

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## A HINT FOR THE NEW YEAR.

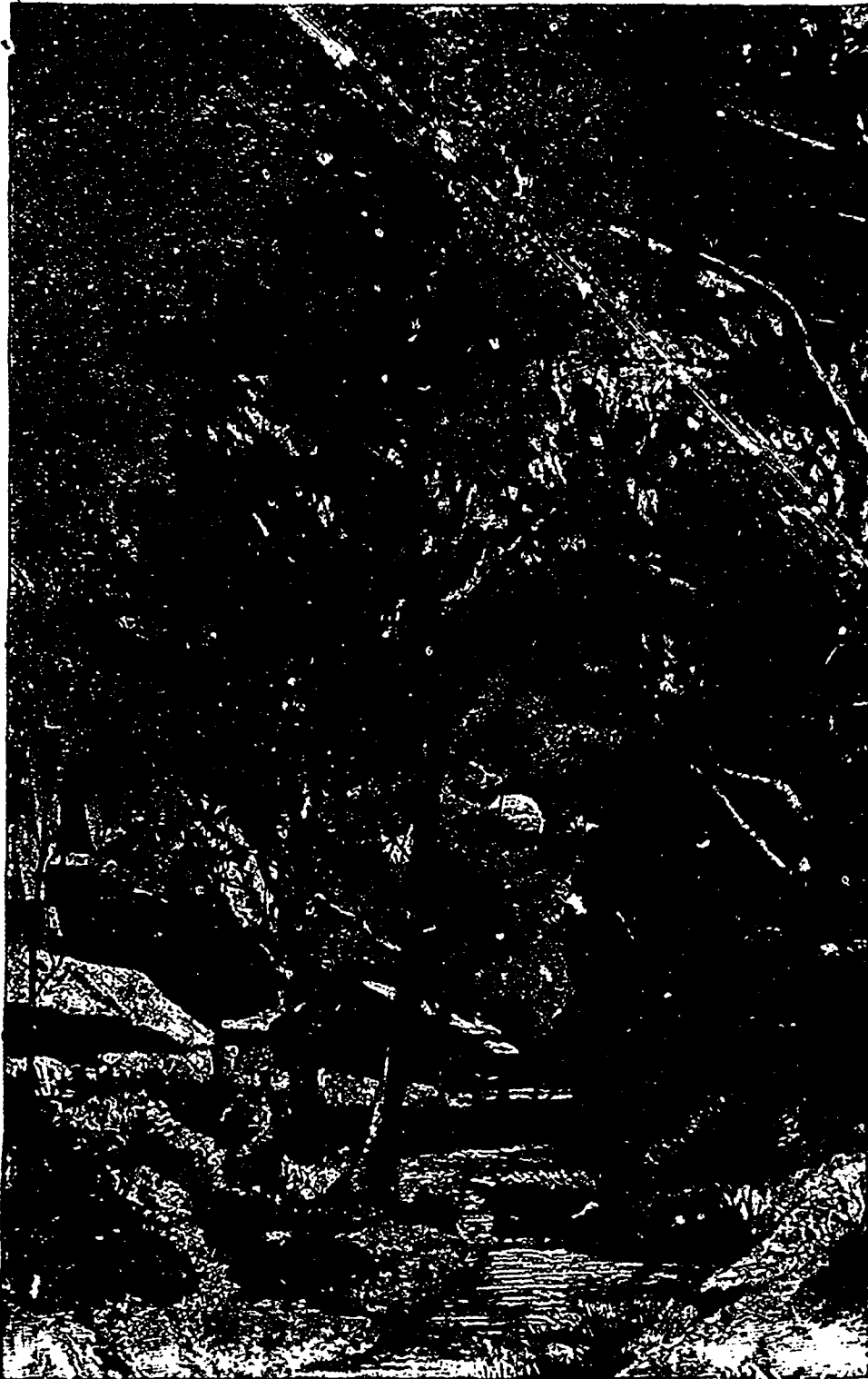
AMONG the good resolutions of the New Year, there is one we would commend to young men and young women to make and to keep—we mean a resolution to read something every day.

We do not refer to such as spend their evenings in dissipation or in frivolity, and scarcely know what it is to have a thoughtful moment in their lives; but to those who work at the shop, or in the store, or in laborious professional offices, and still would be ashamed to be thought wanting in intelligence—to all such we would say, devote an hour if you can; but give regularly some portion of time every day to thorough, systematic reading. If it be but half-an-hour, you will still be wonderfully surprised to see how much you can acquire by resolutely devoting even that short time to self-cultivation.

Reading in this way, you will be apt to read carefully and slowly; and one book read thoroughly is worth a dozen skimmed over or run through. Not the man of great reading leaves upon others the impress of what he acquires, but the one who reads carefully, and who digests what he reads.

Reading as acquired in this way—in intervals—is certain to last you longer than where the mind is stretched for hours, and the brain becomes weary. The minute you are tired, or have to work to fix attention, close your book and rest.

There is nothing, next to the neglect of religion, more deplorable than the profitless way in which young men pass their time. Young men in the banker's office, or the shop, or in professional life, what are you doing with your time? Are you acquiring nothing beyond a knowledge of business, or of dissipation? Are you laying up no treasury of knowledge from which you may draw when the swiftly flying years shall bring you to middle age, and even old age?



WINTER MOONLIGHT SCENE.

The wisdom of past ages, and the all-living present, can in these days be had in our libraries and taken to your homes. Are you drinking from these fountains, or are you running along in the ruts of your own narrow thought? Are you getting a firm hold on men? Are you knowing

shame for their inhumanity. They seized their baggage, hurried aboard, and soon after asked the captain to meet them in the cabin, and told him, with tears, that he had taught them a lesson they should never forget. Then they made up a generous purse for the sick man.

human nature any better? Are you losing your prejudices, or are you becoming more and more satisfied with yourself? Is your horizon widening or contracting? and are you growing, or are you shrinking? Wake up and rouse yourself! Distrust the adequacy of your own knowledge; put your opinions on the basis of an enlightened, intelligent judgment; leave off your introspection; get out of old ruts; get such truth as you want, and see it's every phase; and incorporating heaven's sunlight in your soul, you will have a heartier, happier nature—the world will be better for your living in it; and whether or not your bank account is what you would have it be, you will have the rich harvest of a cultivated mind, a cheerful heart, and a breezy nature, which will give as well as receive; and for you, when gray hairs have come, and the years have gathered over your head, you will possess that which no one can rob you of, and your autumn of life will be rich in a golden harvest.

## HELPING THE SICK.

THE passengers on a railway, years ago, coming to a canal-boat on which they were to take passage, told the captain they should none of them go with him if he took a sick man, who had come on with them, and was very disagreeable. For answer, he pushed through the crowd of them, saw the poor sufferer, and said bluntly, "He shall go if he is the only passenger." Then, tenderly taking him up, he carried him to a mattress spread in the cabin, and shouted, "Push off the boat!" The passengers were struck with shame for their inhumanity. They seized their baggage, hurried aboard, and soon after asked the captain to meet them in the cabin, and told him, with tears, that he had taught them a lesson they should never forget. Then they made up a generous purse for the sick man.