

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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VOICES OF THE BELLS.

WHAT says the bell on a Sunday morn,
As to our ears by the wind its
borne?

It echoes all over hill and plain,
Always the same monotonous strain,
"To prayer! To prayer!"

What says the bell, as over the sea
Tis wafted by breezes wild and free?
Fifeful but deep the ominous knell
Comes from the buoy on the rock to tell,
"Beware! Beware!"

What says the bell, as all alone
We suddenly hear its mournful tone?
Sudden, and clear, and far between,
It says to the heart in accents keen,
"Prepare! Prepare!"

What if unheard the bell should be?
The mariner sinks in the boiling sea;
A soul is lost that might have been won;
A hardened sinner goes wandering on,
Take care! Take care!

CHESTER AND ITS MEMORIES.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE old city of Chester is one of the most interesting in England. Its walls "grey with the memories of two thousand years," mark the camp of the Roman legions, and much of their work still remains. Hence its name, from *Castra*, a camp. I walked all around the lofty ramparts. From the tower shown in the engraving, Charles I. watched the defeat of his army on Bolton Moor. It is now an interesting museum. Cromwell's cannon have left his bold sign-manual upon the walls, of which the walk in the picture shows the thickness. The new bridge across the Dee has a span of 200 feet, the widest stone arch in the world. The most curious feature of the city is its Rows, or double terraces of shops, the upper one fronting on a broad arcade. The old timbered houses have quaintly-carved fronts, galleries and gables, like those in Frankfurt, often with some Biblical or allegorical design. Of special interest is one which bears the legend,

GOD'S PROVIDENCE IS MINE INHERITANCE MDCLII.

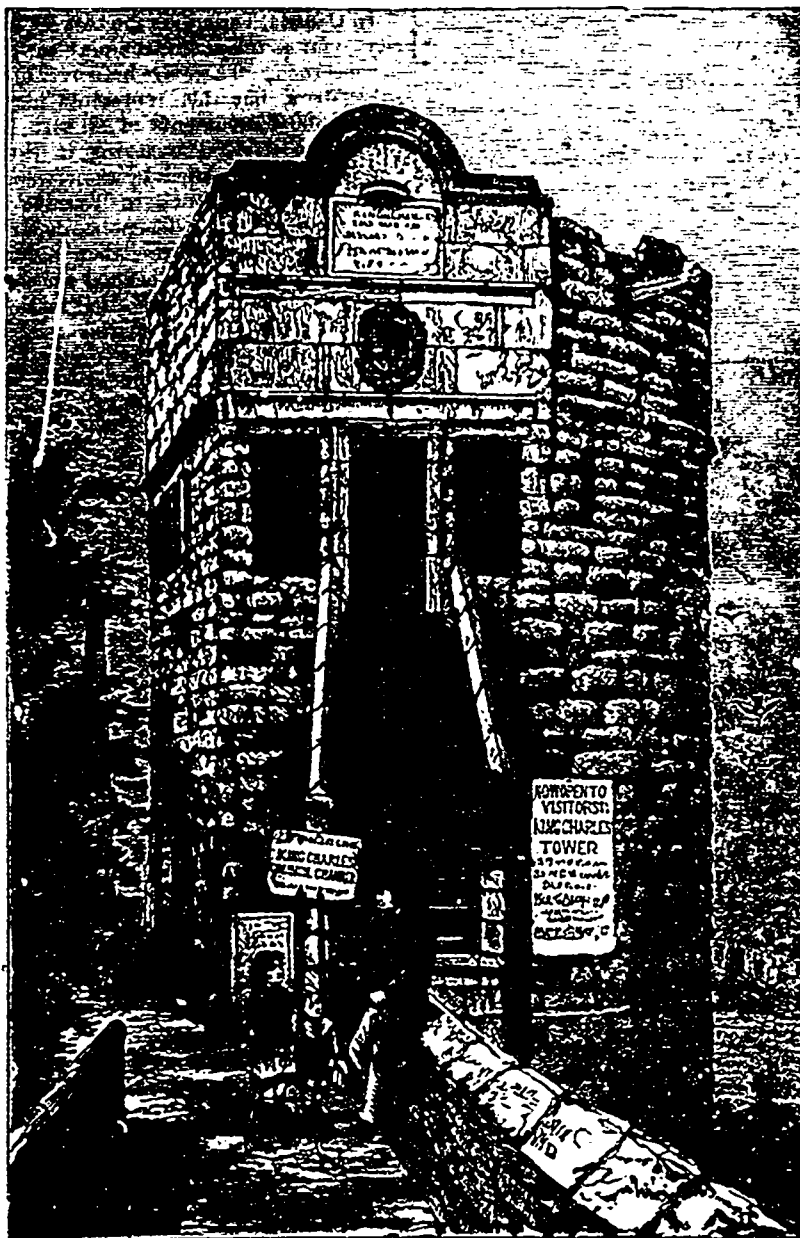
said to be the only house which escaped the plague in that year. To reach the town house of an old Earl of Derby—a handsome place during the civil wars—I had to pass through an alley only two feet wide. It is now a sort of junk shop—so fallen is its high estate. A young girl showed me the hiding place in the roof where the Earl lay concealed for days till he was discovered, taken to Bolton and executed for his fidelity to his king.

