

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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[No. 16.

THE WHALE.

We give you a picture of a huge whale. This animal lives in the water, but he is not a fish. His blood is warm like ours, and he breathes the air as we do.

The whale can stay under the water more than half an hour, but he comes up every eight or ten minutes to breathe. Then he can dive again. He has nostrils on the top of his head, called spiracles. Through these blow-holes he gets rid of the water which has run into his mouth.

The whale lives on little fishes. He swims around just under water with his mouth wide open. The little fishes are carried into the immense cavity, not knowing they are entering such a trap—but they are borne in by the water, and cannot help it, anyhow. In that great mouth is a natural strainer, made of the fringed edges of the whalebone or baleen plates. This is a horny substance, the edges fringed into long, soft, tough fibres, filling up the inside of the mouth. Suddenly the great trap comes down, letting the water escape, but catching the fishes. So, you see, a fresh, delicate meal is always ready for our whale, and he does not need to call upon cooks and dining-room waiters when he is hungry. He sometimes swallows shoals of herrings—the baleen whale swallows nothing larger—and the water that doesn't run out of his mouth he blows out of his nostrils.

"Poor little fishes!" you say; but, "Poor big whale!" you may say also. He is hard on the little fishes; but his fate is harder than theirs. They die in a moment; but the whale is speared with the harpoon, suffers pain, and sheds torrents of blood.

sometimes spouting red streams, and making the water red all around before the life goes out, and he turns on his back in death. The whale in the picture has been killed in this way.

One species of whale is called the "sperm whale." The largest of them has a gullet large enough to swallow a man. That must have been the kind that swallowed Jonah. But, even if a whale could swallow nothing larger than a herring, that whale could swallow Jonah. The Bible tells us that God prepared a great fish; and God could prepare a minnow to swallow a man, if he wished.

A GOOD REASON.—"I don't see why it's wrong to put a button in the box for the heathen?" "Well, if you'd think you'd see. The heathen don't wear anything with buttons on 'em."

UNJUST SUSPICION.

A TOUCHING case of unjust suspicion occurred not long since at a country resort. A young girl lost a valuable ring, and instantly made up her mind that the maid who took care of the room had stolen it. The proprietor of the house, to whom she made the complaint, said that the maid had always borne the best of reputations, and that there were some pitiful circumstances connected with her life history which she had borne in a way that proved her to be a noble, unselfish young woman. He could not think it possible that she was guilty of any such crime. In vain the young girl's mother suggested that she was often very careless, and left her things in places and then forgot where she put them.

bably remember as long as she lives. It had been her habit when she mislaid her things to thoughtlessly say some one had stolen them.

