

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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My Good Angel.

Her eyes are sweet and gentle;
Hair, a golden brown;
Her cheeks are soft and tender,
As any girl's in town.

Her temper is the mildest,
Spirits, blithe and gay;
She never cares to wander
Far from my side away.

She follows close behind me,
O'er mountain, plain or bog;
She loves me fondly, truly—
"A woman?" No—my dog.
—Truth.

CAPTAIN COOK.

To the older generation of readers the story of Captain Cook is an old and familiar tale. But the old stories must be often re-told to the new generations; and the character and work of Captain Cook entitle him to perpetual honour. To him is due the discovery of many of the islands where his followers have wrought mightily for the salvation of souls.

James Cook was the son of a farm-labourer, in Marston, Yorkshire, England, and was born October 28, 1728. His father was a man of energy, and afterward became a bailiff. When James was thirteen years old, in accordance with the custom of the time, he was bound out to a haberdasher at Straiths, near Whitby. He did not long remain here; some difficulty arose betwixt him and his master, and, like so many other adventurous lads, he left, and entered himself as an apprentice on board a collier, and soon became an officer.

At the age of twenty-seven, his naval aspirations led him to join the royal navy, in the service of which he spent his life. Very soon he attracted the notice of his superiors, by his ability; and on the recommendation of the commander of his ship, Cook was appointed master of the *Grampus*, and afterwards of two other vessels.

While in command of the *Mercury*, he was sent to join the fleet in the St. Lawrence, and assisted in the capture of Newfoundland—the coast of which he surveyed in the following year, 1753. So well was this done, that, in 1754, he was appointed Marine Surveyor of Newfoundland and Labrador. While in this service he made a

careful observation of a solar eclipse, the report of which gave him considerable fame among scientists.

It was known that there was soon to be a transit of Venus; and in view of Cook's evident skill in astronomical work, he was now chosen to conduct an expedition to the Southern Pacific, to take an observation from that point. He was therefore made a lieutenant, and proceeded to Tahiti, where a successful observation was made by the scientists of the expedition. This done, he cruised westward through the Southern Pacific to New Zealand, Australia, and Java, where he stopped for repairs, and then returned to England by way of the Cape of Good Hope, having made the circuit of the globe. He arrived in England, June 11, 1771, and was at once made a captain. His stay was short, however, for public discussion had taken up the question of a southern continent, and Cook was again appointed to make a voyage of exploration in search of it, with two ships, and nearly two hun-

dred men, he left Plymouth July 13, 1772. He passed the Cape of Good Hope, and then cruised through the southern regions until midsummer of 1774, when, having made three voyages to and fro in the southern regions, he was convinced that no continent was there, and returned to England, where he was further honoured by promotion to be post captain in command of Greenwich Hospital, and was elected to membership in the Royal Society. And now a third enterprise demanded his services. Arctic discovery took the place of the southern continent, and Cook was sent with two ships to find the "north-west passage" from the Pacific to the Atlantic. He left England early in the summer of 1776; discovered some small islands in the South Pacific; and in January of 1778 he started northward, discovering the Sandwich Islands on the way. In

quakes are frequent, and sometimes very destructive. During the change of monsoons terrific hurricanes sweep along the islands, making navigation extremely hazardous. The rainy season begins in May and lasts till December, and is unhealthy for Europeans. The total area of the group is estimated at a hundred and twenty thousand square miles, and for natural wealth is unsurpassed, if it is equalled, by any similar extent of territory on the earth. Mineral deposits of great variety and plentifulness abound, the soil is wonderfully fertile, the rivers and lakes are many and teem with fish. The mountains, which often rise to seven thousand feet, are clothed with forests of the most valuable timber, and these forests are inhabited by an astonishing number and variety of birds, monkeys and reptiles. For a naturalist the Philippines are a paradise of inex-

