

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. III.

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No. 17.

WITH THE REAPERS.

A HARVEST field, where the windwaves roll across the ripened grain and the reapers' cheery song is heard, is one of the most beautiful and suggestive sights in creation. It brings up the thought of Joseph reaping with his brethren, and his wonderful dream; of Ruth among the gleaners; and of our Lord going through the wheat field with his disciples and plucking the ears of grain that they might eat. The constantly repeated miracle of the multiplication of the grains of wheat cast into the ground—no less wonderful than the multiplication of the loaves with which Christ fed the hungry multitude—should inspire thoughts of gratitude in every heart. God still supplies the wants of every living thing. That giveth them they gather. They all wait upon him.

The picture shows an old English harvest field. In the distance the ivied church, to the left the towering and magnificent trees, in the middle distance the reapers with their old-fashioned sickles, in the foreground the standing sheaves, and the pretty family group of father, mother and children, for in those old days the women raked and bound the grain, and the children gleaned after the reapers. A stout Canadian cradler, or, still better, one of our self-raking and binding reaping machines would rather astonish these old fashioned reapers. Our great North-West will soon be the richest and largest harvest field in the world. The old time sickles would prove of little use on our boundless prairies.

THE HERO OF KARS.

NOTABLE CAREER OF A FEROUS CANADIAN.

GENERAL Sir William Fenwick Williams, the hero of Kars, whose death has just been announced, was the descend-

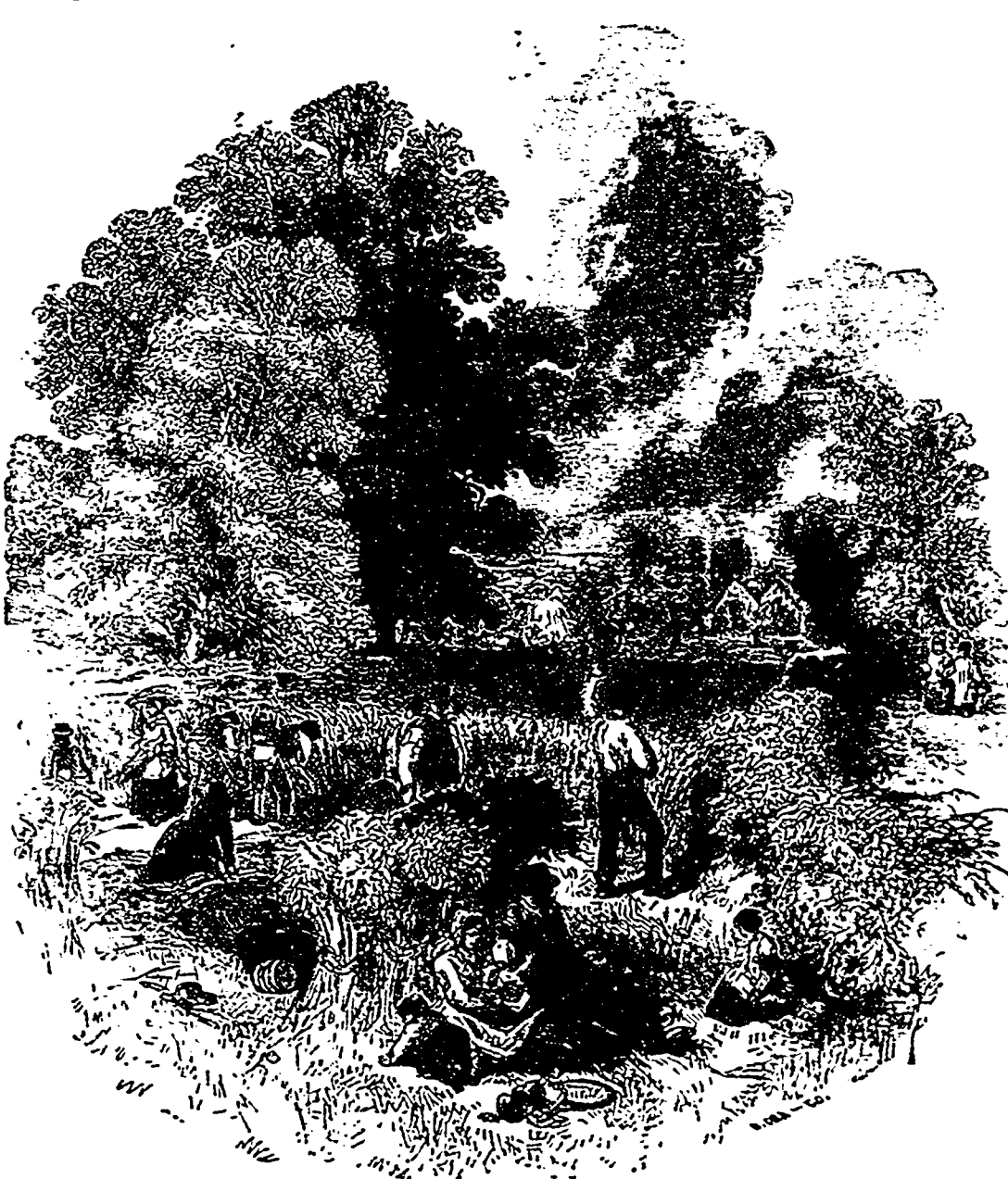
ant of a loyalist family of New York, which emigrated to Nova Scotia in 1783 on the conclusion of the war of the American Revolution. He was born at Annapolis, Nova Scotia, December 4, 1800, and at an early age obtained through the influence of the Commander-in-Chief in British America, Edward Duke of Kent (father of

