

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. II.

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SYMPATHY.

A SERMON IN RHYME.

If you have a friend worth loving,
Love him. Yes, and let him know
That you love him, ere life's evening
Tinge his brow with sunset glow.
Why should good words n'er be said
Of a friend till he is dead?

If you hear a song that thrills you,
Sung by any child of song,
Praise it. Do not let the singer
Wait deserved praises long.
Why should one who thrills your heart
Lack the joy you may impart?

If you hear a prayer that moves you,
By its humble pleading tone,
Join it. Do not let the seeker
Bow before his God alone.
Why should not your brother share
The strength of "two or three" in
prayer?

If you see the hot tears falling
From a brother's eyes,
Share them. And by sharing
Own your kinship with the skies.
Why should any one be glad
When a brother's heart is sad?

If a silvery laugh is rippling
Through the sunshine on his face—
Share it. 'Tis the wise man's saying—
For both grief and joy a place.
There's health and goodness in the
mirth
In which an honest laugh has birth.

If your work is made more easy
By a friendly helping hand,
Say so. Speak out brave and truly,
Ere the darkness veil the land.
Should a brother workman dear
Falter for a word of cheer?

Scatter thus your seeds of kindness
All enriching as you go—
Leave them. Trust the Harvest Giver
He will make each seed to grow.
So, until its happy end,
Your life should never lack a friend.

THE BERMUDA ISLANDS.

II.

FROM St. George's to Hamilton there is a fine ocean drive of eight or nine miles. Going by Harrington Sound you will pass Neptune's Grotto, between which and the Sound there is a subterranean communication—the Sound, by the way, being an arm of the sea. Fish caught at the most favourable seasons of the year are kept here until wanted for use. The usual number is 1,000, though it will hold twice as many. There are many varieties of fish, and the spectacle is as pleasing as it is

novel. These ponds, on a small scale, are quite numerous throughout Bermuda.

However interesting Bermuda may be to the pleasure-seeker it is even more so to the scientist, in proof of which statement I make the following extract from one of Colonel Nelson's valuable letters:—"I have often regretted the want of a suitable opportunity of impressing on the world of naturalists the expediency of occupying Bermuda as a point with especial advantages for study in many branches

etc., at a depth of eleven fathoms, which I measured exactly. Again, the summer temperature there admits of such prolonged working in the water. My last good day's work was on November 5, 1832, when, as usual, I remained from three to four hours, swimming, wading, and creeping on all fours."

Some pleasant morning a visit must be made to Ireland Island, the site of the dockyard and naval establishment, and one of the four telegraphic signal stations. We land, and encounter at

has once undergone. You ascend a ladder or steps on the outside, and get a fine view.

There is the usual number of machine shops, offices, and magazines, with vast quantities of powder—much more than a quiet little place like Bermuda would seem to require. Places have been tunnelled out here and there and filled with munitions of war. Everything is arranged in the most deliberate and scientific manner.

A BRAVE LITTLE SISTER.

ONE cold day this winter, as it was growing late, Mrs. Ivy, whose home is in Pictou, Nova Scotia, was obliged to go out, leaving her two children alone. Their father was dead.

Little Alice was only seven and Henry was five years old. They played together awhile, and Alice told Henry stories, and they tried to think that the time was slipping away very fast, and that mother would soon be back.

But presently it began to get dark in the room where the careful mother had left them, locking them in for safety. The stars were twinkling in the sky, and the lamps were lighted in the street. Alice knew where the matches were kept, and she had often seen her mother light their lamp, so she thought she would do it now.

Unfortunately neither she nor little Henry observed that they had set the burning lamp very near their mother's working dress and Alice's white apron, which were hanging quite close to the mantel.

The first thing they knew these had caught fire, and the room was in a blaze.

What should little Alice do? How could she save Henry? She never thought about her own danger. The key was in the lock, alas! on the other side of the door.

Quick as a flash she raised the window, and creeping out to the end of the projecting shelf, lowered herself till she hung at arm's length, and then dropped to the ground.

It was a distance of thirty five feet, but the air buoyed up her clothing, something as it does that of a little girl when she whirls round and drops in what we used to call a pot-chose. Alice reached the ground unhurt.

She flew up stairs and unlocked the door. No Henry was there. Frightened and desperate, she screamed and



FLOATING DOCK, BERMUDA.

of their craft. It is decidedly a hot climate in summer. One immense advantage to the naturalist in these islands is the characteristic tendency and necessity of coral formations to form well-sheltered lagoons. This, however, would be of small avail if there were sharks, but there is only one species there—the so-called blue shark, which rarely comes within the reefs unless tempted to do so in the whaling season, and even then is never aggressive, though he will fight if attacked. Again, the water on its sandy bottom is so exquisitely transparent, exactly the colour of the aqua-marina variety of beryl, that in a dead calm I have distinctly seen worm heaps, corallines,

once the British sentinel. The most remarkable object of interest is undoubtedly the floating dock, one of the largest structures of its kind in the world, which was built in England, and towed across the Atlantic to its present position by five ships. Its length is three hundred and eighty one feet, and its breadth one hundred and twenty-four feet. The largest and heaviest man-of-war can be docked. It is divided into forty-eight watertight compartments, which are fitted with valves worked from the upper deck. By placing some four thousand tons of water in the upper chambers its keel can be brought five feet out of water and cleaned a process which it