

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

HOLY FAMILY ON THEIR WAY TO EGYPT.

WHEN Napoleon led his army to Cairo he inspired their enthusiasm by the stirring words "From yonder pyramids forty centuries look down upon us." It is a wonderfully impressive thought that these stupendous structures were already two thousand years old when Mary and Joseph with the young Child fled from the face of Herod, that they were centuries old when the children of Israel toiled in the brick yards of Egypt, when Moses the deliverer rose, and that they were also centuries old when Joseph was sold into bondage by his brethren, and even when Abraham went down into Egypt.

Such a scene as is pictured here we saw over and over and over again in our ride through Egypt. We saw many plodding fellahs, many a pleasant mother with her babe riding on just such an animal through such a scene as is shown in the picture. Indeed, we were shown in an old church near Cairo the Grotto in which it is said that the Virgin Mary and Joseph and the young Child took refuge; and we were even shown the place where tradition avers that Moses was found in the bulrushes, but as to the truth of these traditions of the sacred sights we are a good deal skeptical. The white hills as seen in the picture are the yellow sand dunes of the desert which ever greet the vision as one passes. The smaller picture above shows one of the Arab boys, bright, alert, wide-awake little fellows they are, picking up a smattering of English, and urging the claims of their donkeys on the traveller in half a dozen different languages. How they learn them up so rapidly and so young is a mystery to us.

TEACH GENTLENESS.

BY JOHN BRIGHT.

I THINK with regard to teachers they have two entirely different branches of labor. They have that of instructing their pupils from books, and they have that of instructing them from their own conduct and their own manners. You want to teach a child to be gentle—and I must say that it is better than book-learning—not the gentleness that is weakness, for there is perfect gentleness which is combined with great force. You want gentleness, you want humanity. Humanity to animals, is one point. If I were the teacher of a school, I would make it a very important part of my business, to imbue every boy and girl with a duty of being kind to all animals. It is impossible to say how much evil there is in the world from barbarity and unkindness which people show to what we call the inferior creatures.

Then there is the quality of unselfishness. Selfishness in families is the cause of misery and the cause of great injustice. Unselfishness and a love of justice, these are qualities which come if you offer them to a young per-

son's mind. Their very nature makes them that they cannot receive it except with liking and approbation. And I have no doubt that it is possible for teachers during the next ten years or so, during which time they will have two or three generations of children under their care, so to impress their minds on these sub-

jects, that twenty years hence it will be seen and felt over the whole town that there is an improvement in these respects in the general population. These are things which I think, it behoves the teachers in these schools to bear in mind. They cannot possibly have too rich a sense of the responsibilities of their position.



ARAB DONKEY BOY.



HOLY FAMILY ON THEIR WAY TO EGYPT.

Love's Perfect Heart.

BY LILLIE E. BARR.

I PLANNED a life for me to live,
By husband love made sweet,
A home I planned; in every room
Went little children's feet.

The love I took for all my life,
With sorrow made me smart;
Ne'er came into my loving arms,
The children of my heart.

God planned a life for me to live,
From selfish hopes bereft;
Set Work and Duty, angels strong,
To guard me right and left.

And duty's road he made more sweet
Than earthly love could be,
Instead of husband's, children's love,
His will he gave to me.

And in this life God planned for me
From grief I dwell apart;
For in his blessed, holy will,
I've found love's perfect heart.

A THOUSAND YEAR-OLD STORY.

HERE is a story told a thousand years ago by the monks of St. Gaul, which charmingly shows how much good common sense was possessed by the boys' hero, Charlemagne:

"When the victorious Karl, after a long absence returned to Gaul, he sent for the boys whom he entrusted to Clement and bade them show him their compositions and poems. The boys of low and middle station brought him theirs, sweetened beyond all expectation with every charm of wisdom, but the highborn showed only quite poor and useless stuff. Then Karl, the wise king, following the example of the eternal Judge, placed the good workers upon his right hand and spoke to them as follows: 'Many thanks, my sons, that you have taken such pains to carry out my orders to the best of your ability and to your own profit. Try now to reach perfection, and I will give you splendid bishoprics and masteries, and you shall be highly honoured in my sight.'

"Thereupon he turned his face in wrath against those upon his left, smote their consciences with his fiery glance, and burst out in terrible scorn in these words: 'You highborn sons of princes, you pretty and dainty little gentlemen who count upon your birth and your wealth, you have disregarded my orders and your own reputation—have neglected your studies and spent your time in high living, in games or idleness or foolish occupations.' Then he raised his majestic head and his unconquered right hand to heaven and cried in a voice of thunder with his usual oath: 'By the Lord of heaven, I care little for your noble birth and your pretty looks, though others like them so fine. And let me promise this: if you do not make haste to make good your former negligence by careful diligence, never think to get any favours from Karl.'