Queen Victoria), an appointment to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. Having passed with credit through the prescribed course of study, young Williams was gazetted in 1825 second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, and was soon sent on special service to Ceylon, where he remained during

and suffered severely in health from the fevers characteristic of that wild region. He became more conversant than any other living man of any nationality with the extensive territory on the borders of Turkey and Persia, and one incidental result of the appointment was the facilitating of the discoveries of Layard, and Rawlinson in Mesopotamia and ancient Assyria.

In July 1854, war having been declared between Russia and Turkey, Colonel Williams was selected by Lord Clarendon as British Commissioner at the Turkish headquarters. In that capacity he reached Erzeroum in September, and before the close of that month was at Kars, which it was then evident was soon to be besieged by the "Moscova." The heroism which he displayed during the memorable siege of Kars along with his companions, the brilliant victory they gained over General Mouravieff on the heights above Kars, September 29, 1855, and the difficulties they experienced in the management of the Turkish garrison are a part of the history of the Crimean war. Forced by famine to surrender to the besieging army, General Williams and his companions were treated with the greatest honour by General Mouravieff, and returned to England through St Petersburg, where he was the recipient of every attention from the Russian Government. On the news of the victory of September 29, the British Cabinet gazetted General Williams a Knight Commander of the Bath.

On reaching England Sir W. F. Williams found himself the popular hero of the day. He was rewarded with a baronetcy, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, a pension of £1,000 per annum, the freedom of the city of London, and a Doctorate of Laws from the University of Oxford. He was appointed Commander in Chief of the forces in Canada, and held that post throughout the American civil war until 1865. In August, 1870, he was



HARVEST SCENES.

"That dog of yours flew at me this morning and bit me on the leg, and now I notify you that I intend to shoot it the first time I see it." "The dog is not mad." "Mad! I know he is not mad. What's he got to be mad about? I'm the one that's mad."

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nine years of active and constant labours. In 1843 he was commissioned to act as a commissioner, along with the British Ministers in Turkey and Persia, to settle the disputed boundary between these countries. In this service he spent no less than nine years, four of which were passed under a canvas tent,

the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, a pension of £1,000 per annum, the freedom of the city of London, and a Doctorate of Laws from the University of Oxford. He was appointed Commander in Chief of the forces in Canada, and held that post throughout the American civil war until 1865. In August, 1870, he was