

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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DR. THOMAS CORE, FATHER OF METHODIST MISSIONS.

HOME AND SCHOOL for June 7 will contain interesting and instructive articles on the Centenary of Methodism; and the number for June 21 will contain a view of Toronto from the Bay, of old Adelaide Street Church, the Metropolitan Church, and other interesting features in connection with the Semi-Centennial of Toronto. Only \$1 per 100.



BISHOP ASBURY.

## THE BEGINNINGS OF METHODISM IN THE NEW WORLD.

BY THE EDITOR.

IT is a remarkable fact that by the hand of a woman the germ of Methodism was first planted, both in the United States of America, and in what is now the Dominion of Canada. "On a spring morning of 1760," writes one who was familiar with the story, "a group of emigrants might have been seen at the Custom House Quay, Limerick, preparing to embark for America. At that time emigration was not so common an occurrence as it is now, and the excitement connected with their departure was intense. They were accompanied to the vessel's side by crowds of their companions and friends, some of whom had come sixteen miles to say 'farewell' for the last time. One of these about to leave—a young man with a thoughtful look and a resolute bearing—is evidently leader of the party, and more than an ordinary pang is felt by many as they bid him farewell. His party consisted of his wife, Mary Sweitzer, his two brothers and their families, Paul Heck, and Barbara his wife, and others. Who among the crowd that saw them leave could have thought that two of the little band were destined to influence for good countless myriads, and that their names should live as long as the sun and moon endure? Yet so it was. The vessel contained Philip Embury, the first class-leader and local preacher of Methodism on the American continent, and Barbara Heck, 'a mother in Israel,' one of its first members, the germ from which, in the good providence of God, has sprung the Methodist Church of the United States and Canada; a Church which has now under its influence about ten millions of souls."

After a voyage of many weeks the "destined vessel, richly freighted," safely reached New York on the 10th of August, 1760. Amid the disappointments of hope deferred, and the temptations by which they were surrounded, these humble Irish emigrants seem to have sunk into apathy and despondency, and, like the exiles of Babylon, to have said, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Embury seems to have shrunk from the responsibility of religious leadership. While he justly ranks as the founder of American Methodism, Barbara Heck, as Dr. Stevens well remarks, may even take precedence of him as its foundress. She nourished, during all this time, her religious life by communion with God and with her old German Bible.

Five years later other Palatines, some of them relatives or old friends of the Emburys and Hecks, arrived at New York. Few of these were Wesleyans, and some made no profession of religion whatever. In the renewal of social intercourse between the old and new arrivals a game of



GEORGE WHITEFIELD.

cards was introduced. There is no evidence that any of the Wesleyans took part in this amusement. But Barbara Heck felt that the time had come to speak out in remonstrance against the spiritual declension of which she regards card-playing as the evidence. In the spirit of an ancient prophetess she seized the cards and threw them into the fire, and solemnly



BARBARA HECK.