

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XV.]

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[No. 6.]

THE ICE PALACE.

In Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, St. Paul, and some other northern cities, it has come to be the fashion to build an ice palace. The ice is ploughed and sawn into blocks, as shown in our lower cut, and then built into glistening walls which, by the electric light, flash like diamonds. A more sensible use of the ice is to store it away in an ice-house, shown on the bank, and thus have winter's treasured coolness to refresh us in the heat of summer.

"SEND THAT BOY TO ME."

"The pay is forty dollars a month, and a good youth is sure of promotion. That is what the permanent men at the railroad shops complain about. This place is now vacant because the lad your partner sent us, and who filled it worthily a year, is now placed where he gets eighty dollars a month. So we'll trust you to choose his successor. They may ask you a few questions about the candidate, for form's sake, at the office, but your man is sure to pass muster."

The above was addressed to a busy railway officer to a city lawyer, who replied:

"There is my friend's son, Urban Starr. His father spoke to me about employment for him. To be sure, Urban is rather above the place as to talent and culture, but times are hard, and the young should climb the low rounds of the ladder. I'll see about proposing him."

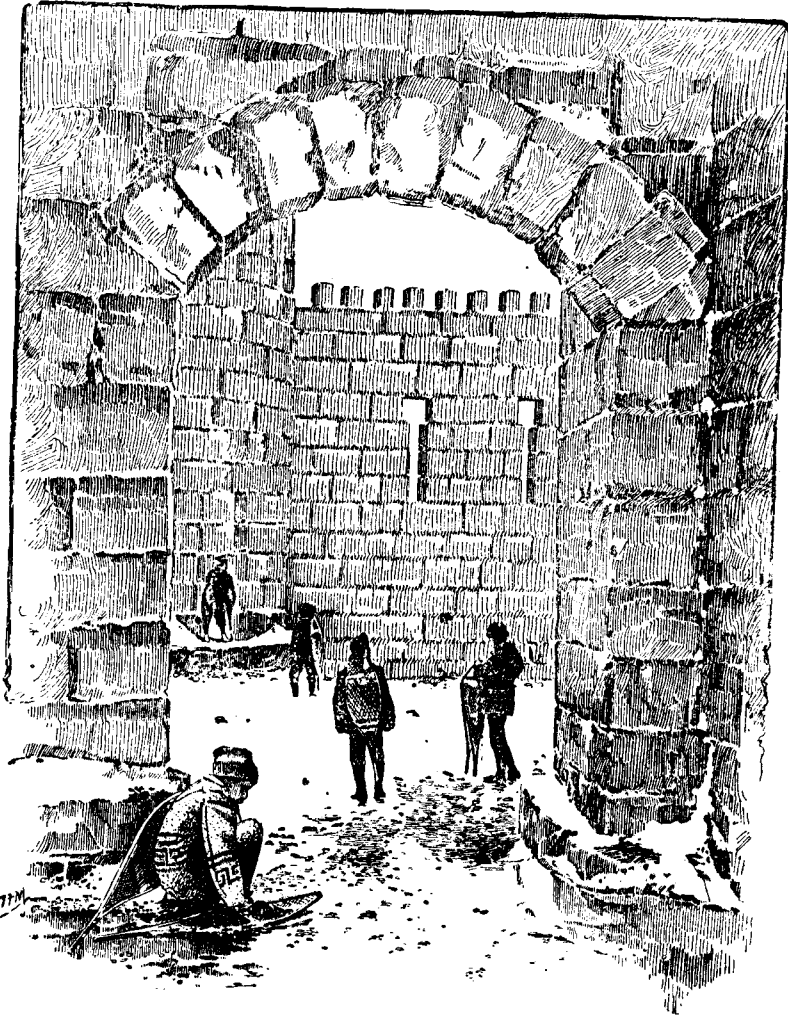
"Thank you! I'll be doubly obliged if you'll take your applicant up to the office, and see him accepted." And the railroad man hurried away.

To this conversation there has been a deeply-interested but sad-hearted listener—Theodore Young, the faithful office-boy, who longed with unspeakable desire for some such place as the one described. He was the eldest son of a widowed mother, whom he yearned to help, and who was so poor that forty dollars a month seemed wealth to her boy. When the railroad man left, the lawyer turned to Theodore, saying:

"Here, Theodore, though it isn't your work, won't you note the dates of these letters, and file them away in order, while I write a letter for you to take up to Mr. Starr's?"

