

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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Lend a Hand.

BY ROBERT L. BANGS.

A noble cry rings through the land;
Hear it, ye people, "Lend a hand!"

A twofold need doth call on you
To lend a hand that's strong and true.

First put down evil; crush the wrong;
That duty doth to you belong.

Intemperance lifts its hydra head,
Oh, lend a hand to strike it dead!

Go to the city's crowded street;
See how temptation there doth meet.

Those gay and thoughtless ones
Who tread
The paths that lead them to the dead.

Oh, lend a hand to rescue youth!
Who wander from the paths of truth.

A word of kindness! It may save
A brother from a nameless grave.

A twofold need doth call on you
To lend a hand that's strong and true.

Crown him who putteth evil down,
Who lifteth fallen ones, him crown.

For fallen ones, a saddened band,
In anguish whisper: "Lend a hand!"

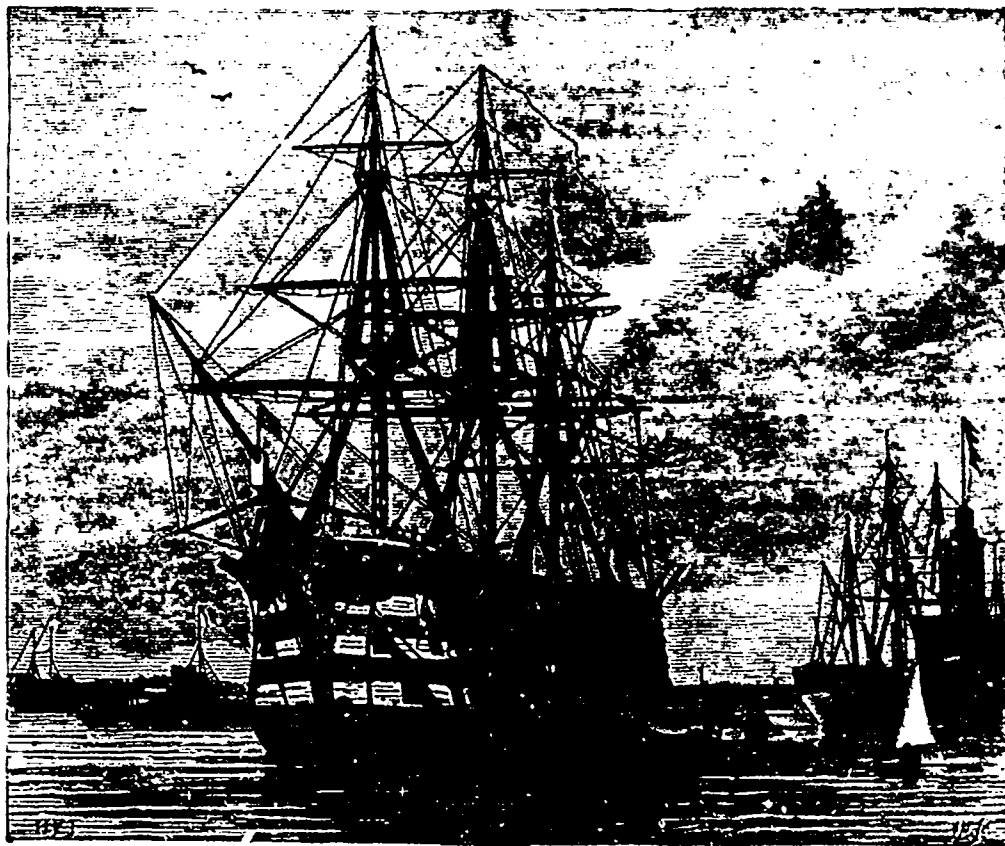
Thrice gemmed the crown that he shall wear,
Who, fearing naught, doth nobly dare

To lend a hand against all wrong,
Putting it down with courage strong,

And then with pitying eye doth seek
To lend a hand to help the weak.

A GREAT DOCK-YARD.

England's greatest naval depot is Plymouth, on the south-east coast. It was



THE "VICTORY," NELSON'S FLAGSHIP.

here that the English fleet awaited the Spanish Armada in 1588, that Essex gathered his expedition to conquer Cadiz, in 1596; and from here sailed the Mayflower, with the Pilgrim Fathers, in 1620. Here has grown up a town of 200,000 inhabitants. The great dock and victualling yards are the most extensive in the world. The Government bakery, cooperage, and storehouses enable the Admiralty to fit out naval expeditions to Suakim or Mandalay on a few hours' notice. A peculiarity of the bakery is that in an incredibly short time after the grain is ground a continuous stream of "hard tack" is delivered, ready for packing, from the great automatic ovens fast enough to feed an army.

Nelson's flagship, the Victory, on board which he was killed at Trafalgar, is shown in our large cut.

One of the old war hulks, named the Canada, shown in the cut on the fourth page, is fitted up as a training-ship, and here John Bull's young sea-dogs receive their initiation into their life-work.

