

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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For Me!

Under an eastern sky,
Amid a rabble's cry,
A Man went forth to die—
For me.

Thorn-crowned his blessed head,
Blood-stained his every tread,
Cross-laden on his sped—
For me.

Pierced were his hands and feet,
Three hours o'er him beat
Fierce rays of noontide heat—
For me.

Thus wert thou made all mine;
Lord, make me wholly thine;
Grant grace and strength divine
To me.

In thought, and word, and deed,
Thy will to do. Oh! lead
My soul, e'en though it bleed—
To thee.

—Boston Pilot.

A DESPERATE ENCOUNTER.

The eagles of the Alps are very large and strong birds. They will sometimes swoop down and carry off a lamb or even a child. The picture shows an example of the latter. The father rushes to the rescue and keeps the eagle at bay till a well-aimed shot brings down the ferocious bird.

WORK AWAY, BOYS.

BY MRS. G. HALL.

These are years of advancement in many ways, and good men, men of skill and power, inventive men, are needed to carry on the progressive history of the age. We would stimulate the boys of to-day to work on in spite of all hindrances or discouragements, to make the wisdom of the past their own, to cherish any fresh suggestions that come into their minds, and to persist in such practical experiments as may lead them into ways of usefulness and distinction. As an encouragement to do this, we will recall the lives of some who have struggled and achieved success.

Who was poorer than Hugh Miller at his start in life? An uncouth lad, plodding in a stone quarry, lodging in the loft of a barn on a bed of straw, feeding on oatmeal, nothing more, and surrounded by rough, ignorant men. In the intervals of labour young Miller wandered along the shore, among rocky crags, with hammer and chisel in hand, cutting out odd petrifications which seemed of no use at all, and carefully observing the manner of the stratifications of rocks, thereby prying into all the secrets of geology. The result to him was a world-wide fame, and gave to us some of our richest treasures of science and literature.

You know how the young boy Watt found out the tremendous agency of steam. When the aunt of James Watt reproved the boy for his idleness, and desired him to sit down quietly and read a book, and not to be meddling with the lid of the tea-kettle, lifting it off and putting it on again, holding first a cup and next a silver spoon over the steam as it poured forth from the spout, she little thought that he was investigating a problem that was to lead to the greatest of human inventions—the steam-engine.

And it is said that we are indebted for the important invention in the steam-engine called "handgear," by which its valves are worked by the machine itself, to an idle boy, Humphrey Potter by name, who, being employed to stop and

open a valve, saw that he could save himself the trouble of attending and watching it by fixing a plug upon a part of the machine which came to the place at the proper times, in consequence of the general movement. What does this prove? That Humphrey Potter might be very idle, but at the same time very ingenious. It was a contrivance not the result of accident, but of observation and successful experiment.

sculptor, that when a boy a gentleman observed him busily cutting a stick with a penknife. He asked the youth what he was doing. "I am cutting old Fox's head," he replied. Fox was the school master of the village. The gentleman then examined it, pronounced it excellent, and gave the youth a sixpence. Years afterward the stranger heard of him as one of the greatest sculptors of the age. The first panels on which Wm. Etty

a neighbour told him that this was done with brushes of camel's hair—of course there were no camels in America, and he bethought him of a favourite cat, whose back and tail supplied his wants, and thus day after day he laboured secretly in the attic of his mother's humble dwelling, having forgotten all school duties in his greater love for painting.

And another American painter, Edward Malborne, spent the intervals of school-hours by industriously making experiments. One of his greatest delights was in blowing bubbles to discover the colours therein displayed. Thus we see that even the blowing of soap bubbles may help the artistic mind to better know and understand the more delicate shades of colour.

The spark of electricity in the hair of the old black cat to the observing boy, Franklin, developed into the discovery of that tongue of flame speaking all languages; telling our wants across the water almost as soon as our lips can speak them.

As soon as you begin to search for the powers within yourselves, God reveals himself to you as the wonder-working one, and there is a great difference between wondering over any talent you have, and giving devout recognition to the Giver of it! When the apple dropped from Newton's hands, he not only followed it downward, and discovered the great law of gravitation but the marvellous principle thus brought to light caused him to look upward to the throne of God with a profounder reverence. Newton saw that the law he had discovered was a great power, and he also recognized the wonderful Counsellor who ordained it. So we would urge you while improving your spare moments and using the faculties God has given you to the best advantage reverently to acknowledge the Giver of any good things you may achieve or honours that may come to you. Thus you will not fall of the love of God, which is the beginning of wisdom and all the powers you possess will become stronger, brighter and better.



A DESPERATE ENCOUNTER.

The father of Eli Whitney, on his return from a journey, which had taken him from home for several days, inquired, as was his custom, into the occupations of his boys during his absence. He received a good account of them all, except Eli, who, the housekeeper reluctantly confessed, had been engaged in making a fiddle! "Alas!" said the father, with an ominous shake of the head, "I fear that Eli is my scapegrace!" To have anything to do with fiddles, the father thought, showed a mind only fitted for trifles! Little did he think that what seemed a mere fiddle-fiddle was the dawning of an inventive genius that should rank among the most useful and effective in arts and manufactures.

It is related of Chantry, the celebrated

the celebrated painter, drew were the boards of his father's shop floor, and his first crayon a lump of white chalk. Now William's mother was a sensible woman, and instead of scolding the boy for disfiguring her nicely swept floor by his chalk marks, she went to a friend. "I shall never thank my mother enough for her patience with my first trials, and the promise that she gave me of some colours mixed with gum water instead of chalk. I was so delighted I could hardly sleep."

Young West, the great American painter, first began to display his skill in drawing, and learned the method of preparing colours from the teaching of some roaming Indians, but being at a loss to know how to lay on these colours,

THE FIRST DAYS OF THE WORLD

When geology took up the world's history, in early Archæan days, three hundred millions of years had already passed since the molten rocks of the sun like earth had formed from the condensing nebulae.

The cooling of the exterior had gone forward with remarkable slowness, but at last it was hard, solid rock. The thick, heavy vapours had begun to condense, and waters, hot and acid, covered the world, or at least its greater part.

Over the continental region the sea was more or less shallow, and the breaking and grinding of the ocean's bed laid the nucleus for future land.

A triangular island slowly appeared above the waste of waters, in what is now the Hudson's Bay region. There appeared, too, a narrow strip which in centuries to come was to be the Highlands of the Hudson. There was also a coast-line in the broad area covering the Rockies. Small islands dotted the great northern seas where Norway and Sweden now stand.

As time passed, the waters slowly became cooler, and at last life, lowly life, appeared in some structureless plants and animals.

A warm and equable climate covered the land, and a clouded sky tempered the rays of the sun, but the rocks were