

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## THE MARIES AT THE SEPULCHRE.

IN the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him; lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.—Matt. xxviii. 1-8.

## EASTER EGGS.

ALL over the world, at Easter tide, eggs are used for games, or given in token of good-will. As the time draws near, the boys, particularly about New York and Washington, lay in a stock of eggs, which they boil very hard in a decoction of logwood chips, herbs, or colored rag. When these preparations are finished, the fun begins. One boy holds an egg so that the top of it is seen just above his closed fist. Another boy, with his egg held in the same way, pounds with the bottom of it, on the top of egg number one. The egg that is broken first becomes the property of the boy who holds the hardest of the two. Another egg game that is a greater favorite because it can be played out of doors, is the rolling of these hard-boiled eggs one after another down a hill; and every

boy who can break another's property, may have it for his lunch. In Russia it is a common custom to dye and roll eggs, the latter part of the practice belonging to the children. All classes of the people exchange these pretty little symbols, embracing each other, and exclaiming while they do so, "Christ is risen!" the response being always, "He is risen indeed!" In

some parts of Scotland, the children have the greater share in the amusement of rolling the dyed eggs in the fields and greens. The object of this rolling is to keep the eggs uncracked, as long as possible. There are plenty of other eggs in fine confectionery, and sugar, wax, and glass are also used as

eggs, arranged in baskets or on trays, the well-to-do classes taking care that such eggs come from the confectioner or toy shop. In Germany, though the egg giving custom is very popular, they have in many parts of the country, Easter trees, hens, and lambs—little sugar things lying on green banks, and

## THE QUEEN AND THE SICK CHILD.

THREE or four years ago Her Majesty the Queen came to open a new wing of the London Hospital. For some days previously nothing else was talked about in the papers and on the streets but Her Majesty's intended visit. There was a little orphan child lying in one of the wards of the hospital, and she too had heard that the Queen was coming. She said to the nurse, "Do you think the Queen will come and see me?"

"I am afraid not, darling," said the nurse; "she will have so many people to see, and so much to do."

"But I should so much like to see her," pleaded the little patient; "I should be so much better if I saw her," and day after day the poor child was expressing her anxiety to see Her Majesty.

When the Queen came the governor told Her Majesty, and the Queen, with her large, kindly heart and motherly instincts, said: "I should like to see that dear child; would you just take me to the ward?" and Queen Victoria was conducted to the bedside of the orphan girl.

The little thing thought it was one of the women come in the crowd to see the opening of the hospital, and said: "Do you think the Queen will come and see me? I should like to see the Queen."

"I am the Queen," said her visitor. "I heard you were anxious to see me. I hope you will be so much better now," and she stroked down her fevered, wasted, pale brow, gave some money to the nurse to get some nice things for the child, and went her way.

The child said, "I am ever so much better now that I have seen the Queen."

A greater than the Queen is always near to praying souls, even the King of Kings, and we would all be much better if by faith we realized his presence.—*The Presbyterian.*



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materials for Easter-eggs. In Italy the eggs are gilt or colored before being placed on the table in large ornamental dishes, prettily festooned with flowers. The table remains arranged in this way, and every visitor is invited to take one of these eggs, which he will not refuse, unless he wishes to give offence to his host or hostess. The merry-makers of Naples present each other with stained

many of the people make little nests of moss in out-of-the-way places, and the eager children are sent to seek "the egg he hare has laid," such eggs being generally of sugar, or toy-eggs that open, in which little presents are hidden.

Men are ashamed of drunken women, but women are not always ashamed of drunken men.

SCHOOL Board visitor, while examining a scholar. "Where is the North Pole?" "I don't know, sir." "Don't you? Are you not ashamed that you don't know where the North Pole is?" "Why, sir, if Sir John Franklin and Dr Kane and Markham couldn't find it, how should I know where it is?"