

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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## Alcohol and Tobacco.

We are twin brothers, and great is our might,  
World-wide our efforts to vanquish the right;  
Servants of Satan, we do his worst work;  
Happy our master,—for we never shrink.

## BOTTLES.

"Why, I thought bottles were always made of glass," exclaims some little bright-eyes, who is looking at this picture.

No; long ago, in olden times, bottles were always made of the skins of animals, which were properly dressed for that purpose. The openings of the skin were all closed except at the neck of the animal, and this was fastened with a string like the top of a bag, except when people wanted to fill it or empty out some of the contents.

These bottles were made of quite as many different sizes and shapes as the glass bottles we use in these times, for sometimes the skin of a small animal, such as a kid or goat, was used, and sometimes a much larger one, such as the skin of an ox.

A traveller tells us of a bottle that he saw in Arabia, made of an ox-skin, which would hold sixty gallons. Was not that a large bottle?

Missionaries in Eastern countries often speak of the water-bottles made of goat-skins in which they carry water for their journey. When the roads are very rough and the bottles will be likely to strike against each other, they take the strongest, toughest material that can be used.

The bottles in which new wine was kept were made of the freshest, most flexible skins, so that they would not burst when the wine began to ferment.

All the drinking-water used in Egypt is brought from the river Nile by Arab water-carriers, like those shown in the picture, who bring it in skin bottles, from which they transfer it to stone jars or other receptacles.

Ought we not to be thankful that we live in a land where we have an abundance of water, and where even the poorest can freely supply his needs? But we have a still greater cause for gratitude in our knowledge of the water of life which is freely offered to all who thirst, and of which whosoever will may drink.

Bob was crying as he held his right hand extended, and fingers outstretched. "What is the matter, my boy?" asked his father. "I hurted my hand," said Bob, "a-stwoking th' hair on our thellar door th' w'ong way."

## THE BIBLE BAKED IN A LOAF.

We are told by Dr. Newton that there is a Bible in Lucas, in the State of Ohio, America, which was preserved by being baked in a loaf of bread. It now belongs to Mr. Shebolt, who lives near Mammee City, and is a member of the Moravian Church, or the Church of the United Brethren. Mr. Shebolt is a native of Bohemia, in Austria. This baked Bible was formerly the property

of his grandmother, who was a faithful Protestant Christian. During one of the seasons when the Roman Catholics were persecuting the Protestants in that country, a law was passed that every Bible in the hands of the people should be given up to the priests that it might be burned. Then those who loved their Bibles had to contrive different plans in order to save the precious volume. When the priests came round once to search the house, it happened to be baking-day. Mrs. Shebolt, the grandmother of the present owner of this Bible, had a large family. She had just prepared a great

batch of dough when she heard the priest

## HOME WORK FOR BOYS.

It takes several years for boys to make a decision as to the place they would better fill in life. They cannot choose between being president or a policeman, but finally decide in favour of being a drum-major, with the beautiful hat, at the head of the procession. Let them aspire! Encourage them to go on and educate themselves for a high calling. Perhaps their mothers may be the means

of their being leaders in that great procession which is on a long march of help to this suffering world. Who can tell? A great deal has been written about teaching our girls how to work before they assume the duties of a home. I go further than this, and insist that a young man should have much the same training. Making bread and pastry may be omitted, but there are times which are liable to come into a man's life—for instance, sickness in the family—and he needs his breakfast. He ought to be able to cook a beefsteak, make coffee and toast, and pour boiling water on oatmeal. Boys are teachable. Only speak about the knowledge being a necessity to camping out, and see how capable they will soon become.

Many delicate women in the past have done all the housework, washing, sweeping, dish-washing and cooking, for a family of boys, while these boys, in hours of recreation, were working off surplus energy by tossing balls over barns, throwing hammers and swinging in a home-made trapeze. This is all wrong. Boys in such a family should do much of the housework.

Again, what a blessing these home-taught boys are when they go out into the world. They can fully appreciate a tidily kept home, and can lend a hand when it is necessary. One of the most refined and intellectual clerical gentlemen I ever met was stopping in a home where the mother did her own work. One day, when he saw that she was exhausted with much serving, he asked, "Where is that

basket of clothes which need ironing, that I saw here to-day?" She demurred, but he insisted, and he stood in that hot kitchen and ironed and sang, and sang and ironed, until the work was done. Does some one think he must have been effeminate? Well, if it is effeminate to be a soldier and fight in ten hard battles, perhaps he was. If it describes him, he makes it a good word. He had a good mother, who had helped fit her son for this very place. It was an action worthy of Phillips Brooks."

In close application of business nothing can give points to a mustard plaster,



SKIN WATER BOTTLES.

hundred and fifty years old, yet it is still the bread of life, as fresh and sweet and good as ever.

Bolivia has in all its more than half a million square miles no resident missionary.

Paraguay has one missionary to 80,000 people, and Uruguay one to 375,000.

Brazil is larger than the United States, and more than twice times larger than India. Each missionary there is confronted by 125,000 souls. Out of its 16,000,000 people, 14,000,000 are entirely unreached.