

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XVI.]

TORONTO, OCTOBER 3, 1896.

[No. 40.



ITALIAN GOATHERD.

ITALIAN GOATHERD.

High up in the slopes of the Alps, where cattle can with difficulty find a footing, great flocks of goats pasture on the sweet, rich herbage. They are wonderfully sure-footed, and will climb from ledge to ledge, and leap from crag to crag, in a manner that makes it appear

wonderful that they do not slip and get dashed to pieces. The chamois-goat especially reaches heights almost inaccessible to man. Only the boldest and most skillful hunters can reach them in their far-off haunts.

But this is not the sort of goat of which our handsome young goatherd in the picture has charge. They are a domes-

tic sort which are kept for their milk and for the cheese which is made from it. It is the little fellow's task to look after them all day, and if they wander too far, to recall them by his horn or pipe, and in the evening to bring them down from the mountain pasture to the chalets, where they are milked and housed. He wears, you see, a rough

jacket of goat-hair, and on his head a coarse felt hat. At his side is a leathern bottle, which he fills in the morning with goat's milk, or with the pure water of the clear mountain streams, and we well know how refreshing they are. On his shoulder is his long light, springy alpenstock, by means of which he can leap the streams, and climb from crag to crag