

NEW

By Barbara Schiff

The new testament is 2000 years old
Or at any rate something like that
New Labour was only last century
But already it seems quite old hat

Brave new world said Miranda
In The Tempest Shakespeare's great play
But world weary Prospero
Thought her hopes would soon die away

And Aldous Huxley's savage
Echoed poor Miranda's first hope
But once he was a member of that new world
He found he just couldn't cope

The New World was discovered by Columbus
In the year 1492
Or the rhyme tells us that was the date
That he sailed the ocean blue

So there was New York once New Amsterdam
By the Atlantic shore
There was New Hampshire, New Jersey
Newfoundland, New Brunswick and more

And in the US Franklin Roosevelt
Had a policy called the New Deal
Initiated to help the poor in the 30s
Who worried about their next meal

New Zealand's a far away country
That has got new in its name
We've known about it quite a long time
But we call it new just the same

Nova Scotia means New Scotland
I'm sure you don't need to be told
So many places have new in their names
While far fewer include old

And it's not just in foreign parts
That places are described as new
It's right here in the British Isles
In places not that far from you

Milton Keynes was a new town
In (19)67 so designated
But now fifty years have passed
The anniversary's been celebrated

We get new potatoes every year
And Beaujolais Nouveau too
The former always taste good
The latter? Oh well it is new

Then we got Nouvelle Cuisine
I for one did not celebrate
It seemed just a posh explanation
For getting less food on your plate

Many products are called good as new
You see the adverts every day
I've a New U hairdresser just round the block
And a New Inn not far away

Some women celebrate the new man
For male chauvinism a cure
Some people think it's exciting change
Others it's just like before

There's many New Streets and a New College
Though they've all been around for some time
And many other names including new
I'd put in if I found a rhyme

The New Model Army of Oliver Cromwell
Put the Royalists to fear
But the New Model Army is also the name
Of a band formed in Bradford quite near

At New Year many people decide
To turn over a new leaf
But give it time and we'll find
Good intentions have come to grief

New products are always around
Promising new ways to please
Though personally I'm not so keen
On new cars that won't play CDs

We got a new computer then a new router
Our emails were fine for a while
Then one day disaster struck
And we lost our entire "sent" file

Not all that is new is wonderful
And worthy to celebrate
I don't like the "new normal"
In fact it's something I hate

And of course we're not too happy
About the Covid new strain
Let's pray the new vaccines
Will bring us old normal again

Of course a pandemic is nothing new
We've had all these before
Like the plague and black death
And the flu after the Great War

A new broom sweeps clean so they say
And I suppose that must be true
I could go on and on in this way
But at least for now I am through

Yes if I had more time I could think of much more
But you'll be pleased that at last I am done
There's truth in the old saying you know
There's nothing new under the sun

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