

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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## Nobility.

BY ALICE CAREY.

True worth is in being, not seeming  
In doing, each day that goes by,  
Some little good—not in dreaming  
Of great things to do by-and-bye.  
For, whatever men say in blindness,  
And in spite of the fancies of youth,  
There's nothing so kindly as kindness,  
And nothing so royal as truth.

We get back our mete as we measure,  
We cannot do wrong and feel right,  
Nor can we give pain and feel pleasure,  
For justice avenges each slight.  
The air for the wing of the sparrow,  
The bush for the robin and wren;  
But always the path that is narrow  
And straight for the children of men.

We cannot make bargains for blisses,  
Nor catch them like fishes in nets;  
And sometimes the thing our life misses  
Helps more than the thing which it gets;  
For good lieth not in pursuing,  
For gaining of great or of small;  
But just in the doing and doing  
As we would be done by, is all.

Through envy, through malice, through  
hatred,  
Against the world, early and late,  
No jot of our courage abating—  
Our part is to work and to wait,  
And slight is the sting of his trouble,  
Whose winnings are less than his  
worth;  
For he who is honest is noble,  
Whatever his fortunes and birth.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT CHINA.

As we shall have occasion to show in several engravings which we will present of Chinese scenery, much of it is very interesting and attractive. While a great deal of the country is very level, yet much of it is also exceedingly broken with bold headlands and deep ravines. It is cultivated like a garden wherever possible. The picture on this page shows a scene on the island Chock-Sing-Toon. A mountain stream comes down a deep and narrow gorge, the foliage on either side being exceedingly luxuriant. A stone bridge spans this stream, with a temple on one side and a joss-house on the other. It is a particularly holy place, for the natives bring here great quantities of joss-sticks and sacred paper to burn. These joss-sticks are very aromatic and diffuse their fragrance all around. We brought some from San Francisco which we sometimes burn in the house for the sake of the pleasant odour. The papers contain prayers which, when burned, are supposed to come before the deity.

The Chinese are great sailors. Many families spend their lives in boats, and their junks navigate with boldness all the eastern seas. They carry very large sails, whose bamboo ribs make them look like the huge wings of a bat, or some such uncanny creature. China is great in her antiquity.



CHINESE SCENERY—CHOCK-SING-TOON.

Founded before Egypt or Nineveh, she exists and flourishes still. Before Romulus built the walls of Rome, before Samuel anointed Saul king over Israel, she was a strong, well-organized, mighty empire. Her records date back four thousand years. For twenty centuries the great wall which encircles her, covered with granite, has been built. When our English ancestors were savages, the common people of China were clothed in silks and satins. In the year 1250, Marco Polo visited China. He was the first European traveller to do so; and when, upon his return, he told his story concerning that land and its people, and the wonderful things he had seen there, he was by some adjudged insane, and by others the supreme liar of his day. But what we know to-day corroborates the truthfulness of his marvellous tales.

China is great also in her inventions. It is not commonly known that for printing, gunpowder, the mariner's compass, the making of paper, porcelain, and

India ink, the world is indebted to China. Printing was invented in Europe in the fifteenth century. In the second century of the Christian era, printing on wooden blocks was known to China. With the exception of the electric telegraph and the steam-engine—comparatively new discoveries with us—it may be said that there is no great invention which did not originate in China.

Moreover, China is great in her public works. The roads over the Himalaya Mountains will compare very favourably with the great highways over the Alpine passes. China also boasts of two thousand canals, which afford free and easy intercourse throughout all the empire. One of these canals is twelve hundred miles in length, and was completed before Columbus was born.

Again, the Chinese agriculture is not surpassed by that of any other nation. For many centuries the soil has been taxed to support the immense population dependent

upon its products, and yet it is said to be richer than ever to-day.

We have heard much in these days of the breaking down of bridges, by which not a few human lives have been sacrificed. Such a thing may be said to be unknown in China, for should an accident happen, the builder, if yet alive, would be bastinadoed. Consequently, Chinese bridges do not break down.

## MOTHER'S TURN.

Have our girls seen the following, taken from one of the church papers? If so, it will do no harm to give it another reading, now that vacation days are bringing the leisure that will make it possible for "mother" to have her "turn":

"It's mother's turn to be taken care of now!"

The speaker was a winsome young girl, whose bright eyes, fresh colour and eager looks told of light-hearted happiness. Just out of school, she had an air of culture, which is an added attraction to a blithe young face. It was mother's turn now! Did she know how my heart went out to her for her unselfish words?

Too many mothers, in their love for their daughters, entirely overlook the idea that they themselves need recreation. They do without all the easy, pretty, and charming things, and say nothing about it, and the daughters do not think there is any self-denial involved.

Jennie gets the new dress, and mother wears the old one turned upside down and wrong side out. Lucy goes on the mountain trip, and mother stays at home and keeps house. Emily is tired of study, and must lie down in the afternoon, but mother, though her back aches, has no time for such indulgence.

Girls! take good care of your mothers. Coax them to let you relieve them of some of the harder duties which for years they have patiently borne.

## CONCERNING NUTMEGS.

Were we to select some article of food as it appears on our breakfast-table each morning, how many of the family, think you, could tell its origin? Take nutmegs, for instance:

The nutmeg-trees grow on the islands of Asia and tropical America, and look like small pear-trees. They bear fruit seventy or eighty years. In Jamaica there is one tree that every year has on it over 4,000 nutmegs. The fruit is about the size of a peach, and when ripe it breaks open and shows the seed, which is the article known to commerce as the nutmeg. Mace is the thin covering over the seed. The Dutch have not controlled the nutmeg trade for many years. They tried to confine the growth of the nutmeg to the Banda Islands, which they owned, but the nutmeg pigeons carried the nuts into all the surrounding countries, and the trees grew and flourished in spite of the would-be monopolists.



THE BOSUE FORT, GUARDING CANTON.



THE PEARL RIVER, NEAR CANTON.