

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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WHALE HUNTING.

This is one of the most exciting occupations in which anyone can engage. The whale is by far the largest game which man can hunt. Some of them will reach seventy or eighty feet in length and weigh many tons. The use of cannon and explosive bombs has almost revolutionized the whale fishery. Formerly the whalers used to leave their ship in open boats and when a whale was seen "blowing," that is, spouting water, at a distance, they would approach as near as possible and the harpooner in the bow would hurl his harpoon with all the

force that he could. At the word "stern all" the boat would instantly back and the whale, lashing the sea with his tail, sometimes cutting the boat in two, would dash away or dive beneath the waves.

When forced to the surface again for the necessity of breathing (for whales are warm-blooded animals like the seal and must have air) the boatman would, if possible, hurl another harpoon into his body. Sometimes after hours of fatiguing chase the whale would get away after all. The line attached to the harpoon was kept coiled up in tubs at the bow of the boat, and often, so great was the speed with which the whale darted away with the

harpoon, that the friction of the rope on the edge of the tub would kindle it to a flame if it were not kept wet. There was danger too of the arms or legs of the harpooner becoming entangled with the rope, when it was in danger of cutting the limbs in two or breaking a bone. These dangers have now been done away with by the use of a gun, as shown in the picture. Sometimes, too, explosive bombs are used, which kill the whale instantly. Great care has to be exercised that the rope is strong or the whale may sink to the bottom. When a whale is

extensively used for making ribs of umbrellas and dressmakers' trimmings, but light steel is now substituted. This whalebone had a fringe of finer fibre attached to its edges by means of which the small fish and minute animal organisms on which this huge monster lives, were screened.

Formerly whale voyages lasted from three to five years. The whaler took immense quantities of "hard tack," that is, very hard crackers, in the puncheons which afterwards held the oil. Now the voyage is very much shortened and its hardships greatly lessened.

day, and have smoked a good many cigarettes. I got the idea of committing this crime from one of Nick Carter's novels, in which a boy chloroformed another person. But I think I must have been under some strange excitement when I did it, for I have only a faint recollection of being in the house. I can only remember leaving the place through a rear window." It goes over us to add that there are many sons of Christian parents who are smoking cigarettes and reading "blood and thunder" cheap literature, and some of them will turn out to be criminals. Brother, is your



WHALE HUNTING.

caught he is towed alongside of the ship. Some of the sailors leap on his back and with sharp spades begin cutting the tough skin or blubber. This is attached to the tackle of the ship and is hoisted on board, the whale being turned over and over in the water as this fatty envelope, sometimes two feet in thickness, is removed from his body. It is then cut into pieces and "tried out" in open furnaces on the deck, built in with brick work. The oil is stowed away in barrels. Its spermaceti, a superior kind of oil taken from the head, of which candles are made, and the whalebone, which was formerly more valuable than it is now, are also saved. Whalebone was

WHAT IS YOUR BOY READING?
HARRY SLATER, a bright lad of sixteen years, was arraigned before Recorder Morschhausen, of Buffalo, N.Y., on a charge of burglary in the first degree. Slater stealthily entered the house of Mrs. C. E. Noble at night and tried to chloroform her as she lay sleeping with her infant at her side. The police learning of the suspicious conduct of Slater arrested the boy. Finding himself cornered he made a full confession. After having confessed he said: "Dimo novels and cigarettes get the best of me. I worked in the silk factory, and have spent my evenings reading cheap novels. I have been reading one novel a

boy doing either? Look well to his reading, and see that good books and papers are furnished him. It is your duty to see that it is elevating and instructive. Fathers who grumble at spending two dollars a year for an interesting paper would gladly spend one hundred to save the boys from the penitentiary. They should spend ten dollars for papers and books and save the hundred, to say nothing of the disgrace that follows crime. *North Western Christian Advocate.*

Produce who labor, and let the impression that the world moves. Topsy folk.