

**CHILDRENS' HOLIDAYS:
A STORY-BOOK FOR
THE WHOLE YEAR**

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Childrens' Holidays: A Story-Book for the Whole Year by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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The Mother's Day

Return of Mney's Mother.

CHILDRENS' HOLIDAYS:

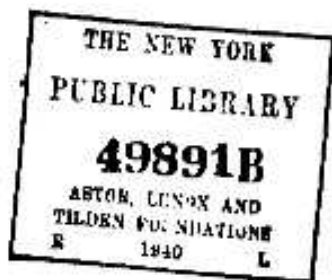
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HOLIDAYS.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY.

I HAD not seen my friend, Mrs. Howard, since we parted as classmates, twenty years before, having "finished the course" at our boarding-school. I had, however, often heard of her as a happy wife and mother, and from time to time had received from her kind messages and words of sympathy. For my own lot had been a different one. Friend after friend had been taken from me, and I was now almost alone in the world.

On the afternoon of the last day of the year, I was detained by a railroad accident, in the beautiful village where she lived. I was compelled to choose between spending the night at L——, and travelling alone till midnight.

I preferred to remain till the next day, especially as I should thus have the opportunity of seeing my old friend. After tea my landlord provided me with an attendant to her residence. As we walked up the long path to the door, I could see in the moonlight that it was a large house, surrounded by a lawn, which was shaded by fine old elms, oaks and weeping willows. The door-bell was answered by a neat waiting-maid, and I was ushered into a large, handsome room, warmed and cheered by a blazing wood-fire. A lady sat at the centre-table reading. She rose at my entrance, evidently not quite recognizing her visitor: "Mary Williams!" said I at last.