De fainc ob a man is only showed by comparison. De lower yer turns de lamp in de room de brighter de fire seems to burn.

BOYS SMOKING.

A CERTAIN doctor, struck with the large number of boys under fifteen years of age whom he observed smoking, was led to inquire into the effect the habit had upon the general health. He took for his purpose thirty-eight boys, aged from

twelve had a slight ulceration of the mucous membrane of the mouth, which disappeared on ceasing from the use of tobacco for some days. The doctor treated them all for weakness, but with little effect until the smoking was discontinued, when health and strength were soon restored. Now this is no "old wife's tale," as these facts are



KING CHARLES' TOWER AND OLD WALLS, CHESTER.

nine to fifteen, and carefully examined them. In twenty-seven of them he discovered injurious traces of the habit. In twenty-two there were various disorders of the circulation and digestion, palpitation of the heart, and a more or less marked taste for strong drink. In twelve there was a frequent bleeding of the nose, ten had disturbed sleep, and

given on the authority of the *British Medical Journal*.

"I am deeply grieved to see so many young people enslaving themselves to tobacco. Smoking is not only a waste of time and money, but it injures the health, the temper, and the influence of the smoker. It evidently promotes indolence and selfishness, almost every

idler is a smoker, while the conduct of smokers in railway carriages is a miserable illustration of their selfishness, one smoker, rather than exercise self-denial, will make a whole carriage full of people uncomfortable and unwell. The aged man and the feeble woman are alike sacrificed to his personal gratification. The bondage of the smoker is more despotic than that of the drunkard. I have been assured scores of times that the giving up of tobacco was infinitely more difficult than the giving up of drink, everything has to bow to this appetite when once formed. The company of the fair, the wise, and the holy is gladly left for a pipe. I have seen Christian men miserable in the most attractive and interesting company, and stealing away to the most unattractive room to secure a smoke. It is a sad thing to see a young man, especially a Christian young man, fastening these fetters upon himself." *Rev Charles Garrett, President of the Wesleyan Conference.*

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT LUMBER SHANTIES.

THE first thing that demands attention on entering a shanty is the fire, fireplace, etc. This (the fireplace) occupies the centre of the shanty, being from twelve to fourteen feet long by from eight to ten broad—as near as I could judge without measuring. The "stove pipe" is a large opening in the roof of the shanty, about six feet square. There is always a good fire burning, and it is a cheerful sight, and sometimes a very welcome one, to see the sparks ascending from the "stove-pipe" aforementioned.

The arrangement of the "bunks," where the men sleep differs in the different shanties, some having the bunks arranged parallel to the fire, in which case there are two "tiers," one on the floor and one above, occupied. In others the men sleep "feet to the fire." When this is the case there is generally but one set of bunks, and these raised off the floor. A most important personage in a shanty is the cook, who has a space apportioned him with a counter in front and shelves behind. The men come up to the former and help themselves to what is thereon as they require.

Shanty cooks are capital bread makers; in all the shanties I visited the bread was good, and all the provisions were of the best quality.

A kettle filled with good tea always stands near the fire. In one shanty I had set before me for supper, pork, molasses, bread, butter, apple sauce,