

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XVIII.]

TORONTO, APRIL 2, 1898.

No. 14.

An Easter Carol.

Sweetly the birds are singing
At Easter dawn;
Sweetly the bells are ringing
On Easter morn;
And the words they say
On Easter day
Are, "Christ the Lord is risen."

Birds! forget not your singing
At Easter dawn.
Bells! be ye ever ringing
On Easter morn.
In the spring of the year,
When Easter is here,
Sing, "Christ the Lord is
risen."

Easter buds were growing
Ages ago.
Easter lilies were blowing
By the water's flow.
All nature was glad,
Not a creature was sad,
For Christ the Lord was
risen.

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 coloured rags. 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 favourite 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 materials for Easter-eggs. In Italy the eggs are gilt or coloured 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 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 hares, hens, and lambs—little sugar things lying on green banks, and 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 the hare has laid" such eggs being generally of sugar, or toy-eggs that open, in which little presents are hidden.

TWO NIGHTS IN THE BAR-ROOM.

Rev. G. C. Rankin has spent two nights in the bar-rooms of Chattanooga (Happy is that city whose bar-rooms can be

indignation against a vice which has been before men constantly everywhere and for ages. But let the light be flashed behind the screens and into the cellars, and let the demon that burrows under our gilded civilization be dragged forth to the sight of all men, and let our legislatures look upon his horrid front and say whether he shall any longer have the shelter of the law. Price, 25 cents. Order of Rev. G. C. Rankin, Chattanooga, Tenn.

when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow. And he said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.—Luke 22, 40-46.

COREAN HOMES.

Corean women of the upper classes live a life of seclusion; they do nothing at all, they are totally uneducated, and they are allowed to see no one but their husbands, parents, and a very few female friends. A woman belonging to the upper classes never appears before strangers, and she never goes in the street exposed to view. The daughters of the soil are more to be envied, for they at least enjoy more liberty, although they are nothing better than human machines. When you live among the Coreans, and know the terrible bondage under which the women labour, one breathes a sigh on their wretched behalf. Beside her household duties, and the bearing of children, the Corean wife combines the duties of gardener and field-labourer, and she must always be mindful that she has to wait personally upon her husband. Her whole condition, socially, morally and intellectually, is deplorable, and in a very large part of her native country she is without the Gospel, so that she may be literally said to live and die as a "beast of burden," in helpless and hopeless ignorance of anything beyond her present wretched existence.

In an interesting letter from Seoul to the "Heathen Children's Friend," Rev. M. F. Scranton has this story to say of the young folks of Corea:

"The boys do not have any hats until they become men. When do you suppose that is? The day comes just as soon as the father and mother please to have it so. I have often seen little men of ten, twelve and fourteen years of age, and boys of twenty-five and even forty. Early in the morning of the day when the boy is to become a man, the top of the head is shaven, then all the remaining hair is combed up over the bald spot and closely tied and twisted into a knot which stands up about four inches. After this is done a band called a mankeun is put about the forehead and hair to keep it in place. Then the new hat (for which the boy has been waiting all his life) is brought forward with great ceremony, also a coat with loose sleeves which hang down below the knees, after which the new man goes out to call on his friends and relatives. He makes profound bows to them all, then goes home to a feast. From this day forward he has a different name as well as a new hat and top-knot.

"When a Corean little girl reaches the age of nine or ten, her parents tell her she is now too old to be seen on the streets any more. She can't even stand at the front door and look out, but is banished to the apartments of the women, which are in the back part of the house. There is no pretty flower garden to look out upon, no dolls to play with, and not much of anything which is bright or beautiful ever enters the rooms where our Corean girl must spend her life."



THE EVE OF GOOD FRIDAY.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN.

And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And

visited in two nights), and has told in twelve lectures what he saw and the thoughts which were stirred by what he saw. They contain a terrific indictment against the bar-room, and sustain that indictment to the uttermost by a terrible array of facts. The license system in the State is more infamous than the sale of indulgences by Tetzel. It is but the sale of indulgences to breed and foster all the forms of crime known to man, and all the forms of misery under which man or woman or child can suffer. We recommend all such books. It takes a long time to arouse public