

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## A WOMAN OF PALESTINE.

In most eastern countries the women are closely veiled, and live in the utmost seclusion; seen by no one except the members of their own family. This is especially true of Mohammedan countries. This is at once a sign and a cause of female degradation. They are regarded, not as the companions or equals of man, but either as slaves or as toys, and are guarded with jealous watchfulness. Such treatment naturally contracts their intellect, cramps their minds, and cultivates a disposition to fraud and deceit.

Among the Jews, almost alone among the people of the East, much greater liberty is allowed to woman. An old Jewish saying is that God did not create Eve from the head of Adam to rule over him, nor from his feet to be trampled upon, but from his side, to be his companion and equal. And all through the Old and New Testament the beneficent character of the Hebrew and Christian institutions is seen in the nobleness and dignity and tenderness and purity of their treatment of woman. And wherever the Christian religion prevails throughout the world, there woman is ennobled and dignified and honored and loved.

In the engraving we see the characteristic of the women of Palestine. They are still as fond of adornment as when they borrowed from the Egyptians, in

payment for their long years of service, jewels of gold and jewels of silver, which jewels they afterwards plucked from their ears and from their necks

fortune in gold and silver coins on their heads and around their necks. The woman in the picture seems to be playing with a pet bird like a small

## HOW BISHOP SIMPSON BEGAN TO PREACH.

ONE Sabbath I felt a strong impression that I ought to speak to the people at night in prayer-meeting, as we had no preaching. I said to myself, "How shall I? For my friends will say I am foolish, as they know I cannot speak with interest." Especially I dreaded an old uncle, who had been a father to me and superintended my education. While I was discussing this matter with myself in the afternoon, my uncle came into the room, and after a moment's hesitation, said to me, "Don't you think you could speak to the people to-night?" I was surprised and started. I asked him if he thought I ought. He said "Yes, I think you can do good."

That night, for some strange reason the house was crowded, and I made my first religious address to a public congregation. It was not written. It was not very well premeditated. It was simply an outgushing of a sincere and honest heart.

My mother was a widow. I was her eldest son, the only child remaining at home. I feared it would break her heart to leave her, and feared it would be impossible to do so.

One day, after great embarrassment, I was induced to speak to my mother on the subject of my mental struggles, and tell her what I thought God required of me. I never shall forget how she turned to me



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for the construction and adornment of the tabernacle in the wilderness. Many Oriental women wear their whole

hawk or falcon. These were sometimes tamed and made familiar playthings.