Theodore attended carefully to the papers, and was waiting for the letter before it was finished. A great desire was swelling in his throat till it ached, and when the finished letter was handed to him, his request burst forth in trembling eagerness:

"Do you think, sir, there is, or may be, any low place at the railroad shops for which you would venture to recommend me? I would begin very low, and work very hard to deserve promotion, and, per-



INSIDE THE ICE PALACE.

haps, in years, I might come to such a place as this, which is for Urban Starr."

"How can we spare our good, trusty Theodore? But I own it is too bad to keep you here. If Urban consents to apply, when I go with him you may go too, and I'll interview the parties about something for you."

"Oh, thank you, sir!" cried Theodore, and he was so glad that he ran instead of walking on his errand.

A few hours later found Urban and Theodore waiting in an ante-room, while the lawyer made known his business about Urban to the railway officials, who said:

"Oh, yes! Thank you for bringing him. The last employee your firm sent us was a treasure, and we don't need to raise questions about this one; yet there is one absolutely essential thing that I will mention. Of course you know this person,

like the last, to be strictly temperate—total abstinence, pledged and practised?"

"No, sir, I know nothing of the kind; but, on the contrary, while my friend Mr. Starr is temperate, he isn't one of the total kind. There is wine for the guests at New Year's, and this Urban takes his glass like the rest."

"Excuse me, then, but he won't do for

our employ. Total abstinence principles and habits are our first requirements."

"He is no drunkard. Perhaps if you see him you will think he has qualifications of great value to you."

"It is useless for us even to see him, since we desire one who has been from boyhood voluntarily abstinent."

"Very well. Urban Starr is far above need of the place. Good morning! Oh, excuse me for having forgotten another matter. There is a lad here with me—in fact our own office-boy—for whom I've promised to ask if you've any kind of a place ever coming vacant into which you could put him with hope for his future. We hate to loose him, for he is trusty, capable, willing, writes a good hand, is quick at figures."

"How is he about the total abstinence?"

"Oh, he is square on that. Signed the pledge when a child. Never took the first glass. Regards a glass of wine with superstitious horror."

"Send him in if you please. We would like to talk with him."

Theodore came back to the lawyer's office radiant with joy, exclaiming:

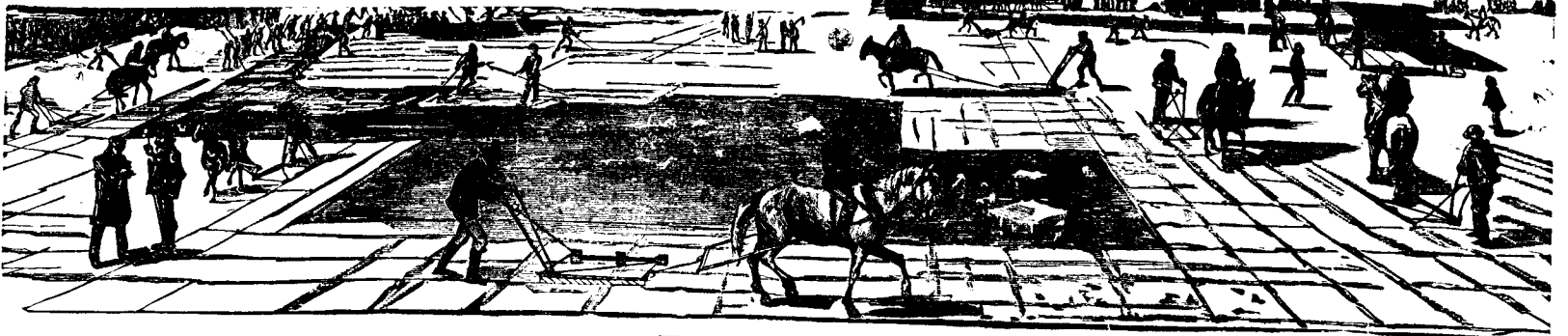
"They say I'm just the one they want for the place you didn't take for Urban Starr. They only laughed when I said I feared there was some mistake. Is it all right? Don't Urban want the situation?"

"It is all right, Theodore. Please remember, when you are a railroad president, that you owe your success in life to me!"

This occurred—for this is all true—several years ago, and Theodore has now a salary of fifteen hundred dollars, with the love and confidence of all who know him; while Urban is intemperate, out of employment, and a grief to his parents.

If you love others, they will love you. If you speak kindly to them, they will speak kindly to you. Love is repaid with love, and hatred with hatred. Would you hear a sweet and pleasing echo, speak sweetly and pleasantly yourself.

A LITTLE boy, who came before the pastor to be received into the Church, was asked how he expected to lead a Christian life, and he sweetly replied: "I will put my hand in Jesus' hand, and I know he will lead me right."



THE ICE HARVEST.