ALS-IK-KAN IN CASTLE WONDERFUL
FOR THE CRAFTSMAN LITTLE FOLK

To the wonderful castle of darkness and light,
There came a lone stranger, a smiling young sprite,
To visit the children asleep for the night.

The smiling young visitor met on his way,
While crossing the threshold, a Ghost old and gray,
Who winked at him slyly, as much as to say:

"I'm off for vacation, Good-bye, little son,
My sowing and reaping and waiting are done,
My labors are over, your task just begun.

"Be good to my children, and bid them 'Good-night!'");
"I'll bid them "Good-morning," replied the young sprite,
While the Ghost simply nodded and passed out of sight.

The frisky young stranger went prowling about
On tip-toe, till daylight began to peep out;
Then he woke up the children with this merry shout:

"Wake up! little sleepyies, and see who is here,
For I'm getting lonesome; I bring you good cheer;
You'll soon know me better, — I'm

"Happy
New
Year!"

The children all shouted: "Hello, Happy New!"
You're younger than we are, pray what can you do?
The Old Year was jolly, let's have fun with you."

Then Happy New Year laughed loud in his glee,
And answered: "That's funny as funny can be;—
What very old children I've come here to see."

"You must have forgotten, or else you would know
My every year errand;—to help children grow,
And bring them their birthdays, while months come and go.

"Tis good to be jolly and glad you're alive,
I'm older'n I look, Nineteen Hundred and Five,
But ready for anything you can contrive.

"I'm never too old with the children to play,
So, wake-up, you sleepyies—we'll have fun to-day;
The time to be happy is 'now' while we may.""

Then Happy New Year and the children began
To make the world happy,—and this was their plan;
To smile and be kindly and help—"Als
Kan!"

JOHN HOWARD JEWETT

466