

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. V.

TORONTO, MARCH 21, 1885.

No. 6.

THE BOY WHO KISSED HIS MOTHER.

She sat on the porch in the sunshine,
As I went down the street—
A woman whose hair was silver,
But whose face was blossom sweet;
Making me think of a garden,
Where, in spite of the frost and snow
Of bleak November weather,
Late, fragrant lilies blow.

I heard a footstep behind me,
And the sound of merry laugh,
And I knew the heart it came from
Would be like a comforting staff
In the time and hour of trouble.
Hopeful and brave and strong,
One of the hearts to lean on
When we think that things go
wrong.

I turn at the click of the gate-latch,
And met his manly look;
A face like his gives me pleasure,
Like the page of a pleasant book.
It told of a steadfast purpose,
Of a brave and daring will—
A face with promise in it
That God grant the years fulfil.

He went up the pathway singing;
I saw the woman's eyes
Grow bright with wordless welcome,
As sunshine warms the skies.
"Back again, sweet mother,"
He cried, and bent to kiss
The loving face that was lifted
For that which some mothers miss.

That boy will do to depend on,
I hold that this is true—
From lads in love with their mothers
Our bravest heroes grew.
Earth's grandest hearts have been
loving hearts
Since time and earth began:
And the boy who kissed his mother
Is every inch a man.
—Eben. E. Rexford.

CAPTAIN COOK.

To the older generation of readers the story of Captain Cook is an old and familiar tale.

But the old stories must be often retold to the new generations; and the character and work of Captain Cook entitle him to perpetual honour. To him is due the discovery of many of the islands where his followers wrought mightily for the salvation of souls.

James Cook was the son of a farm laborer in Marton, Yorkshire, England, and was born October 28, 1728. His father was a man of energy and afterward became a bailiff. When James was thirteen years old, in accordance with the custom of the time, he was bound out to a haberdasher at Straiths, near Whitby. He did not long remain here; some difficulty arose between him and his master, and, like so many other adventurous lads, he left, and entered himself as an apprentice on

board a collier, and soon became an officer.

At the age of twenty-seven his naval aspirations led him to join the royal navy, in the service of which he spent his life. Very soon he attracted the notice of his superiors, by his ability, and on the recommendation of the commander of his ship, Cook was appointed master of the *Grampus*, and afterward of two other vessels. While

report of which gave him considerable fame among scientists.

It was known that there was soon to be a transit of Venus; and in view of Cook's evident skill in astronomical work, he was now chosen to conduct an expedition to the Southern Pacific, to take an observation from that point. He was therefore made a lieutenant, and proceeded to Tahiti where a successful observation was made by the

of a southern continent, and Cook was again appointed to make a voyage of exploration in search for it. With two ships and nearly 200 men he left Plymouth, July 13, 1772. He passed Cape Good Hope and then cruised through the southern regions until midsummer of 1774, when having made three voyages to and fro in the southern oceans, he was convinced that no continent was there, and returned

to England, where he was further honoured by promotion to be post captain in command of Greenwich Hospital, and was elected to membership in the Royal Society.

And now a third enterprise demanded his services. Arctic discovery took the place of the southern continent, and Cook was sent with two ships to find the "north-west passage" from the Pacific to the Atlantic. He left England early in the summer of 1776; discovered some small islands in the South Pacific, and in January of 1778 started northward, discovering the Sandwich Islands on the way. In March, 1778, he struck the west coast of America, and after following the coast to Bhering's Straits, he was stopped by ice, and returned to winter at the Sandwich Islands. Here he lost his life on the 14th of February, 1779, being killed by the natives in consequence of a quarrel arising from their having stolen a boat from one of the vessels.

Captain Cook was a man of fine personal presence, energy and discretion; a favourite with his subordinates, and honoured by equals and superiors. He was the first man to sail around the world, and in his various voyages he discovered many islands of importance, some of which bear his name.

AN ITEM FOR BOYS.

It is not necessary that a boy who learns a trade should follow it all his life. Governor Palmer,

of Illinois, was once a country blacksmith, and began his political career in Macoupin county. A circuit judge in the central part of Illinois was a tailor. Thomas Hoyne, a rich and eminent lawyer of Illinois, was once a bookbinder. Erastus Corning, of New York, too lame to do hard labour, commenced as a shop boy in Albany. When he applied for employment first, he was asked, "Why,



CAPTAIN COOK.

in command of the *Mercury* he was sent to join the fleet in the St. Lawrence, and assisted in the capture of Quebec, and afterward at the capture of Newfoundland, the coast of which he surveyed in the following year—1763. So well was this done that in 1764 he was appointed Marine Surveyor of Newfoundland and Labrador. While in this service he made a careful observation of a solar eclipse, the

scientists of the expedition. This done, he cruised westward through the Southern Pacific to New Zealand, Australia, and Java, where he stopped for repairs and then returned to England by way of Cape Good Hope, having made the circuit of the globe. He arrived in England, June 11, 1771, and was at once made a captain. His stay was short, however, for public discussion had taken up the question