

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

## CROSSING A RIVER IN JAPAN.

The above picture shows a strange scene in Japan, a very remarkable way of crossing the river. Observe the boat is really two small boats, side by side, with a little platform across on which the passengers sit while seven stalwart fellows in the water are towing the boat. It seems to be a great waste of energy. A couple of these men with a pair of oars would get along as well, but human labour is very cheap in Japan.

will come out, one by one, from their hiding places.

However, there are some kinds of animals that hide away in the winter that are not wholly asleep all the time. The blood moves a little, and once in a while they take a breath. If the weather is at all mild, they wake up enough to eat.

Now isn't it curious that they know all this beforehand. Such animals always lay up something to eat, just by their side, when they go into their winter sleeping

they were brought into the warm air they came to life, and hopped about as lively as ever.

I have read of a toad that was found in the middle of a tree, fast asleep. No one knew how he came there. The tree had kept on growing until there were sixty rings in the trunk. As a tree adds a ring every year, the poor creature had been there all that time! What do you think of that for a long sleep? And yet he woke up all right, and acted just like any other

proach that question, not in an academic or a pedantic or a collegiate spirit, but as a man who feels that there is here a monstrous evil which needs a bold and a courageous hand to deal with it and to quell it. I know there are those who say it is no use attempting to deal with the fringes of society—it is no use attempting to deal with society as a whole—you must mend the individual, you must rely upon the vigor and earnestness of individual character. I quite agree. I know that men



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## LONG SLEEP OF SOME CREATURES.

ALL animals have their time for sleeping. We sleep at night; so do most of the insects and birds. But there are some little creatures that take very long sleeps. When they are all through their summer work they crawl into winter quarters. There they stay until the cold weather is over. Large numbers of frogs, bats, flies, and spiders do this. If they were only to sleep for the night, the blood would keep moving in their veins, and they would breathe. But in this winter sleep they do not appear to breathe, or the blood to move. Yet they are alive, only in such a "dead sleep."

But wait until the springtime. The warm sun will wake them up again. They

places. But those that do not wake up never lay up any food; for it would not be used if they did.

The bat does not need to do this; for the same warmth that wakes him wakes all the insects on which he feeds. He catches some and then eats.

The woodchuck, a kind of marmot, does not wake, yet he lays up dried grass near his hole. What is it for, do you think? On purpose to have it ready the first moment he awakes in the spring. Then he can eat and be strong before he comes out of his hole.

I have told you that this sleep lasts all winter. But with some animals it often lasts much longer than that. Frogs have been known to sleep several years! When

toad! How many things are sleeping in the winter? Plants, too, as well as animals. What a busy time they do have in waking up, and how little we think about it.

## A DISTINGUISHED ENGLISHMAN'S OPINION.

"I AM not a total abstainer. I am not here on any false pretence; but no man with his eyes open, and with a heart in his breast could fail to see that no condition of popular well-being approaches the drink question in its bearing upon that well-being. Intemperance casts a black shadow over so many homes, and fills so many hearts with misery and despair, that I, for one, am prepared to ap-

fect laws and institutions quite as much as laws and institutions affect men; but there is a relation between them; and what we want in legislation of this kind is to give the individual a chance that, in great towns, thousands and hundreds of thousands, from their cradle to the grave, never possess. That has been the text of the sermon. Give every individual that is born into our community the best chance that you possibly can. Give him free and easy education; give him, when he grows up, the education of responsibility, participation in the government of his town, or his village, or his county, and his country and remove from the earlier steps of his path in life the causes of temptation, of evil, and of wrong.