

# PLEASANT HOURS

PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XIV.]

TORONTO, JUNE 16, 1894.

[No. 24.]

## MOUNT SINAI.

We here present a picture of Mount Sinai, of which we read in the Bible. It is a bare, rugged mountain or chain of mountains in Arabia, of gray and red granite, rising abruptly in a wild, desolate region. This is the most memorable pile of rocks in the world, for it is the spot from which God gave his holy law, the Ten Commandments, to his people Israel. What a solemn day that was! How grand and awful must the scene have been! The people of Israel, many thousands, men, women and children, were assembled on the plain at the foot of this great mountain, where, looking up, they could see only a thick, black cloud out of which the lightning flashed, and heard amid the thunder the sound of a trumpet and the voice proclaiming to Moses the solemn words. No wonder the people were terrified when the Lord "talked with them from heaven;" yet they soon forgot, and disobeyed the holy law which was then given to them.

Would you not like to visit that spot, to see for yourself those grand mountains, to tread the sands of the very desert through which Moses led the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan? Perhaps you will go some time.

Our other picture shows us Moses breaking the tables of the law when he came down from the Mount and beheld the people worshipping the golden calf. What made this crime worse was the fact that the ox or calf was one of the deities of the Egyptians. They were honoured in life, embalmed in death and entombed in costly stone coffins. The Editor of this paper has visited near Cairo a grotto, eight hundred feet long, hewn in the solid rock, in which were the huge stone coffins of twenty-four sacred bulls, each coffin weighing about sixty-five tons of single stone, and brought six hundred miles from the quarries of Assouan. Yet the rebellious Israelites, forsaking the worship of the true God, brought their treasures of gold to be made into an image of a calf to which they bowed down in worship. Was it not a fit type of the brutishness of their conduct?

## THE CURE FOR GOSSIP.

WHAT is the cure for gossip? Simply culture. There is a great deal of gossip that has no malignity in it. Good people talk about their neighbours because they have nothing else to talk about. There comes to us the pic-



THE BREAKING OF THE TABLES OF THE LAW.

ture of a family of young ladies. We have seen them at home, we have met them at the galleries of art, we have caught glimpses of them going from a book-store or library with a fresh volume in their hands. When we meet them they are full of what they have seen and read. They are brimming with questions. One topic of conversation is dropped only to give place to another in which they are interested. We have left them after a delightful hour, stimulated and refreshed; and during the whole hour not a neighbour's garment was spoiled by so much as a

touch. They had something to talk about. They knew something and wanted to know more. They could listen as well as they could talk. To speak freely of a neighbour's doings and belongings would have seemed an impertinence to them, and, of course, an impropriety. They had no temptation to gossip, because the doings of their neighbours formed a subject less interesting than those which grow out of their knowledge and their culture.

And this tells the whole story. The confirmed gossip is either malicious or ignorant. The one variety needs a change of

heart and the other a change of pasture. Gossip is always a personal profession either of malice or imbecility, and the young should not only shun it, but by the most thorough culture relieve themselves from all temptation to indulge in it. It is a low, frivolous, and too often a dirty pastime. There are country neighbourhoods where it rages like a pest. Churches are split in pieces by it. By its neighbours are made enemies for life. In many persons it degenerates into a chronic disease which is practically incurable. Let the young cure it while they may.

Let them take up a good and judicious course of reading, just such a course as is laid down in the C. L. S. C., or the "Spare Minute Course." These courses are tested, and have in hundreds of cases proved an effectual cure of the thoughtless and vicious habit of gossip. Try it!

## PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S MAXIMS.

POVERTY is uncomfortable, as I can testify; but nine times out of ten the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be tossed overboard and compelled to sink or swim for himself. In all my acquaintance I never knew a man to be drowned who was worth the saving.

If the power to do hard work is not talent, it is the best possible substitute for it.

It is one of the precious mysteries of sorrow that it finds solace in unselfish thought.

After all, territory is but the body of a nation. The people who inhabit its hills and valleys are its soul, its spirit, its life. In them dwells its hope of immortality.

Among them, if anywhere, are to be found its chief elements of destruction.

