

# LEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## CAMEL RACE.

The camel was one of the earliest animals domesticated by man and is mentioned in Hebrew writings long before the horse. It is, perhaps, the most awkward looking of animals, having a large, ungainly appearance, its hind legs seeming disproportionately long. But we may well excuse its apparent deformities as they make it one of the most useful animals and without it the great deserts would be impassible. Its clumsy-looking, broad feet prevent it from sinking into the sand, its long pendulous upper lip is its organ of prehension, and its nostrils can be closed at will against the

or muddy soil. It slips and slides in it and cannot gather itself up quickly. Camels, on an emergency, will travel from seventy to ninety miles a day, but only for a day or two, over a level country. Their average day's travel is about fifty miles which they will cover in from eight to ten hours. They can run and leap a stream with great speed, as shown above.

## THE FISH AT DINNER.

The curious way in which fishes eat is quite a study. Some fishes have teeth, and some have none at all. In some the teeth

methods for those regularly toothless, and the fishes which have teeth show almost as great a diversity in the number, style, and arrangement of them. The ray, or skate, has a mouth set transversely across its head, the jaws working with a rolling motion, like two hands set back to back. In the jaws are three rows of flat teeth, set like a mosaic, and between these rolling jaws the fish crushes oysters and other mollusks like so many nuts. The carp's teeth are set back in the pharynx, so that it actually masticates its food in its throat; while the sea-urchin has five teeth surrounding its stomach, and working with a

refuse, because he made money by it. I have met him in the stores where he bought the cheapest and roughest clothing he could get. I have met him at church. He took no part in any of the exercises; he was all the time looking around vacantly or counting on his fingers while the preacher was trying to interest his hearers in heavenly matters. When the contribution basket was passed around he would shake his head or look for a copper in his old greasy pocket-book.

This old man had starved his body, mind and soul in order to make money. Now in his old age his chief delight is in telling



CAMEL RACE.

drifting sand. The hump upon its back, which seems as if it were solely for the convenience of the rider, forming a natural saddle, is its storehouse of food, which is slowly reabsorbed during its long marches and enables it to stand the necessary privations of the desert. Its power of endurance, strength, ability to live on a very limited quantity of food, and that of the coarsest character, and to do without water for long periods at a time have rightly earned for it the title of "Ship of the Desert."

The camel when ill treated will become unruly and even savage, biting severely, but if kindly treated it is a most gentle, docile animal. Though so well adapted for travelling over the sandy desert, the camel moves with great difficulty in wet, clayey

are found upon the tongue, in some in the throat, and in some in the stomach. Some draw in the food by suction; the sturgeon is one of this class. The jelly-fish absorbs all its food by wrapping its body around the prey it covers. The star-fish fastens itself to its victim, turns its stomach wrong side out, and engulfs its dinner without the formality of swallowing it through a mouth first, much less of asking permission. Then there is a peculiar little crab—the horseshoe crab—which chews up its food with its legs or claws before it passes the morsels over to its mouth; while other crabs and lobsters masticate their food with their jaws, and afterwards complete the work with an extra set of teeth which they find conveniently located in their stomach. So there are all sorts of

peculiar centralized motion, which makes them do as good service as if they were numbered hundreds. And these are only a very few of the odd methods in which fishes eat.

## WHAT ARE YOU WORTH?

I HEARD this question the other day asked by an old miserly man who was hobbling along the street. I know him well; he had accumulated a large fortune in houses and lots, bonds, stocks and money. He had been a long lifetime in making his fortune, but it was at the expense of many of the enjoyments and pleasures of life. I have met him at the meat market, he always bought the cheapest

that he is worth fifty thousand dollars. What a sad picture. I give this that the boys and girls may see the folly of laying up treasures on earth at the expense of everything that is good, pure and noble. What are you worth? is a question of great importance.

Ask your mother what she would take for you, and she will tell you that all the gold in the world could not buy you from her. Ask yourself what you are worth to yourself. That body of yours, how do you value it? Do you value that mind? What will you take for your soul? How much are you worth to yourself? to the world? to God?

Think on these things and write me a little letter, letting me know how much you are worth.

UNCLE MINOR.