100 years ago, *Collier’s* magazine asked twelve “representative Americans,” including William Allen White, to anticipate *What 1920 Holds For Us All.*

This was White’s response.
It will be a good year – the best that ever saw the earth rolling around the sun. Never doubt that.
Of course the devil will be to pay this year; and he will have a larger bill than he ever had. That also is a part of the high cost of living – this eternal bill of the devil's to pay.

He will demand pay for political upheavals and social disturbances and financial panics and all sorts and conditions of human disorders from general strikes to revolution in spots.
But the joyous part of it is the fact that while the devil is to pay in large sums, we shall pay him.

The surplus of civilization in America is large enough to stand the strain.
America is going to the stars by hard ways;
but not at all to the devil.

We are traveling along lines of greatest resistance, but we are going forward and the travail is all good for our soul’s muscles.
The greater the shock – and don’t worry, the year’s shock may be terrific – the greater the victory at overcoming it.
No one should fear for the fundamental sanity of the American people, nor for the rock-ribbed strength of the American Government.

These two, each sustaining the other, will weather the storm.
It may be, perhaps it must be, a big storm brewing.

But at the end of it America will be stronger for the struggle and surer of her strength by reason of the great trial.
Never before have dangers loomed ahead as they loom now.

And never before have we been so ready to meet them.
For we are a young nation and adventure is in our hearts. America goes forth into the new year a bridegroom from his chamber rejoicing as a strong man.
There is everything to face and nothing to fear.
It was for this year that our fathers died at Bunker Hill and Gettysburg, and for this year that our brothers died in the Argonne Forest at Chateau-Thierry.

They did not die that we should live as mollusks; but that we should have glorious opportunity to strive as men for great causes.
And here comes Opportunity with her fighting clothes on.

Who’s afraid! Let’s go!