are being circulated by local Bull Moose men. The petitions came from Flint.

Howell.—Howell's two commercial clubs have united and elected the following officers: President, Dr. H. Huntington; secretary, Don Van Winkle; treasurer, Charles Monroe. The business men have arranged a municipal Christmas celebration.

Yale.—The body of Malcolm Kellar was found in a room at the Hotel Paisley, a victim of poisoning. It was thought he took the poison while in a fit of despondency. He was sixty years old and had done odd jobs about Yale for two years. No known relatives arrive.

Cadillac.—That depositors of the Bank of Henrietta, owned by Claudo Barry, which closed its doors two weeks ago, will not get 100 cents on the dollar and perhaps not 50, is the intimation of Alva Crimmins, cashier of the Bank of Mesick, who has been named receiver.

Calumet.—The business men of Houghton have organized a commission to back their military company, Company G, Houghton light infantry, and have guaranteed it $2,500 a year. The Calumet Engineers, Company A, will ask for similar backing from Calumet and Laurium business men.

Port Huron.—At the election to be held in this city January 21 to vote on a $100,000 bond issue for a new school building, City Attorney Cody has decided that all women who own property or are joint property holders with their husbands, will be entitled to vote.

Bay City.—Because of an epidemic of grippe, the schools of the city will be closed after the holidays. Dr. J. A. Kehoe, health officer, says that there are from 50 to 125 out of every school Eighteen teachers and Superintendent Frank A. Bause are ill. Two-thirds of the pupils of St. James high school are down with the disease.

Battle Creek.—Battle Creek was notified that the 1916 convention of the Michigan Music Teachers' association will be held here June 27-29. The Mendelssohn club of Battle Creek will offer the first day's program and artists from outside the state will appear on the two remaining days. The convention was awarded this city by the executive committee, headed by Miss Stoddard of Detroit.

Lansing.—Roosevelt and Bryan petitions made their appearances here as preliminary to the preferential presidential primary election. Some more petitions for Woodrow Wilson are also being circulated, although enough to place his name on the ballot have already been filed. Chas S. Osborn visited Lansing to remain a few weeks. He is silent on his own plans for the next campaign.

Charlevoix.—The dead body of George Banks, a farmer of Hayes township, six miles north of this city, was found in an old barn near his home with a ragged hole through the abdomen. Beside the body was a muzzle-loading shotgun with one barrel discharged. A coroner's jury decided death had been accidental. He leaves an aged mother, a widow and three children.

Battle Creek.—William Baumeister, who overlooked a Detroit wife to marry Mrs. Ida Houghtaling of this city was sentenced to from one to five years in Jackson prison for bigamy. Judge North recommended 15 months. Mrs. Baumeister of Detroit started action against her husband for nonsupport, and it was only when officers started to serve the papers that it was learned there was a second Mrs. Baumeister.

Port Huron.—After hoffing his marriage license nearly a year, Andrew Cherniskoff of this city has finally secured his bride in Detroit in the person of Martha Salapura, who arrived a few days ago from Russia. They were married by a Russian minister of Detroit. Cherniskoy got his marriage license January 15, 1915, but his intended bride was prevented from coming to this country because of war conditions.

Grand Rapids.—Walter Poulfata, twelve years old, and Sylvester Clechocki, ten, started out with a revolver and two small caliber rifles to see the wild West which they thought existed near Chicago. In the railway yards at Aurora, Ill., they were arrested and sent home.

Muskegon.—A panic was averted in a local church during services when fire broke out. Several young men held the crowd from leaving the pews. The pastor then directed the doors to be thrown open and the congregation marched out quietly. An overheated furnace caused the blaze.

Lansing.—Governor Ferris has issued a parole to Edward Turpstra, sentenced from Kent county in November, 1913, to serve from five to fifteen years at Ionia reformatory for a statutory offense. The governor has also paroled Emanuel McLain, sentenced from Presque Isle county in October, 1904, to serve from two to fourteen years at Jackson prison for forgery.

Ann Arbor.—Mrs. Augusta Steinke, seventy-six, on the way to the cemetery to bury her husband, was stricken with apoplexy and died a few hours later.

