

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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A JAPANESE BOAT.

THE Japanese are very curious and very ingenious people. Some of their mechanism, of which most of our readers have seen specimens, are marvels of neatness and skill. Their cabinets, carvings, lacquer-work, bronzes, and especially the shrines of their false gods are most elaborate affairs. They have a very extraordinary manner of working. Instead of shoving a plane or saw from them as we do, they draw these tools towards them, often holding their work with their toes—a most inconvenient arrangement as it seems to us. Their boats are also very curious, and are sometimes built without the use of a particle of iron, the planks being sewn together with strong thongs. They large "junks," as they are called, are very remarkable and very picturesque-looking objects. But they are being replaced largely by boats built after the English model. The standing figure in the picture is a man high in authority, and on the backs of the rowers you may see embroidered the crest or coat-of-arms of the master they serve.

ENGLAND IN EGYPT.

The story of Sir Garnet Wolseley's brief and brilliant campaign in Egypt, is one of the most striking and stirring recorded in history. In one sense, that General might sum it up in the old Casaric boast, *Veni, vidi, vici*. Sir Garnet set out in the latter days of August, having laid his plans with the most careful and calculating deliberation, and specifying almost the very day on which he expected and intended them to succeed. Things at the seat of war appear to have been in a much less advanced state of preparation than he had probably reckoned; but he must have taken such a possibility into account. His first bold stroke—that of seizing the Suez Canal and changing the base of our operations from Alexandria to Ismailia—gave promise that he would act with especial promptitude and vigour. But at the latter

place he found tremendous obstacles to his progress. Deficiency of transport, inadequacy of food, the suspicious attitude of Turkey, and the hostile if not malignant criticism of amateur politicians and warriors both in this country and on the Continent must have made enormous demands upon his personal patience, his powers of endurance, and his faculty for organization. But he has proved himself fully equal to the occasion; and, strange to say, he reached the end of his work by entering triumphantly into Cairo at the exact time which he had publicly assigned; as punctually, indeed, as if he had made an ordinary

of Egyptians a miscalculation of a few minutes would certainly have entailed, we can never be too thankful for the commander's skill, and for the courage, steadfastness, and dash of the troops under his command. Thousands of lives have been saved, and it was a question of twenty minutes! Had our troops reached Tel-el-Kebir twenty minutes later daylight would have disclosed the situation to an enemy lying behind formidable entrenchments, and would have enabled him to destroy more thousands than actually fell in hundreds. That the British army would have got possession of the Tel-el-Kebir lines we suppose no English-

ness of the movements immediately following the capture of Tel-el-Kebir call for our warmest thanksgivings. The presence of the British forces in Cairo has relieved a vast population of a most oppressive load of anxiety which has weighed upon them for months like a night-mare. God be thanked that there is no fear of the scenes of murder and rapine at Alexandria being repeated at Cairo.

Thus much for the past. The rebellion is subdued; the Khedive regains his throne, and is now once more in his capital; the Egyptian soldiers, to all appearance, have for the most part gone home and resumed their habits of peaceful industry. For all this Egypt will invoke a blessing on England for ages to come.

TO THE BOYS

I am glad to find that some of the boys are beginning to feel that they must earn money for missions. One of them thinks that the girls have many more opportunities than they have; but I do not know about that. Later in life, the men are supposed to have the advantage over women.

Missionary sheep and hens are often heard of, and they are certainly as suitable for boys as girls. Many boys have talent for drawing and painting, and they might sell pretty plaques, cards,

Easter eggs, etc. I know of one boy who is getting very good prices for easels and brackets, which he is making with his scroll-saw. Another has gathered up a good many pennies by doing errands. Some years ago, I knew of two boys, who earned their own pocket-money by raising flower-seeds, and putting them up in nice little packages for sale. I do not know why this method would not do as well for missions as for marbles and kites. One person whom I knew in the city, where land was scarce, had a very fruitful cucumber-vine in a barrel of soil in the back yard. In the country, where land is abundant, the raising of vegetables is easy, though there may be some difficulty in finding a market for them, so it would be



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business appointment, and had possessed all possible facilities for keeping it. It is more like a chapter in some romance of war than a piece of sober matter-of-fact history.

It is one of our first duties to offer praise to God for so speedy and effectual an accomplishment of our task. For ourselves we have no manner of doubt that the duty of suppressing the Egyptian anarchy was providentially assigned to Great Britain. And it is gratifying to observe the tacit concurrence of all the European Powers to this effect. But the quick and decisive achievement of the task is a phenomenon, and one over which we must thankfully rejoice. When we consider with what wide-spread disaster to both our troops and to multitudes

man doubts, but at what a fearful cost they would have been won but for that silent, steadfast, punctual night-march in the desert! We cannot but see the hand of God in this matter, and join with multitudes of British families in thanksgiving that they have been spared the bereavements and agonies which they had but too much reason to anticipate. We do not doubt that in sanctuaries and at domestic altars the mercy which has given the successful result of the war, with hardly any experience of its horrors, would be thankfully acknowledged. It would seem, moreover, that the escape of the capital of Egypt from conflagration and pillage was due to the same combination of foresight and courage. The rapidity and suc-

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