In one of the dockyard buildings is shown a section of the mast of the Victory, Nelson's flagship, on which he received his death-wound at the battle of Trafalgar. At its base is seen a shot by which it was perforated, and above it is a bust of the heroic Admiral.

The grandeur of the neighbouring Cornish coast, the beauty of the valleys of Devon, the historic memories of Drake and Raleigh and Gilbert, and the ancient sea-kings of Plymouth, and, later, of William of Orange, give this part of England an interest unsurpassed by that of any other region of the grand old land.

A peculiarity of many old English towns is the market or memorial cross, such as shown in our engraving on this page. These are often exceedingly interesting and picturesque objects. Memorial crosses were naturally more frequent than any other kind. When Eleanor, wife of King Edward I., died, she was carried back to London, and wherever the casket rested on that long funeral journey the king had a cross built. There were at least twelve such crosses, though only three of them now remain. Market crosses were first used in market towns, for

the priests went there on the great market days to preach. They were called by special names, like Butter or Poultry Cross. Boundary crosses marked the line between different places, and Preaching crosses were used as pulpits. One of these latter stood in front of the old St. Paul's Cathedral, and here some of the Reformers preached the doctrines of the Reformation.

Along the south-west frontier of England are situated the historic Cinque Ports, "Sandwich and Romney, Hastings, Hythe and Dover," as if guarding the tight little island against foreign invasion. Longfellow thus finely describes them and the death of their great war- den, the Iron Duke:

"Sullen and silent,
and like couch-
ant lions,
Their cannon
through the
night,
Holding their
breath, had
watched in
grim defiance
The sea-coast op-
posite.

"And now they
roared at drum-
beat from their
stations
On every citadel;
Each answering
each, with
morning saluta-
tions,
That all was
well.

"And down the
coast, all tak-
ing up the bur-
den,
Replied the dis-
tant forts,
As if to summon
from his sleep
the Warden
And Lord of the
Cinque Ports.

"Him shall no
sunshine from
the fields of
azure,
No drum-beat
from the wall,

No morning gun from the black
fort's embrasure
Awaken with its call

"For in the night, unseen, a single
warrior,
In sombre harness mailed
Dreaded of man and and surnamed
the Destroyer,
The rampart wall had scaled

"He did not pause to parley or
dissemble,
But smote the Warden hoar,
Ah! what a blow! that made all
England tremble
And gran from shore to shore"

Hastings, the last of the Cinque Ports was never an important har- bour, and is chiefly famous for the great battle by which William the Conqueror became Lord of Eng- land. The twinkling lights of the seaside town seem to wave wel- come and farewell to the tourists from a foreign land.

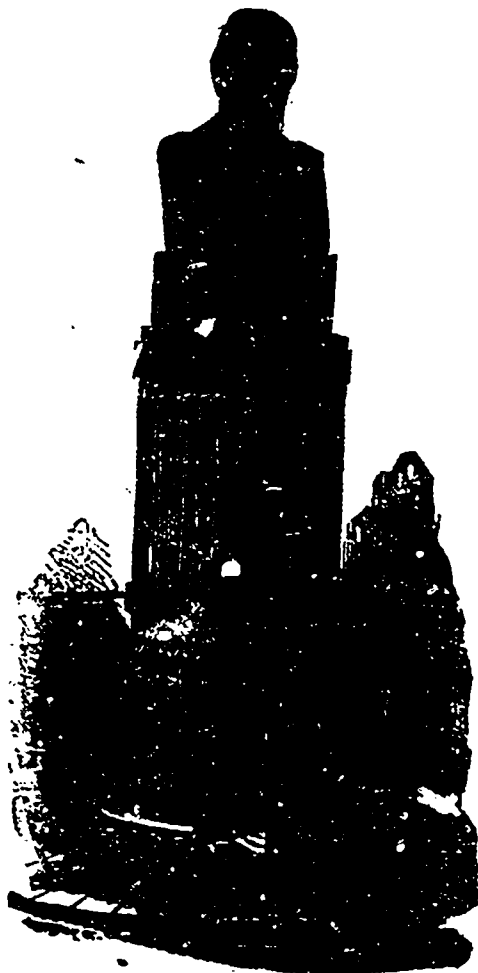
"EMPIRE DAY."

"Empire Day" is the name which has been given to the school day immediately preceding the 24th of May, and which will be annually devoted by the school children to exercises calculated to stimulate their interest in and their love of the great Empire of which this country forms a part. The selection of Empire Day is the result of a suggestion made by Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Educa-

tion, in a paper read before the Dominion Educational Association last year. The educationists cordially approved of the idea and recommended its adoption.

The Minister of Education is sending to public school inspectors for their guidance the following circular dealing with the subject:

"The school day immediately preced- ing the 24th of May shall be devoted specially to the study of the history of Canada in its relation to the British Empire, and to such other exercises as might tend to increase the interest of the pupils in the history of their own coun- try and strengthen their attachment to the Empire to which they belong—such day to be known as Empire Day."



BUST OF NELSON AND SECTION OF MAST OF FLAGSHIP "VICTORY."



A MARKET CROSS.