haustible treasures. In possession of a more progressive and enterprising nation than Spain, their wealth and importance would be incalculable. The population, estimated at about eight millions, is divided into widely diversified races, all of which are more or less opposed to Spanish domination. But here, as in Cuba, the half-castes are the most disaffected. In January, 1872, an insurrection broke out, and was suppressed with savage ferocity. Again last year there was a formidable rising, which has not yet been suppressed. The Mohammedan inhabitants of the plains are an industrious, highly skilled people. The negroes, or Papuans, of the mountain regions are little known savages. Tobacco is cultivated as a Government monopoly by nearly a million impressed labourers, who are slaves in all but name. Besides these, every native in the settled districts is compelled to give forty days' labour every year on the public roads and bridges. Spanish officials sent out from Spain strive to acquire fortunes as rapidly as possible, and are quite unscrupulous in the methods they employ for that object. Hence the general disaffection and certainty of a furious uprising, as predicted, on the appearance of a fleet hostile to Spain. There are seven regiments of infantry and one of cavalry entirely composed of natives. The only Spanish troops are two brigades of artillery and a corps of engineers. The navy consists of a few old-fashioned ships and a number of frigates employed as revenue cutters to prevent smuggling. A monopolistic and prohibitory trade policy has greatly retarded the development of the islands. In fact, the commerce is said to be little better now than it was in the sixteenth century, when the trade between China and the Spanish colonies of America was the richest in the world. A bad, greedy, fiscal system, restrictions on foreign shipping, discouragement of all enterprise, not under the patronage of a notoriously corrupt, incapable Government, ecclesiastical control in temporal as well as spiritual affairs, the utter neglect of education, all combine to render these islands, prodigiously rich in all that should make a country great and prosperous, the most miserable and turbulent region on the face of the globe. In spite of all, however, English and German and American merchants have established lucrative businesses, which, under happier auspices, would become of great importance. The best thing that could happen the islands would be to fall under the power of a nation that would know how to govern them and develop their wonderful resources.—The Witness.

BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

On June 12, 1815, Napoleon left Paris for the seat of war. On the 15th the French army crossed the river Sambre and fell upon the enemy. Then came Waterloo.

Waterloo!—that famous battle, where Napoleon first met the unconquerable English face to face; where Wellington made his name immortal; that battle glittering in its array, brilliant in its manoeuvres, terrible in its intensity, horrible in its loss of life, that battle remarkable for little blunders that led to great results, and for magnificent attempts that amounted to nothing, that battle, so nearly a defeat for England, so nearly a victory for France, that to this day men cannot see just how it turned the other way, and historians and military writers are even yet disputing as to the responsibility and discussing the operations.

It is not for us to describe or discuss it here. Napoleon was beaten, conquered, it may be, as the English say, by Wellington, conquered, it may be, as the Germans claim, by Blücher, conquered, it may be, as declares Victor Hugo, the Frenchman, by the will of heaven.

PRAYER AND WORKS.

The story, the other day, about the pious little boy who tried to walk on the water in the bath tub, recalls another of an equally pious girl. She was eight years old and lived in the country. She had started one day rather late for school, with another little girl about her own age. On their way they caught a glimpse of a clock dial through an open door. It lacked five minutes of nine. "Oh, dear!" said the pious little girl, "it's five minutes of nine, and we'll be late to school!"

"I'm afraid we will."
"Jennie," said the pious little girl impressively, "I'll tell you what we'll do, we'll kneel right down here and pray that we won't be late."
"H'm!" said the other, "I guess we'd better skin right along and pray as we go."
"They 'skun,' and got there just in time."

If some good temperance people would work while they pray, prohibition would not be so long delayed.



CAPTAIN COOK.

March, 1778; he struck the west coast of America; and after following the coast to Behring's Straits, he was stopped by ice, and returned to winter at the Sandwich Islands. Here he lost his life on the 14th of February, 1779, being killed by the natives in consequence of a quarrel arising from their having stolen a boat from one of the vessels.

Captain Cook was a man of fine personal presence, energy, and discretion; a favourite with his subordinates, and honoured by equals and superiors. He was the first man to sail around the world; and in his various voyages he discovered many islands of importance, some of which bear his name.

THE PHILIPPINES.

There are twelve hundred islands in the Philippine group. In reality they are the summits of a group of submarine mountains, many of which are active volcanoes. As may be imagined, earth-

quakes are frequent, and sometimes very destructive. During the change of monsoons terrific hurricanes sweep along the islands, making navigation extremely hazardous. The rainy season begins in May and lasts till December, and is unhealthy for Europeans. The total area of the group is estimated at a hundred and twenty thousand square miles, and for natural wealth is unsurpassed, if it is equalled, by any similar extent of territory on the earth. Mineral deposits of great variety and plentifulness abound, the soil is wonderfully fertile, the rivers and lakes are many and teem with fish. The mountains, which often rise to seven thousand feet, are clothed with forests of the most valuable timber, and these forests are inhabited by an astonishing number and variety of birds, monkeys and reptiles. For a naturalist the Philippines are a paradise of inex-

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