

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. V.

TORONTO, APRIL 18, 1885.

No. 8.

## CLIMBING.

**M**Y boy, are you fond of climbing?  
Would you scale the lofty hill?  
Those on the far-off summit  
Were men of steadfast will.  
Often their feet grew weary  
And worn in the toilsome way,  
But they never got discouraged  
And stand at the top to-day.

You have read what a poet tells us—  
That we gain not at a bound  
The heights; but life is like a ladder—  
We must climb up round by round.  
So the hill that is steep before you,  
It may take you long to climb,  
But one step after another  
Will lead to the top in time.

He who would reach the summit  
Must turn not left or right;  
He must keep up heart and courage,  
And keep the heights in sight.  
Little by little the summit  
Grows bright in his steadfast eye,  
And at last he stands with the victors  
As you may, if you try.  
—Eben Reesford.

## BRAZIL.

**B**RAZIL is one of the largest countries in the world, being 2,600 miles in length by 2,500 in breadth, larger than the whole of Europe.

Yet this great empire is but sparsely peopled, having only about ten millions of inhabitants, including whites and negroes. Its principal characteristics are its vast forests and its immense river system. The Amazon is the largest river in the world, being two hundred miles wide at its mouth. Under the equatorial sun the fertile soil produces the greatest production of fruits, flowers and useful plants. Sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco, spices, drugs and horns from the cattle on its vast pampas or plains are its chief exports. Its diamond mines are the richest in the world. The central part of the large picture shows the process of washing the diamond-bearing earth, for these glittering stones. The lower part show the rich vegetation of an island plantation, and above is seen one of the primitive villages of the interior, with the rule ox cart in the foreground.



BRAZIL.

I refer took place out on my front veranda. The verandas here are not built of wood, like most of those in America, but of hard *pakharu* (pucca) work, a sort of stone softened with water and then beaten down firmly and smoothly. I had just risen from my breakfast, and had gone out on the veranda, when I espied these little creatures. Now, it is a very common sight to see ants. One can go out at any time of the day and see myriads of them of different species, marching to and fro, generally in a straight line and in the most perfect order, from their houses to their fields of labour. But at this time, these particular little black ants attracted my especial attention. I do not know whether their wee noses had smelled breakfast or not; at any rate, I found them hard at work moving a dead wasp, three times larger than any one of them, across the pucca floor of the veranda. It was a very interesting sight. I was anxious to know what they would do with the lifeless animal with a stinger. On and on they went, tugging and pulling away as if they really were hungry. No matter if there did chance to be a little unevenness in the floor, still somehow the wasp would move. There were thousands of ants running about, but only about a dozen were at work at one time, six on one side pulling, and six on the other side pushing. The wasp's whiskers and legs seemed to be their favourite hold, because their minute pincers could clasp them more easily than the body. There was the wildest excitement all about. Multitudes seemed to show their military tactics in reconnoitring the surrounding country to keep off any enemy that might be around. In ten minutes

## TRICKS OF A LITTLE PEOPLE

**A**N English preacher, writing from India, says:

"Our youthful readers will be glad to hear about a little feat

of some ants I saw a few days ago. I do not propose to weary you, children, with a long article all about ants; at your leisure you can find out about their strange ways in some encyclopaedia. The little ant incident to which

they had their trophy across the veranda, and were soon edging their way around to the outside of one of the large veranda pillars. They soon accomplished this, and I immediately saw that they actually meant to carry