

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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A BUDDHIST GARDEN.

THE accompanying illustration is a representation of the neighbourhood of a Buddhist temple in Ceylon, and of the rich vegetation by which such buildings are surrounded. They are generally situated in a well-wooded

Jessamine, and the shrine of the deity, the pedestals of his image and the steps leading to the temple are strewn thickly with the blossoms of the Nagaha and the Lotus. At an earlier period the profusion in which these beautiful emblems were employed in

ent flower." Another advantage conferred by Buddhism on the country was the planting of fruit trees and esculent vegetables for the gratuitous use of travellers in all the frequented parts of the island.

Our illustration shows a noble Talipot

for covering huts and making temporary tents. It is the noblest of the palm family, growing often to the height of 100 feet. It only flowers once and then dies.

Every temple must have its sacred "Bo Tree," as shown in our drawing,



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grove, and in a neighbourhood in which water is abundant.

One peculiarity in the Buddhist ceremonial served at all times is to give a singular impulse to the progress of horticulture. Flowers and garlands are introduced into its religious rites to the utmost excess. The atmosphere of the temples is rendered oppressive with the perfume of the Champac and

sacred decorations appear almost incredible. It is related that the Ruanelle, which was 270 feet in height, was on one occasion "festooned with garlands from pedestal to pinnacle till it resembled one uniform bouquet." Among the regulations of the temple built at Dambadenia, in the thirteenth century, was "every day an offering of 100,000 flowers, and each day a differ-

palm, the leaves of which are used by the Buddhist monks—prepared in small, narrow strips—as books on which to record their sacred writings. The history and poetical writings of Ceylon have been for ages past written on these narrow strips of palm leaves, known to the natives by the term of Olas. The leaves of this palm are also used as umbrellas and sunshades, also

taken from the ancient tree at Androjapoor, planted there by Buddha or his followers, and said to be one of the oldest trees in the world; they are usually planted in some conspicuous place in front of the temple.

Ceylon, the ancient Taprobane, is an island in the Indian Ocean. It was invaded by the Portuguese Almeyda, 1505, but it was known to the Romans