

# PLEASANT KNOWERS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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## Young Canada Was There.

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When on the road to school, after the noon hour on March 8, the writer was accompanied by an escort of little girls, one of whom asked him "Is there any war news from 'Bobs'?" Being answered in the affirmative, and that he was still defeating the Boers, she asked, "Was Canada there?" This question brought forth the following answer:

When Freedom's bugle called "to arms,"

From far South Africa's shore,  
The British lion, roused from sleep,

Sent up his battle roar;  
His cubs, responsive to the call,  
Sprang forth to do and dare;  
When round the Union Jack they stood,

Young Canada was there.

Go, ask the hard-won battlefield,  
Where heroes fought and fell,  
Where Cronje's Boers, by British pluck,

Were backward hurled, pell-mell,  
Whose doughty deeds and iron nerve

Deserve the palm to bear?  
The answer comes with ringing cheers,  
"Young Canada was there!"

Stand by the Modder's blood-stained banks,

With reverential mien,  
There fell the bravest of the brave,  
"O mong "Soldiers of the Queen."

Oh, to their mem'ry drop a tear,  
With bowed head and bare;  
Among Britannia's hero dead,  
Young Canada was there!

## TAHITI.

Captain Wallis, commander of his Majesty's ship Dolphin, when crossing the comparatively untraversed waters of the Southern Pacific Ocean, in the year 1767, discovered the splendid island of Tahiti, which has since occupied so prominent a place in the annals of missionary enterprise. Little did its discoverer think, when hoisting the broad pennant on the Tahitian shores and taking possession of the island in the name of his sovereign, King George III., that in a few short years the missionary, sent by the liberality and sustained by the prayers of British Christians, would follow in his track, search for the lovely spot he had discovered, unfurl another banner, and take possession of that and other islands in the name of the King of kings. This has been effected under the guidance of Him

Who plants his footstep in the sea,"

for the providence of God has evidently conspired with the Spirit of God in the accomplishment of this great work.

The following were the views of the Rev. J. Williams, who went as a missionary to Tahiti, in the year 1817:

To this mission, considered in its relation to other islands, too much importance cannot be attached, for, in addition to the numerous islands now professedly Christian, there are, within a comparatively small distance, many large and extensive groups of which little is known. Among these are the Fiji, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Solomon's Archipelago, New Britain, New Ireland, and, above all, the immense island of New Guinea. This island is said to be 1,200 miles in length, and, in some parts, about 300 in breadth. "When Pomare, the king of Tahiti, first determined to embrace Christianity, and attempt the introduction of it among

his people, before taking any decided steps, he convened a number of powerful and influential chiefs, and stated his wishes to them. Very many made strong objections to the proposed innovation, but Tenania, and his wife, who were reigning chiefs in a neighbouring island, cordially approved of the king's proposition, stating that they themselves had almost come to a determination to burn their god. This feeling had been in-

proposition, Tenania and his wife were well prepared by it to enter most cordially into the king's wishes, for they were bitterly enraged against the gods they had in vain endeavoured to conciliate. Thus Pomare had the influence of a bigoted idolater, and, at the very first announcement of his intentions, Pomare, another chief of equal fame, was present at this important consultation. He was a mighty warrior, the Bonaparte

shortly after he attended the meeting of his brother chieftains. It is the general opinion of intelligent natives to the present day, that, had Tapoa lived, Christianity could not have been introduced among the people. These events, therefore, show us that, although the age of miracles has ceased, God has ample means of effecting the purposes of his love by the ordinary interpositions of his providence, which are equally mighty in the pulling down of the strongholds of heathen superstition, and in removing obstacles to the progress of his truth."

The Tahitians are very fond of flowers, and wear wreaths and garlands of them, as shown in the picture. Through Christian influence they have learned to wear Christian costume, and are now found sitting clothed and in their right mind at the feet of Jesus.

## A YOUNG HEROINE.

"In these days," General Gordon once said, sadly, "the race is for honours, not honour, and for newspaper praise." Is it true? The most hopeless among us must admit that if true there are exceptions.

In New York, a few weeks ago, Miss Minnie Swarts, while out seeking work for the support of her younger brothers and sisters, came upon a great fire and learned that a number of firemen had just been disabled.

She ran to a neighbouring grocery, bought a gallon of milk, had it heated, and carried it to the exhausted firemen. Then she assisted a physician to revive those who were overcome by smoke. She climbed a fence and with an axe made an opening for the men to drag in their hose, and then, discovering two wounded firemen slipping into a water-filled cellar, she held them each by a leg till help came and she herself was faint and exhausted.

The fire commissioner, learning of the important assistance of this eighteen-year-old heroine, invited her to call at his office. In a heartfelt little speech he presented her, in the name of the grateful department, with a purse stuffed with bank-notes.

Tears came to the girl's eyes, but she put aside the purse. She was deeply touched and grateful, but she could not take money for doing what was her duty, and a privilege as well. And in this resolve she has ever since persisted.

It is said by spectators at the fire that while Miss Swarts worked so valiantly for hours, scores of able-bodied men stood outside the fire lines curiously looking on.

A quick eye to see where one may be useful, an ability to act wisely in an emergency and sturdy refusal to be paid for it—these are refreshing attributes in either man or woman, and lift the humblest life out of the commonplace.—Youth's Companion.

## WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH.

When little Frank declared that he loved his mother "with all his strength," he was asked to explain what he meant. "Well, I'll tell you," said he. "You see, we live up on the fourth floor of this tenement, and there is no elevator, and the coal is kept down in the basement. Mother is dreadfully busy all the time, and she isn't very strong, so I see to it that the coal-hod is never empty. I lug the coal up four flights of stairs all by myself. And it's a pretty big hod. It takes all my strength to get it up here. Now, isn't that loving my mother with all my strength?"

Do not be imposed upon by appearance



NATIVES OF TAHITI.

HILDBRAND

duced by the death of a beloved and only daughter, who was to inherit their titles and estates, and, as might be expected, was the object in which their affections centred, and on whom their hopes were placed. She was a fine girl, about fifteen or sixteen years of age, and when she was unexpectedly taken ill, every priest of note, far and near, was applied to, and every god propitiated with the most costly offerings which it was in the power of this mighty chief to command. Still the disease increased, and the child died; and as this happened only a short time before Pomare made his important

of the Tahitian and Society Islands, and, having conquered all the latter, had come to Tahiti, ostensibly to assist Pomare in regaining his ascendancy in that island, but actually to conquer it for himself. Topoa was a bigoted idolater, and, at the meeting in question, expressed his full determination to oppose in every possible way so impious an innovation as the destruction of the gods. Although ill at the time, he removed immediately to Tahiti, for the purpose of making arrangements for the battles he expected to fight, but disease made rapid inroads upon his constitution, and he died very