



Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 463, No. 172)

Date: 1828

Description: A Portland Watchmen's ballad

THE
NEW-YEAR'S ADDRESS
of the
WATCHMEN
of
Central Wharf.
~
1828.

It seems to be a fact as sun light clear,
That the mere wish of a "Happy New-Year"
Will not prepare a roast, nor raise a fire,
Nor make the heart with tuneful notes respire.

While wintry storms round us briskly bustle,
And with snow and hail and rain we struggle,
Through the deep gloom of night we keep a watch
While you repose upon the feather'd couch.

Watchman! what of the night? does AEolus blow,
Driving with whirlwinds force the sleet & snow,
Does ocean foam with raging wind and tide,
And chafe the ships as at the wharf they ride?

* * *

All's Well! justly proud of the wharf's display,
Which provide us lamp light to guide the way;
But adds to our cares of torch and ladder,
A shining reward will make us gladder.

Ever anxious our duty to perform —
Or blest with moonlight, or perplex'd by storm —
Or in quiet watch, or in danger near,
May you be blest with peace throughout the year!