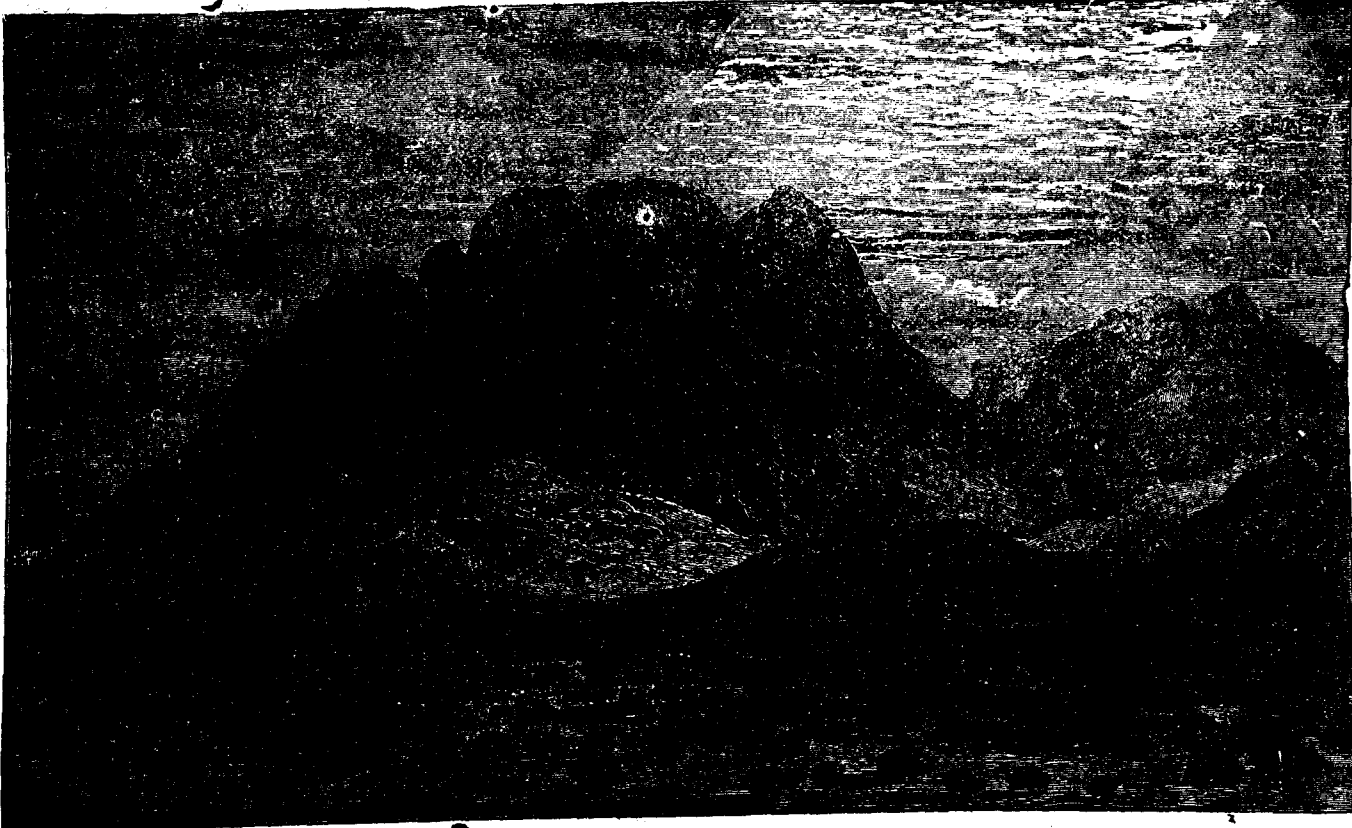
It matters little what may be the forms of national institution if the life, freedom, and growth of society are secured.

Finally, our great hope for the future—our great safeguard against danger—is to be found in the general and thorough education of our people, and in the virtue which accompanies such education.

Be fit for more than the thing you are now doing.

If you are not too large for the place you are too small for it.

If the devil gets a man's ear, he is pretty sure to get both his hands before he leaves him.



MOUNT SINAI