

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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[No. 1.

## THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

THERE can be no doubt that this bridge is one of the most stupendous enterprises ever undertaken by man, and that it deserves a place among the wonders of the world. As a triumph of engineering skill, it is without a rival.

In the year 1867, the plans for the bridge were made by Mr. John Roe-

The entire length of the bridge is 6,000 feet; that of the central span, across the river, from tower to tower, 1,595 feet. The floor of the bridge, at the centre, is 135 feet above high water mark. The towers rise to the height of 268 feet above high water, and are built of solid granite. The floor is 85 feet wide, and is divided into five parallel avenues, the outer

## THE OLD TREE.

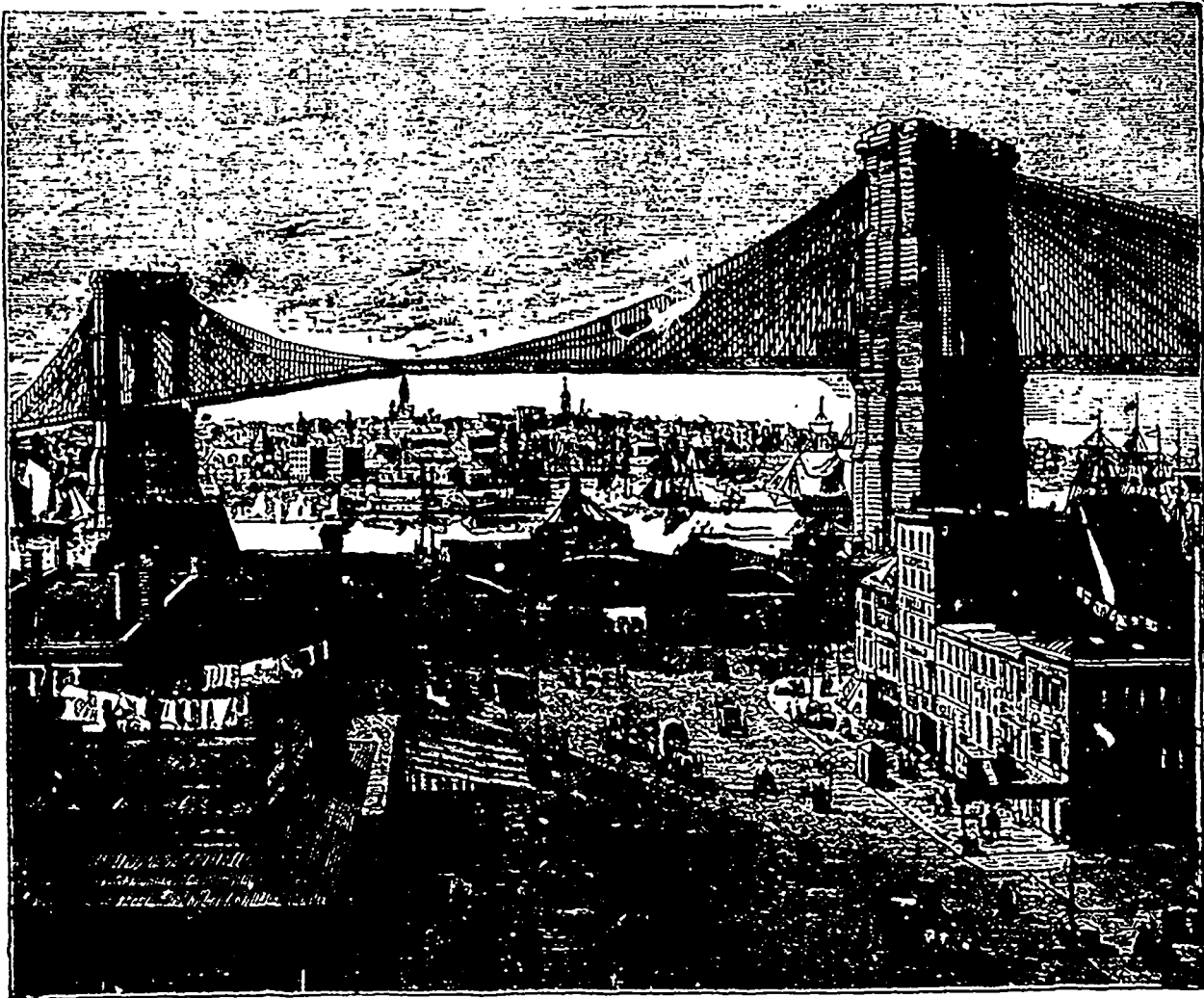
THUD! thud! went the axe, brought down by John's strong arms; and young Webster stood watching.

"What are you cutting that tree down for?" he asked at last.

"Dead!" said John, promptly; "not worth a red cent! We've coaxed it and potted around it for weeks, and it did not do a mite of good—kept

tree has got into the papers, do you?" "It's in a book," said Webster. "Every tree that bringeth forth not fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire." That is exactly what is said, and that's what you are doing."

"That is true enough," said John; and he said not another word, but he thought about it a good deal. Far away back in his childhood, one day



THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

bling. At the death of this great builder, in 1869, his son, Washington Roebling, took up his unfinished work; and, notwithstanding serious illness contracted in laying the foundations, carried it forward to completion. Thirteen years were occupied in the construction of the bridge, and the total cost was over \$25,000,000. On May 24, 1883, it was formally opened with due ceremony, and amid great rejoicing.

two, each 19 feet wide, being for vehicles; the centre, an elevated road, 15 feet wide, for foot passengers; and the other two arranged for the use of the railroad.

HAVE something to love and care for. It has been wisely said: "Whatever a child takes care of, or works for, it begins to love." And "he who loves most is happiest."

getting more dead-looking all the time; and it made the other tree look bad, and kept the sun from it!"

"What are you going to do with it?"

"Chop it up for kindling-wood. It will start the kitchen-fire for ever so long. It is good to burn, and that's about everything it is good for."

"Yes," said Webster, "I read about it."

"Read about it!" said John, much astonished. "You don't say this old

when he sat in a chair that was too big for him, and swung his feet, he studied over and over those words in his Sunday-school lesson. He knew just who said them, what came next, and how Jesus made the trees stand for men, though he had not thought of it before in years.

"John," said Webster, "it wouldn't be nice to be chopped down, good for nothing, would it?"

"No more it wouldn't," said John.