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# HOME AND SCHOOL

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TORONTO, JANUARY 15, 1887.

[No. 2.]

Vol. V.]

## The Egyptian Palm.

THE accompanying picture is a representation of the beautiful and fruitful palm tree which grows to-day, as it did centuries ago, along the banks of the Nile. To the Egyptian, this tree affords both food and shelter. Its fruit is a staple article in his daily diet; its branches protect him from the rays of the sun; its leaves thatch his house, and its wood is used for fuel or building. It is said, indeed, that there is nothing about a palm tree which is not in some way useful to man. Perhaps the Psalmist was thinking of this when he said: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree."

## Silent Forces.

WORKMEN in the stone quarries sometimes find a very hard kind of rock. They pick little grooves for the iron wedges, and then with great sledge-hammers drive and drive the wedges into the flinty rock. And yet, once in awhile, they fail to divide the solid mass. The iron wedges and the sledges prove useless, and the workmen wonder at the stubborn rock. But there is yet another way. The iron wedges are removed from the narrow grooves. Then little wooden wedges, of a very hard fibre, are



THE EGYPTIAN PALM.

selected. Now you begin to shake your head and think: "Well, if iron wedges will not do, how is it possible for wooden wedges to be used successfully?" Just wait, until we explain. The sharp, well-made wooden wedges are first put into water. They are then inserted into the grooves tightly, while wet, and water is kept in the grooves, and no sledge is needed to drive them. They would break under the severe blows of the ponderous hammer. But the workmen just let the wet wedges alone. They will do what the driven iron fails to do. How so? The damp wood swells. The particles must have room to enlarge. And the granite hearts of the rocks cannot withstand this silent influence. Soon the solid rock parts from top to bottom, and the workman's will is accomplished. It is so, often, in other things. What noise and visible effort fail to do, some quiet power, rightly applied, will surely achieve. Teachers may remember this fact in mechanics, and manage some very stubborn natures by the application of the silent forces. The iron and the sledge-hammer so often fail; but tears, prayers, and a patient example never fail.—  
*Alex. Clarke, D.D.*

They that seek me early, shall find me.