About Patterns for Kitchen Aprons

In January the order of the year brings about the making of new undermuslins, house dresses, kitchen aprons, and all the white work required by the household and the house. And in the annual January sales, all over the country, of white goods, merchants present the stocks of cotton fabrics which they have assembled in anticipation of the demand for them. There is no better season in which to buy cotton products than at the beginning of the year.

There has been a steady advance in the standard of quality in many lines of cotton goods, and in the introduction of high-class novelties, the mills are making a rapid progress.

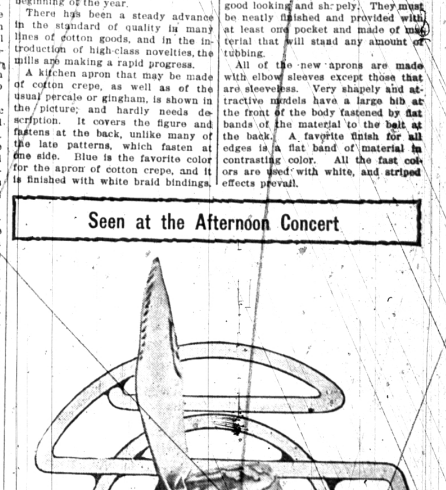
A kitchen apron that may be made of cotton crepe, as well as of the usual percale or gingham, is shown in the picture, and hardly needs description. It covers the figure and fastens at the back, unlike many of the late patterns, which fasten at one side. Blue is the favorite color for the apron of cotton crepe, and it is finished with white braid bindings.

The chief claim to attention is based upon the fact that this kind of apron requires almost no ironing.

Although the subject of kitchen aprons is not one to arouse a great amount of enthusiasm, it is not by any means without interest. Many aprons manage to be attractive, while they cleverly fill all that is required of them in the way of usefulness. This means that they must cover the figure, be plain and easily adjusted, good looking and shapely. They must be neatly finished and provided with at least one pocket and made of material that will stand any amount of rubbing.

All of the new aprons are made with elbow sleeves except those that are sleeveless. Very shapely and attractive models have a large bib at the front of the body fastened by flat bands of the material to the belt at the back. A favorite finish for all edges is a flat band of material in contrasting color. All the fast colors are used with white, and striped effects prevail.

Seen at the Afternoon Concert



If you would see the best of millinery look for it at the afternoon concert or other afternoon affairs. The box party or club program or luncheon, and the cafe dinner, call out the smartest hats, for there they are subjected to close scrutiny by discriminating eyes.

The fancy of the designer has much to inspire it this season, and millinery is brilliant in two senses, both in color and in design. With gold and silver laces and metallized flowers, with fur and velvet and jet and jewels, heads are splendidly crowned even when such materials are put together simply. The blue and gold turban shown in the picture is an example of this. It is a small, chic, jaunty shape draped with turquoise blue satin, brocaded with a gold flower. This covers the frame and forms a large wing effect at the left side. The only ornament used is a flat rosette made of gilded leaves that are cut from some light metal.

Afternoon hats having crowns of velvet or fur and brims of gold or silver lace are usually finished with small nosegays of beautifully colored flowers. A very handsome model is made with a crown of light brilliant green satin, brocaded with silver, and a brim of silver lace. A silver cord is tied about the crown, the ends finished with small silver balls. The cord and balls are made of very small beads.

There are many fur turbans trimmed with wreaths of small flowers which are very rich looking, and the all-feather turban, although rather rarely seen, is nearly always a hat of much distinction.

Julia Bottomley

Variety of Sleeves.

There does not seem to be any law governing sleeves this spring, but beneath the seeming license there is real order. The sleeve must show the arm, or rather reveal its shape. The style chosen to express this is left to the dressmaker. Some of the best frocks show long, wrinkled sleeves of the fabric, others have transparent sleeves of tulle, of chiffon, of organdy. The kimono and the elongated armhole do not appear, except in isolated cases, but it may be safely said that they are reserved for topcoats. In these the raglan shoulder dominates, although in the short outer jackets in brilliant colors, which are the prevailing fashion for country wear, the armhole is nearly normal.

It is prophesied that some of the new coats will fall several inches below the hem of the dress.

Navy is often trimmed with a certain light shade of gray-blue, which suggests a soldier's uniform.