

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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LIFE SAVING.

ONE of the noblest Government institutions is the Life-preserving Service. These stations are located in suitable places near the coast of oceans or lakes, to be of service to vessels in distress, either by storm or fire. At these stations the life-boats are kept, and all the arrangements for sending out help.

When a vessel falls into danger, a signal of distress is given, and at once the men at the station prepare for work, just as earnestly as the firemen do in our cities, when a signal for fire is given. They do not employ horses, but they pull a sort of two-wheeled cart near the bank. On this, are heavy coils of rope and a mortar or short cannon. This is loaded, and with it they shoot out a line of rope, over the vessel. First a small-sized rope is sent; at once the men in the vessel draw in the rope, and as they draw it in, the men on shore attach a heavier rope, on which to carry the life-car. Our first picture shows them firing the life-line, as it is called, over the vessel. Though this is only a small rope, it is welcomed, as a precious means of life, and in receiving the first offer of help, more comes.

In 1877 a vessel fell into danger, and when signal was made to them they gave no answer. Then the life-line was sent out, yet they seemed not to notice it. Night

approached, when the earnest men on shore succeeded in getting a reply, asking for a life-boat. At once they were told to "Haul on the rope." This they did. It was found that the vessel was a Norwegian barque, and perhaps at first they might have thought on a foreign shore, they could not ask for help. Hours had passed because they did not understand the plan. Had they not yielded to ask for help, and so enabled the men on shore to instruct them, in a short time all would have been lost. How many souls are acting much in the same way about salvation! They say they

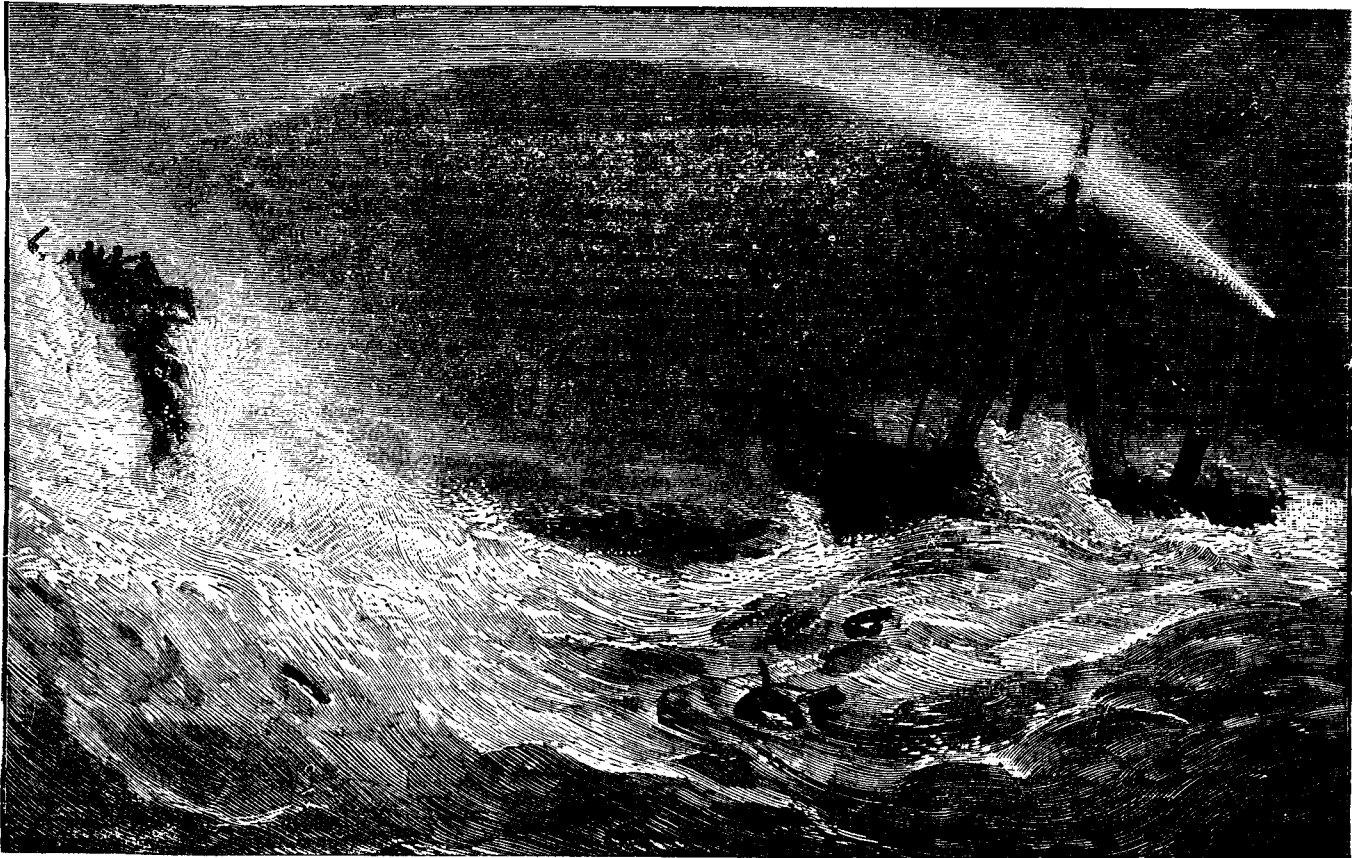
do not understand how Christ's suffering can atone for their sin, or there are so many things in the Bible that they do not understand, and so they do not heed the life-line exhortation floating over them, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Praise the Lord! some will cry out for help whether they fully understand every detail or not, and are saved.

As the men on the vessel drew in the rope a life-car soon reached them, and was filled with passengers, and shut up water-tight, and drawn back to land in safety. Thus all the precious lives were saved. Our next picture shows the life-car as it

for new life. No praise is expected by those who led these souls to God. No thought of the many entreaties and prayers, but a general rejoicing, over the salvation of souls. Every young Christian, or old, may engage in the work of rescuing souls from eternal death, and this is more important than saving the body.

"Do not look upon signing the pledge as doing away with your liberty; it is signing your emancipation act, freedom from the want of personal liberty of the poor being who cannot break from his liquor habits."
—Wilbur Crafts.



FIRING THE LIFE-LINE OVER THE VESSEL.

returns from its journey to the ones in danger. It looks too small, but it can hold a lot of people, and protect them from danger.

What rejoicing and thanksgiving there must have been, when the life-car was landed on shore and opened, and the dear ones taken out in perfect safety!

Baby is the first lifted out, and then one after another, until they all stand out of danger. The old vessel must go down, but they are safe. The storm may rage, but they are out of its reach. The men who laboured to send them this means of escape forget their labour, and rejoice to know the crew are saved.

Thus, redeemed souls rejoice to be free from the wrath which hung over them, forgetting the old haunts of sin which so lately bound them, now giving praise to God



PULLING THE LIFE-CAR TO SHORE.



OPENING THE LIFE CAR.