

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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The Company Who Try.

BY MARGARET E. BANGSTER.

Yes, I love the little winner,
With the medal and the mark,
He has gained the prize he sought for,
He is joyous as a lark.
Every one will haste to praise him,
He is on the honour list—
I've a tender thought, my darlings,
For the one who tried, and missed.

One? Ah, me! They count by thou-
sands—
Those who have not gained the race,
Though they did their best and fairest.

Striving for the win-
ner's place,
Only few can reach the
laurel,

Many see their chance
fit by:
I've a tender thought, my
darlings,
For the earnest band
who try.

'Tis the trying that is
noble;
If you're made of
sterner stuff
Than the laggards who
are daunted
When the bit of road is
rough.

All will praise the happy
winners;
But, when they have
hurried by,
I've a song to cheer my
darlings,
The great company who
try.

THE CRUSADERS.

BY THE EDITOR.

A great and permanent impetus was given to civilization by that vast movement of the Middle Ages, whereby, in the words of the Byzantine Princess, Anna Comena, all Europe was precipitated on Asia. These religious wars united the nations of the West in a grand political league long before any similar union could otherwise have taken place. They also greatly improved, or, indeed, almost created, the military organization of Europe, and inspired and fostered the spirit of chivalry in her populations. They led to the abolition of serfdom by the substitution of martial service instead of the abject vassalage to which the masses had been accustomed. By enforcing the so-called Truce of God they prevented the pernicious practice of private warfare, and turned the arms of Christendom against its common foe. Vast multitudes were led to visit Italy, Constantinople, and the East—the seats of ancient learning, and the scenes of splendid opulence.

Extended travel enlarged their knowledge of the geography, literature, natural history, and productions of foreign lands. In the East still lingered the remains of the science of the palmy days of the Caliphate. The rustic manners of the Crusaders became polished by contact with the more refined oriental races. To the British or German knight, who had never stirred farther from his ancestral castle than a boar hunt or a stag chase led him, what a wonder-land must Italy and the East have been, with their great cities, their marble palaces, porphyry pillars, and jasper domes! The Crusaders, becoming acquainted with the luxuries of the Orient, discovered new wants, felt

new desires, and brought home a knowledge of arts and elegances before unknown.

The result was seen in the greater splendour of the Western courts, in their more gorgeous pomp and ceremonial, and in the more refined taste in pleasure, dress and ornaments. The miracles and treasures of ancient art and architecture in Greece and Italy, far more numerous than now, did much to create and develop a taste for the beautiful, and to enlarge the sphere of human enjoyment. The refining influences of the East and South have left their mark in every corner of Europe, from Gibraltar to Norway.

But there were grave and serious evils resulting from the Crusades, which went far to counterbalance all these advantages. The lives and labours of millions were lost to Europe, and buried beneath the sands of Syria. Many noble families became extinguished by the fortunes of war, or impoverished by the sale or mortgaging of their estates to furnish the means for military equipment. The influence of the Pope, as the organizer of the Crusades, and common father of Christendom, was greatly augmented. The opulence of religious orders was increased by the reversion to their possession of many estates whose heirs

A CANADIAN MISSIONARY.

Men endure cold and privation to discover the North Pole, and to gather Klondike gold. They illustrate one kind of fortitude and daring. There are other men who endure the same trying conditions in a better cause. No story of brave adventure is more inspiring, not to say entertaining, than that of the English missionaries of the Hudson Bay region of the great Northwest.

Bishop Horden has travelled over nearly the whole of British America in reindeer and dog-sledges, in canoes, and on snowshoes. Archdeacon Kirby has crossed the continent twice, on foot, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In 1868 Rev. Egerton

R. Young resigned his

pleasant pastorate in

Hamilton, Ontario to go

with his wife, among the

Cree and Saulteau In-

dians who lived north of

Manitoba, and he has

been there ever since.

He and Mrs. Young have

no home but a log hut

plastered with mud, and

their principal food is fish

and wild animals. The

"field" covered by the

hardy missionary in his

yearly labours is five

hundred and fifty miles

long and three hundred

miles wide.

Often his courageous

wife accompanies him on

his long trips through

this Arctic parish, when

the thermometer is forty

degrees below zero, and

the only stopping

places at night are holes

dug in the snow. With

his Indian Bible the

work of Mr. Evans, an

earlier apostle, who re-

duced the syllabic lan-

guage of the northern

tribes to written form.

Mr. Young taught the

Crees for five years, and

gathered congregations

numbering a thousand

natives, some of whom

would travel many miles

to hear him preach.

The Saulteau, a dis-

tant tribe, were a cruel

race. Degradedly sav-

age, they not only killed

but sometimes ate each

other. But they heard

in some way favourable

comments upon the

Christian minister, and

sent for him. Finding

a substitute to stay and

preach to the Crees, he

and Mrs. Young left the

locality and the Indians

that had grown dear to

them and plunged again

into the icy wilderness.

The record of this

faithful man's success

there for twenty-five

years, and of his church

of hundreds of barbarians

who had professed Chris-

tianity, and had adopted

the habits of civilized life, the thrilling

story of the two weeks' journey of

Ookemasquasis, a female chief, to see

him, and of his long, adventurous sledge-

ride to visit her far-away people cannot

be told here. It is like a new chapter

in the Acts of the Apostles.

The above brief outline is enough to

prove that mines of gold, or even scien-

tific discoveries, are not the only, nor the

highest, ends of intrepid labour in in-

element lands—Youth's Companion.



THE CRUSADERS.

from Ireland to Hungary, from the crosses on the doors to the arabesque traceries in cathedrals and castles.

It is not wonderful that these great and stirring events, with their combined religious enthusiasm and military splendour, awoke the imaginations of the poets. They gave a new impulse to thought, and a greater depth and strength to feeling. They inspired the muse of Tasso and many a lesser bard, and supplied the theme of one great Christian epic, *Gierusalemme Liberata*.

The Crusaders, moreover, made several commercial settlements in the East, the trade of which survived their military occupation by the Latins. Thus a valuable commerce sprang up, which contributed greatly to enrich the resources and increase the comforts of the West.

had perished in the field. Vast numbers of Oriental relics, many of them spurious and absurd, became objects of idolatrous worship. Many corruptions of the Greek Church were imitated, many Syrian and Greek saints introduced into the calendar, and many Eastern legends and superstitions acquired currency.

Little Pearl listened attentively to her mother, while she tried to explain to her the ninth commandment. After a moment she seemed to catch the meaning, and looked up with a twinkle in her eye as she said, "Mamma, Cousin Ada bared false witness against the rats when she said they nibbled your cake, and it was me."

the habits of civilized life, the thrilling story of the two weeks' journey of Ookemasquasis, a female chief, to see him, and of his long, adventurous sledge-ride to visit her far-away people cannot be told here. It is like a new chapter in the Acts of the Apostles.

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"Look, Robbie!" said a little girl pointing to a street-sprinkler. "Well, don't you think he knows it?" said Robbie. "He does it to keep the boys from riding on behind."