

PLEASANT HOURS

PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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EVERYDAY LIFE IN BIBLE LANDS.

On this page we give a couple of cuts illustrating customs of everyday life in Bible lands, and throwing much light on Bible usages. The first cut shows the custom common throughout the Orient of eating together out of the same dish. In order that due cleanliness may be observed the Arabs very carefully wash their hands both before and after eating, as shown in the picture. The many references to eating with washed or unwashed hands will occur to the reader, and also the touching words of our Saviour "He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish the same shall betray me."

The second cut shows a common custom of treading out the grapes in a stone wine vat on a hillside. The women bring the ripe clusters in baskets on their heads and throw them into this stone trough. The men, having washed their feet, vigorously trample out the grapes. We have seen many of these wine vats in Palestine, often with the dried grape-skins in the bottom.

This cut brings to mind the words of the Scripture, "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me."

The cut on the inside page shows the Arab sandals bound by thongs upon the feet, after the manner referred to in the Gospels. These things are the "latchet of the shoes" which John says "he was not worthy to unloose." These cuts are specimens of scores which will accompany a series of articles on Bible customs in the new and enlarged series of the *Methodist Magazine* for 1895. These will be of special interest to all Sunday-school teachers and scholars, and indeed to all Bible readers.

Among the subjects treated will be agriculture, domestic and other industries, dwellings, food, clothing, ornaments, social customs, weddings, and funerals, festivals, religious usages, domestic and family relations and the like.

There will also be a splendid series of illustrated papers on Our Own Country, and another on foreign lands; striking illustrated papers of mission fields and mission work, popular science and character-sketches of the men best worth knowing of the present and the past.

Strongly written serial stories as well as short stories and bright sketches will be given. This magazine should be in every Sunday-school, and as far as possible in every Methodist household. Some schools have taken from two to twenty copies for circulation as being cheaper, better, more attractive than books. Price, \$2. To schools taking two or more copies only \$1.60 a year. Address William Briggs, Toronto.

No man ever goes far on the wrong road till he would gladly exchange it for the right one if he could do it without turning round.

CARELESSNESS as to the things of this world usually goes hand in hand with carelessness as to the issues of the world to come.



ARABS EATING OUT OF A COMMON DISH.

HOW HE GOT ON.

A poor boy met an old captain one day on a tow-path, on the Erie Canal. The captain recognized him, and said:

"Well, William, where are you going?"

"I don't know," he answered; "father is too poor to keep me at home any longer, and says I must make a living for myself."

"There's no trouble about that," said the captain. "Be sure you start right, and you'll get along finely."

William told his friend that the only trade he knew anything about was soap and candle making, at which he had helped his father at home.

"Well," said the old man, "let me pray with you once more, and give you a little advice, and then I will let you go."

They both knelt down upon the tow-path; the dear old man prayed earnestly for William, and then gave his advice: "Someone will soon be the leading soap-maker in New York. It can be you as well as anyone. I hope it may. Be a good man; give your heart to Christ; give the Lord all that belongs to him of every dollar you earn; make an honest soap; give a full pound, and I am certain you will be a prosperous man."

When the boy arrived in the city, he found it hard to get work. Lonesome, and far from home, he remembered his mother's words and the last words of the canal-boat captain. He was then led to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," and united with the Church. He remembered his promise to the old cap-

tain, and the first dollar he earned brought up the question of the Lord's part. In the Bible he found that the Jews were commanded to give one-tenth, so he said, "If the Lord will take one-tenth, I will give that." And so he did, and ten cents of every dollar were sacred to the Lord.

Having regular employment, he soon became a partner, and after a few years his partner died, and William became the owner of the business.

He now resolved to keep his promise to the old captain, he made an honest soap, gave a full pound, and instructed his book-keeper to open an account with the Lord, and carry one-tenth of all his income to that account. He prospered, his business grew, his family was blessed, his soap sold, and he grew rich faster than he had ever hoped. He then gave the Lord two-tenths, and prospered more than ever, then he gave three-tenths then four tenths, then five-tenths.

He educated his family, settled all his plans for life, and gave all his income to the Lord. He prospered more than ever.

This is the story of William Colgate, who has given a million dollars to the Lord's cause, and left a name that will never die.

Let us, like William Colgate, never forget to give our share to the dear Saviour, without whose co-operation we can never expect to succeed. *Sunday-School Evangelist.*

THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE.

I HAVE read a parable of a man shut up in a fortress under sentence of perpetual imprisonment, and obliged to draw water from a reservoir which he may not see, but into which no fresh stream is ever to be poured. How much it contains he cannot tell. He knows that the quantity is not great; it may be extremely small. He has already drawn out a considerable supply during his long imprisonment. The diminution increases daily, and how, it is asked, would he feel each time of drawing water and each time of drinking it? Not as if he had a perennial stream to go to—"I have a reservoir, I may be at ease." No; "I had water yester day, I have it to-day; but my having it yesterday and my having it to-day is the very cause that I shall not have it on some day that is approaching."

Life is a fortress, man is a prisoner within the gates. He draws his supply from a fountain fed by invisible pipes, but the reservoir is being exhausted. We had life yesterday, we have it to-day, the probability—the certainty—is that we shall not have it on some day that is to come.

—A little sick boy was told by his mother to take a powder she had prepared for him. "Powder! powder!" said he. "Mother, I ain't a gun!"

—Mr. Sealove (visiting at the seaside)—"My dear, please tell my daughter to sing something less doleful." Mrs. Sealove—"That is not our daughter. That is the fog-horn."



TREADING OUT GRAPES IN A WINE VAT.

Specimens of numerous cuts on "Everyday Life in Bible Lands," in *Methodist Magazine*, new series for 1895.