

JANUARY

1951

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WEE WISDOM

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Clean Slates for 1951

PERHAPS you have heard someone use the expression "He (or she) has a clean slate," and you may have wondered what it means to have a clean slate. It may be that not one of you boys and girls ever used a slate to write on, but not so long ago every school child used one in place of the nice tablets you use. To clean the slate we washed the arithmetic problems or the writing lesson off with a sponge, then dried the slate so we could use it again. Out of this practice grew the expression "cleaning the slate," which means that if you have made a mistake you can acknowledge it and make a new start with a clear conscience, "a clean slate."

We feel that grownups should never ask boys and girls to do anything that they themselves would not do; so we are admitting that we have made a mistake. We made it when we allowed a picture of two boys riding one bicycle to be used for the cover of our last September WEE WISDOM. It was a mistake because it is unsafe for two children to ride together in this way. The boys were breaking a safety rule. Some of you recognized that the boys were breaking the rule and wrote to us about it. We hope none of you made the mistake of following their example, because a mistake is a mistake regardless of who makes it. (We make this apology now as WEE WISDOM covers are made up far in advance of the time you receive your magazine.)

Have you made mistakes, mistakes that made others unhappy? The new year is a good time to acknowledge that you were wrong and wipe your slate clean. Is it hard for you to say you have been wrong? It need not be. You are not the first person who ever made a mistake, and you are not the only one. Just remember that all of us make mistakes, but we need not remain saddened by them. We can turn them into blessings if through making them we learn to do better.

I am wiping my slate clean. Will you wipe yours clean too? By learning, even through our mistakes, to do better we can make this brand-new year of 1951 the brightest, happiest, best year we have ever had. Shall we?

Jane Palmer
Editor



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