

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. IV.

TORONTO, AUGUST 23, 1884.

No. 17.

THE OLD MILL AND ITS MASTER.

WHO falls in love with his daily toil,
O, a happy man is he!
He feels like a king though his garments be
mean,
And he comes of low degree.

He takes it, too, for better or
worse,
Nor complains of broken tools;
The wind, or the rain, or the snow
may prevail,
He leaves grumbling to the
fools.

Old Giles, the miller, was such a
man,
And kind was the look he wore;
The little ones loved as they
played by the mill,
To stand at the open door.

And the miller down the clumsy
stairs
Would come with a smile that
met
The sunbeam that travelled so
far that morn,
And the eyes of the village pet.

For he felt that God was good to
all,
That the meanest living thing
Had its wants supplied by His
loving care,
And was sheltered by His wing.

It was God's own stream that
turned his mill,
God's rain cheered the growing
corn,
All this good Giles knew; he
gave thanks to Him
With sweet praises every morn.

He could not have borne to leave
the mill,
Or to live at ease elsewhere,
It had been the scene of his
father's toils,
And oft a retreat for prayer.

But when his last sun declined,
Old Giles
Slowly turned round to the
West,
He seemed to list to the sound of
the wheel,
Then passed away to his rest.

CHILDREN ATTENDING CHURCH.

TO allow the children to decide for themselves whether they will attend church or not, after the Sabbath-school, is a grievous mistake. They are not proper judges as to what is best for them. Parents decide what their children shall eat, or wear, what schools they shall attend, what work they shall perform. It is a duty at least equally grave with any other to decide what church they shall attend, and to decide that they shall attend. The authority need not be exercised harshly, but must be exercised firmly. Let it be tender and

kind. This responsibility belongs to parents, and not to Sunday-school teachers. The only right of the latter is to persuade or influence.

Do they never become tired, do they never squirm anywhere else? Shall they be excused from attending the common school because the seats are

if the little things must grow up in ignorance? Why not let them be ignorant as well as ungodly? Let the children have rest. It will be such a

comforting reflection to parents, when the years have gone a little farther on, to remember that they never constrained their children by firm and kind parental authority to become tired by attending school or church.

The attendance of children at church can be greatly increased in interest to them by leading to give close attention to what the minister says. This may be done by taking a little time after every service in getting them to tell all they can remember. Parents will be surprised in many instances to note how a few well-directed questions will bring out the children's knowledge of the sermon, hymns, and so on. The exercise as it is continued will prove ere long most thoroughly interesting, and its advantages both to parents and children will be above estimate.

It is said of the distinguished Sir Robert Peel, that in his childhood his father was accustomed to take him after every service at church to his private room, and draw from him all that he could recollect of the minister's sermon. He would do this first by offering a small reward, as, "Robin, tell me all the minister said to-day, and I will give you a cherry." In time the boy was able to repeat almost the entire sermon. And thus he acquired that power which in his subsequent career was often the occasion of so much marvel, of following up an opponent's speech, and repeating from memory alone not only each successive point in the argument, but of making the restatement in the exact language of the speaker himself. Advantages similar in kind, if not in extent, might be secured for many of the children in our families by a moderate degree of attention on the part of parents.

He who would love his race must first love those of his race who are nearest to him.



THE OLD MILL.

What if the children are a little tired before the protracted service is through? What if they become restless and inclined to squirm a little?

hard, or the legs too short for the feet to reach the floor, or because the hours are long and little limbs become tired? Why not be compassionate here, even