

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

Vol. XII.]

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[No. 4.

CHINESE PORTABLE KITCHEN.

This curious picture shows how the Chinese carry about a sort of portable kitchen with them. With a little lamp they will cook food and sell it on the street; and eat rice with chopsticks, which look like knitting-needles, only they are made of bone.

In our papers we shall have a good deal to say about China, because the Methodist Church has sent nine missionaries to that country, and they will write letters which will be very interesting to our young readers. About one-third of the population of the earth live in the great empire of China. It is hard to think that millions of them are dying every year without a knowledge of God! We hope our young friends will take a great interest in the reports of our Chinese missions, and save their money that they may contribute something towards the missions in China. The condition of Chinese children, many of whom are abandoned in infancy—if, indeed, they are not put to death—ought to make our readers in their happy homes very grateful to what God has done for them, and lead them to try to do something for the Chinese.

If all the people of the world can be imagined as standing abreast, in a single line, so that they should just touch one another, that line would be about 500,000 miles long—long enough to reach around the earth twenty times. And if you could pass in front of that line, and look on each face, at least one man in every four you would see would be a Chinaman.

There are eighteen provinces in China proper, each one being about as large as Great Britain; and yet it is very doubtful if many of the boys and girls who have finished their geographies know so much as the name of any one of these provinces. The Canadians talk much of our vast country, but China, with its dependencies, has more square

miles than are found in the whole Dominion of Canada.

On each square mile in the United States there dwell, on an average, ten or eleven persons; while China has at least two hundred and fifty inhabitants for every one of her square miles.

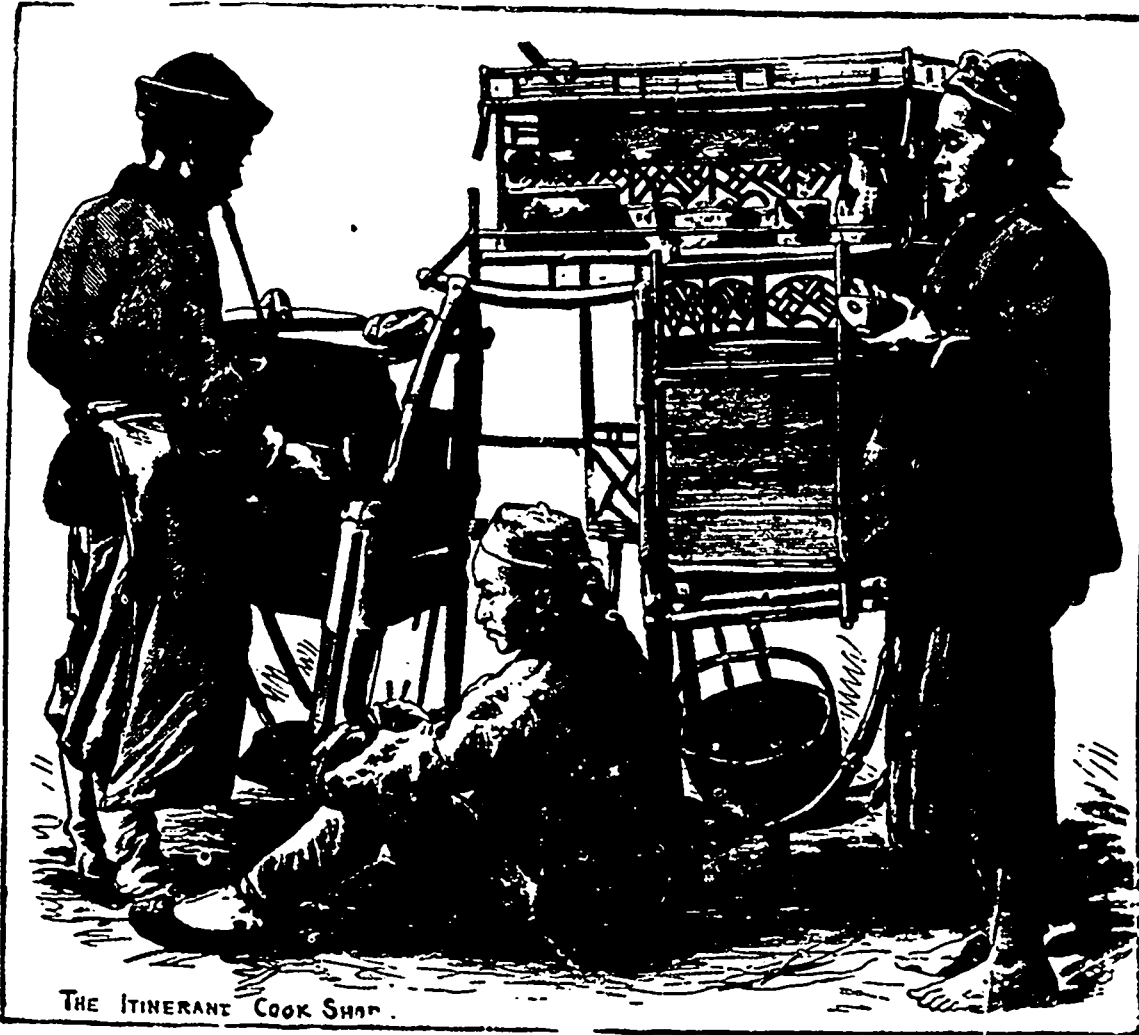
"I SHALL give you ten days or \$10," said the judge. "I'll take the \$10," said the prisoner.

I knew a boy, a scrap of a lad, who almost needed a high chair to bring him up to the general level of the dining table, who liked to read the encyclopedia. He was always hunting round in the big books of the encyclopedia—books about his own size—for what he wanted to know. He dug in it as another boy would dig in the woods for sassafras root. It appeared that he was interested in natural history and natural phenomena. He asked questions of these books, exactly as he would ask a living

authority, and kept at it till he got answers. He knew how to read. Soon that boy was an authority on earthquakes. He liked to have the conversation at table turn on earthquakes, for then he seemed to be the tallest person at the table. I suppose there was no earthquake anywhere of any importance but that he could tell where it occurred and what damage it did, how many houses it buried, and how many people it killed, and in what shape it left the country it had shaken. From that he went on to try to discover what caused these disturbances, and this led him into other investigations, and at last into the study of electricity, practical as well as theoretical. He examined machines and invented them, and kept on reading, and presently he was an expert in electricity. He knew how to put

in wires, and signals, and bells, and to do a number of practical and useful things; and almost before he was able to enter into the high-school, he had a great deal of work to do in the city, and three or four men under him. These men under him had not read as much about electricity as he had.

SPURGEON tells an amusing story of the old lady who started up when her grandson was about to take her umbrella, exclaiming: "No, you don't. I've had that umbrella twenty-three years, and it's never been wet yet, and you ain't going to begin."



THE ITINERANT COOK SHOP.

CHINESE PORTABLE KITCHEN.

A BRIGHT BOY AND WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED BY READING.

BY CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER.

I do not think it is very servicable to make a list of books for children to read. No two have exactly the same aptitudes, tastes, or kinds of curiosity about the world. And one story or bit of information may excite the interest of a class in one school, or the children in one family, which will not take at all with others. The only thing is to take hold somewhere, and to begin to use the art of reading to find out about things as you use your eyes and

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