

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## NATIVE INDIANS OF PERU.

We present to our readers this month a cut of the native Indians of Peru. When the Spaniards invaded the country, they found there a wandering tribe of rude savages, and strangers to the most simple operations of industry, the first inhabitants being amongst the most uncivilized people of the Western world.

Being nomadic, and wandering about in a state of nudity, they resembled, in their manner of life, more the members of the brute creation, than beings belonging to the human species. They were totally unacquainted with the use of the productions of the country, farther than to satisfy their present need; nor had they the most remote idea of the principles of right and wrong. The enjoyment of animal life was the boundary of their thoughts. In this deplorable state, they continued for many ages; nor did their constant suffering even awaken a thought or excite a wish towards their improvement.

A singular and not uninteresting legend, in which superstition powerfully aided the views of humanity, is connected with the origin of a more civilized system of things among the Peruvians. Manco Capac and Manco Ocollo, Spaniards, being dressed in a superior manner and announcing themselves as children of the Sun, being sent by that Celestial to improve their lot, appeared to a wandering herde of the natives on the borders of Lake Titicaca.

They implored them to follow their instructions and they would add greatly to their comforts. The natives were easily induced to promise obedience, and, from that time on, through succeeding generations, they continued to improve, until we find their system attended with beneficial results. Agriculture was the primary object of attention in Peru; but though these pursuits were the paramount business of the Peruvians, we must not infer that their ingenuity was not displayed in other subjects.

Their mode of building requires notice. In regions beneath a mild climate and sky, their buildings were constructed of the slightest form; but in places more exposed to inclemencies of the weather, greater strength and solidity were employed.

Their homes, made of brick baked by the rays of the sun, were square, about eight feet in height, and without windows. While these structures had not the comforts which naturally occur to civilized nations, they answered the purposes for which they were intended. The temples of the Sun, and the residences of the Incas,

the ruins of which still remain, show sufficient proof that they are the monuments of a people totally removed from the state of the rude savage.

They made mirrors of shining stones, which they worked and polished with amazing skill. We may say in closing that the Peruvians might be considered as one vast family, having the same



NATIVE INDIANS OF PERU.

interests, and labouring towards the same end. Let us pray that the blessed gospel of Christ will be the ultimate means of bringing them from nature's darkness into the glorious light of liberty.

Most men work for the present, a few for the future. The wise work for both—for the future in the present, and for the present in the future.

## THE BARTHOLDI STATUE AT NEW YORK

BARTHOLDI conceived the idea of this great statue of Liberty in 1865. Circumstances prevented him doing anything until, in 1876, M. Laboulaye, founder of the French-American Union, suggested to him to come over to this

sources had been reached. Neither the State Legislature nor Congress would aid the work. Finally the *New York World* took it up and in a short time raised \$100,000, with which the pedestal was completed. The site is Bedloe's Island. The statue measures 151 feet and one inch from the bottom of the plinth to the top of the torch flame, and stands in all 305 feet and 11 inches above low-water mark. The forefinger of the goddess' right hand is over seven feet long and over four feet in circumference at the second joint. The eye is two feet wide and the nose more than three feet long. The total weight of the statue is about 25 tons, its cost in making over a million of francs.

The Goddess of Liberty is the largest work of its kind that has ever been completed. The legendary Colossus of Rhodes could not possibly have had the shape or bigness attributed to it. The colossal statue of Arminius, in Bavaria, is about 94 feet in height; that of St. Charles Borromeo, on the shores of Lake Maggiore, 75 feet. The Virgin of Ray comes next 52 feet, and the statue of Bavaria last, scarcely more than a foot shorter. All of them shrink out of countenance beside the gigantic copper figure on Bedloe's Island.

The pedestal proper at its base is 62 feet square, and begins at an elevation above tide-water of 65 feet.

## RECOVERY FROM THE PIT.

THE following, by a converted Chinese, is worth preserving: A man had fallen into a deep, dark pit, and lay on its miry bottom groaning and utterly unable to move. Confucius, the great moralist of China, walked by, approached the edge of the pit, and said, "Poor fellow! I am very sorry for you. Why were you such a fool as to get in there! Let me give you a piece of advice: If you ever get out, don't get in again." "I can't get out," groaned the man. A Buddhist priest next came by, and said, "Poor fellow! I am very much pained to see you there. I think if you could scramble up two-thirds of the way, or even half, I could reach you, and lift you up the rest." But the man in the pit was entirely helpless, and unable to rise. Next the Saviour came by, and hearing the cries, went to the very brink of the pit, stretched down his arms, and laid hold of the poor man, brought him up and said, "Go, and sin no more."

NEVER reply to father or mother saucily