

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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TURKISH BOY AND GIRL.

Our picture gives us interesting glimpses of child-life among a people far less favoured than boys and girls in Canada. They have schools, it is true, but the teaching is very imperfect, consisting chiefly in learning by rote passages from the Koran, or sacred book of the Turks. In the upper corner one little fellow is shown carefully transcribing, probably from the Koran, to tablets on his knee. We should think that the swinging hammock would be a far more comfortable bed for the baby than the rather clumsy looking cradle in the other upper picture.



NIGHT-GIVING INSECTS.

I HARDLY need to tell my little readers that there are insects which have the power of giving out light. They all, I do not doubt, have seen in the cool, damp evenings of June the bright flashes of the "lightning-bugs" as they darted here and there through the air, looking like tiny flying stars. Many of my little boy readers, I fear, have even been so thoughtless as to catch and hurt these harmless insects. I hope, however, none of them have thought how cruel they were in doing this. I also hope that they will remember that these lightning-bugs are great friends of the farmer and the fruit-grower. They feed on the young of many kinds of harmful insects, and are especially useful in helping to keep down the curculio beetles, the terrible little destroyers of our plums, and peaches, and apples, and cherries.

Very much like our "lightning-bugs" are the glow-worms of Europe. The female of the glow-worm, however, has no wings. Nor is the light of the male so bright as that of the female. The male glow-worms are long, flat, soft, worm-like creatures, shining with a pale, steady, greenish light. At times this light gets brighter and brighter, till it glows like iron heated to white heat. In Italy there is a sort of glow-worm in which both the males and females have wings. Like our lightning bugs, they appear in great numbers, and the lawns are covered with them. The young of the glow-worm feed on small snails, hidden in the shell after eating up its owner. The glow-worm always puts out her light between seven and twelve o'clock, shining no more for the rest of the night. We have in the Middle States

of this country a species of glow worm. This is the female of the beetle called the photuris or light tail.

The most brilliant of light-giving insects are found in the West Indies, in Mexico, and in South America. They are the real fire-flies, and are very closely related to the lightning-bug, which so many of our little friends in the country have probably seen. One of the most brilliant of these fire flies is known to men of science by a long name in Greek and Latin, which means "night-shining fire bearer." It gives light enough to enable

Indian Islands, when they were discovered, were in the habit of using these living lamps in the place of candles. In travelling by night they would fasten one to each toe, and in fishing or hunting they needed no other light. They made great pets of them, and did all they could to get them into their sleeping rooms, in order to drive away or destroy the mosquitoes.

The Creole women use these fire-flies as jewels. After being caught they are shut up in cages of very fine wire, and fed on pieces of sugar-cane. When the ladies wish to adorn themselves with these living diamonds, they place them in little bags of lace, which they arrange tastefully on the skirts of their dress. They also have a way of fastening them to their hair without hurting them. Sometimes they imprison them in gauze, which they twist around their necks like necklaces or roll about their waists in a girdle of fire. They go to the ball, says one writer, under a diadem of living topazes, of animated emeralds, and this diadem blazes or pales according as the insect is fresh or fatigued. When the ladies return home, they give the little insects a bath, which refreshes them, and put them back again into their cage.

Recently the *Scientific American* printed the facsimile of a photograph which was taken by the aid of the light of a large beetle mentioned above. It is difficult to conjecture what science may yet bring forth in the art of photography.

NOW IS THE TIME.

"Not yet," said a little boy, as he was busy with his trap and ball; "when I grow older then I will think about my soul."

The little boy grew to be a young man.

"Not yet," said the young man. "I am now about to enter into trade. When I see my business prosper then I shall have more time than now."

And so he went on, saying, "Not yet"—putting off to some future time that which should have been first in his thoughts—until he was a gray-haired old man. He lived without God and died without any hope whatever.

You can prove your pedigree by your parents; but your good qualities will be recognized without any such evidence.



TURKISH BOY AND GIRL.

persons to read quite fine print. It is quite common in Brazil, in Cuba, and in Mexico. It is about two inches long, and of a brown colour. It has two large eye-like shining spots on the sides of the breast. There are two bright patches hidden under the wings, which one does not see unless the insect is flying, when it appears adorned with four brilliant gems of the most beautiful golden-blue lustre. In fact, the whole body is full of light. We are told that the people living in the West