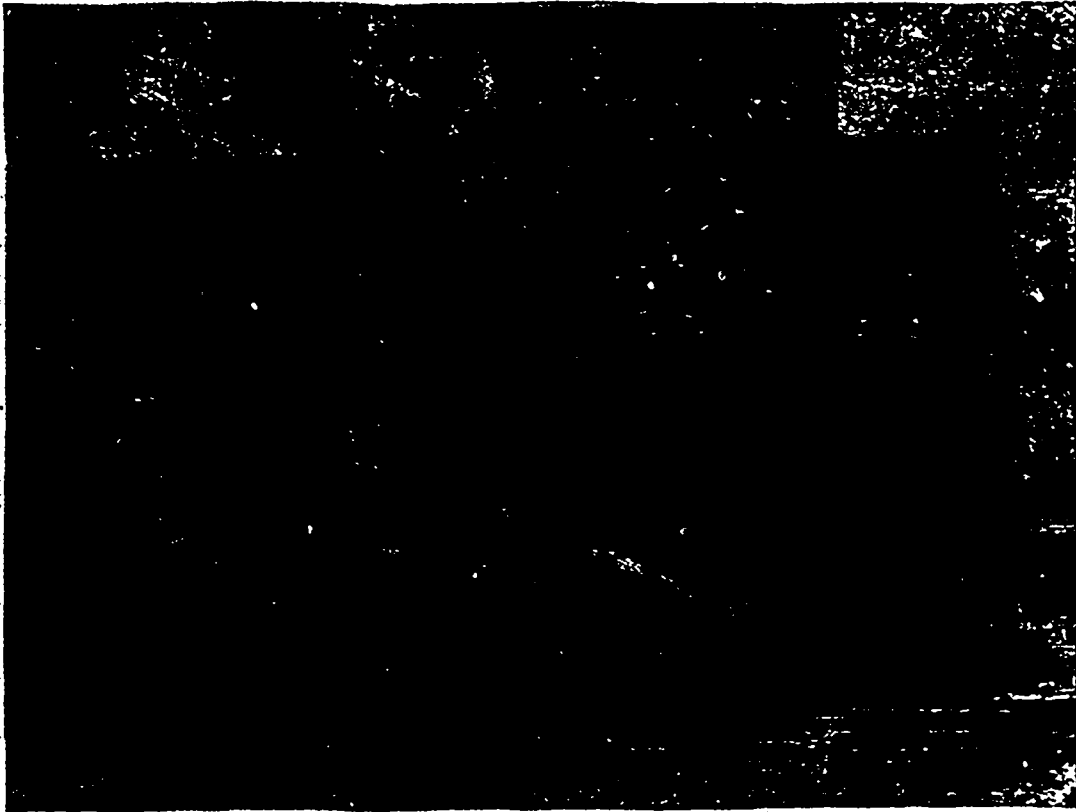
Many young people, and older ones, too, are quite apt to suspect persons of taking things that are lost or mislaid. It is a terrible thing to suspect an innocent person, and we should be very careful before we make charges against any one to have proof of the crime. Many of the world's hard workers have only their characters to depend upon, and unjust suspicions and words spoken to their discredit injure them, sometimes beyond repair. It is really a remarkable fact that the majority of those who are placed in temptation by the attractive array of pretty things they can never hope to possess are so honest and trustworthy.

Girls, remember to be very cautious about marring the character of those who serve you. Interact yourselves, in their joys and sorrows, make life easier instead of harder for them, and be thoughtful of them when they are weary with the monotonous duties of their daily lives.

BLINDED EYES.

THE iron melter can gaze long and steadily into the heart of the glowing furnace, and see clearly the various changes the iron is passing through; but if he turns his eyes away from the furnace, it is some time before he can discern objects that are near him clearly, though they be revealed by the light of the noonday sun. The glare of the furnace has dazzled his sight. For the moment he can not see ordinary objects. Scientists gaze upon the splendours of nature until their dazzled

sight fails to see the light of the glory of God as it shines in the face of Christ. But if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled in them that are perishing, in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn upon them. Good, bright, and really noble lives, the genuine fruit of Christianity, are facts as patent as any facts of science, and they are discerned by all clear, healthy, and unbiased minds. They are as truly the fruits of the Christian life in their estimation as that the blossom is the product of the root of the plant that bears it, and yet, because the Christian life has a method peculiar to its own nature of appealing to the mind, and is incapable of being tested by the processes of the laboratory, it is rejected by many as unworthy of their acceptance. They make light of it.—Rev. D. R. Jenkins.



THE WHALE.

She was perfectly sure that she had left the ring on her dressing table, and the maid went in just as she passed out of the door. What other conclusion could be reached? The poor maid, when she found she was under suspicion, was almost heartbroken, and assured the proprietor that there had been no ring on the table when she dusted it in the morning. Such an accusation had never been brought against her before. After a time the owner of the ring remembered that the night before she had taken the ring off in the bath room and had put it on a bracket in the corner where a vase of flowers was standing. When she went to see if it was there, it was found just as she had left it.

The young girl did all in her power to make amends to the poor maid whom she had so unjustly accused, but of course the innocent person had suffered intensely and could not soon forget the hurt. The young girl learned a lesson that she will pro-