

INVOCATION.

One year ago to day we met together at this place and in an humble way sought to commemorate the birth of the Savior, in singing a few songs, reciting a few poems, and distributing some presents. On that occasion ^{the family} whom we are so glad to welcome to day, honored ^{us} with their presence.

Since that day no great misfortune, no blighting sorrow, no serious sickness or death has befallen either of the families or any of us.

All that were present then are here to day. One more little darling who did not participate in the festivities of that occasion, makes known her presence today with loud voice and noisy prattle, expressive of a willingness to take part. Then hang up the baby's stockings, be sure and dont forget ~~it~~ for the poor little dimple darling has never seen Christmas yet.

* It was winter when we were here before as it is winter now. That winter passed with its cold and wind and rain and with its pleasures and benefits and then came the joyous spring time, with all ^{its} the buyancy, happiness and mirth and none failed to feel the cheering power of spring that makes us whistle and makes us sing and spring laped into summer and summer into Autumn with its solemn forms.

* We are told by all who have passed the age of ~~childhood~~ youth that childhood is the happiest time of life as spring is the happiest season of the year and we invoke the blessings of God upon these two families to ~~assist in making~~ ^{for} the children of both as happy in their childhood as may be vouchsafe to mortals in this world. And upon ~~our~~ parents ⁱⁿ these two ~~we~~ ask blessings blessing and wisdom from on high in the

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May the *may we* never cause a blush of shame or shade of sorrow upon the brow of the parents.

I trust that we are as happy to day as we ~~were~~ ^{were} a year ago and we ought to be some wiser and some better for we are one year nearer to that goal from which no traveler e'er returneth.

We pray to the giver of all good, that during the coming year we may all be happy and good,--happy because God delights in the happiness of his creatures and good because in goodness alone can we please God or secure happiness on earth.

