

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XVIII.]

TORONTO, OCTOBER 15, 1898.

[No. 42.]

How Falsehood Grows.

"First somebody told it,
Then the room wouldn't hold it,
So the busy tongues rolled it
Till they got it outside;
Then the crowd came across it,
And never once lost it,
Till it grew long and wide.

"This lie brought forth others,
Dark sisters and brothers,
And fathers and mothers,
A terrible crew;
And while headlong they hurried
The people they hurried
And troubled and worried
As lies always do."

KITES OLD AND NEW.

Kite-flying in this country used to be an amusement for boys only. The boy who enjoyed making kites attempted to make his kite larger than the kites of his playmates, or gayer perhaps, but the foundation of all kites was about the same—an upright and a cross stick, with cord wound around the upright and cross sticks to hold them in place, a second cord was attached in turn to each of the four ends; this cord was very tightly drawn, and on it the paper cover was turned and pasted.

As people travelled about, they discovered that kite-flying was a national pastime in Japan and China, that in China a kite was sometimes considered a protector against evil spirits, and there kite-flying was a religious rite. Kites in those countries were really beautiful. Native artists decorated them. They were of many forms, as well as beautiful. In the Malay peninsula the kites were suggestive of a bird; evidently the shape of a bird suggested the best model for a kite to these people. These kites did not have tails. The history of kite-flying tells that the Malays and Japanese were the first kite-flyers, and that the Chinese and Japanese learned from these peoples. In China the frame of the kite is made of bamboo. Sometimes a piece of the bamboo is pierced with holes. Through these holes the wind blows, making soft, sweet music that can be heard a great distance as the kite flies or hovers in the air. Sometimes pieces of reed, through which the wind passes, are attached to the kite, making music like the Aeolian harp. The strings of these kites are fastened, and the kite hangs high above the house. The families who fly these kites believe they are safe from evil spirits while the kites are above their homes; that the music drives the evil spirits away. The dragon kite is also believed by the Chinese to be a protection against evil.

A writer in the "Popular Science Monthly," who has studied kite-flying in all lands, tells us that in China they have kite fights. The aim is to cut the cord or slash the kite with a long wooden knife attached to the assailant's kite; the sawing of the string by the assailant's string coated with glass and glue is another means of attack. In Japan kites convey messages. They are made to resemble all kinds of animals. Some families have a particular kite recognized by friends; when they see it they understand its message. It is said now that many, many hundreds of years ago the Japanese used kites in wars. They carried up observers, who, far above the enemy's camps, could discover the position and the plans of the enemy. This writer tells us of the great use made of kites in our country, where for years men have been experimenting in flying kites. Kites in this country are carried to great heights by flying them tandem, that is, several kites on one string, at distances apart. Instead of a rope of vegetable fibre, wire is used to fly these scientific kites, the forms of which are often bor-

rowed from the older kite-flying nations. Now instruments are sent up, very fine and delicate, that record the temperature, the velocity of the wind, the quality of the atmosphere at varying heights; and an instrument that records the length of the string, gives the height, but not perfectly, because the string is always slack on the spool of wire. These kites also carry up cameras which are adjusted to take pictures of the earth immediately under them, and the cloud-world into which they sometimes go.

Kite-flying, you see, is a useful employment, as well as a delightful game. To know all about temperature and atmosphere enables scientists to make life easier. The boy who can use a knife well has the opportunity to experiment, not only in kite-flying, but kite-making, for he has many models his father never knew existed.

and goes to meet the giant with only a sling and five smooth pebbles out of the brook. He put no faith in himself, but in his God, and, though the giant despised him, exclaiming, "Am I a dog that thou shouldst come against me with stones?" yet the first stone that David slung hit Goliath in the forehead and slew him.

Thus the glory was to God who gave him the victory.

SOME RAILWAY INCIDENTS.

BY ESTELLE MENDELL.

Boys and girls, and especially you boys, I want to tell you about a short journey I took recently, or, rather, some things connected with it.

On the cars, a few seats back of me, sat a young fellow, very dirty and wretchedly drunk. He was stretched

In the meantime the poor young fellow had drunk himself quiet, but, shame to fallen humanity, at this point one of the passengers went and sat down by him, and pilled him with questions to hear his disgusting nonsense and fearful oaths.

Now, boys, it seems to me if the gentlemen in that car had been as sensitive to drunkenness and profanity as they ought, they would have had that fellow removed from their sight and hearing, and at least from the ladies. And we cannot have a very high regard for railway employees who will permit such things in a passenger-car.

And now I want to tell you about one of our most civilized conveniences for travelling—the "smoking-car!"

The next stop after I had spoken to the brakeman he shouted: "Take the second car back for B—."

It was "pitch dark," and raining in torrents; and so, taking my satchel, I followed my fellow-passengers through the two said cars for the one going to B—; one was a smoking-car.

"Oh, boys! I never saw such a filthy disgusting place! A thousand times better had I gone out in the clean sweet rain of heaven than felt my way through the thick smoke and waded the black slimy puddles of the river of tobacco-juice! This was my first inside view, and what a delightful convenience, I thought! How can a well-dressed gentleman go into such nastiness for the sake of a smoke? It puzzles me.

But this was not the end of my disgust. Going into a crowded car, the only seat vacant was also swimming with tobacco-juice. I had to keep my feet on the seat, and look out for my skirts, while I heartily longed for the satisfaction of rubbing some man's nose in the odorous pool.

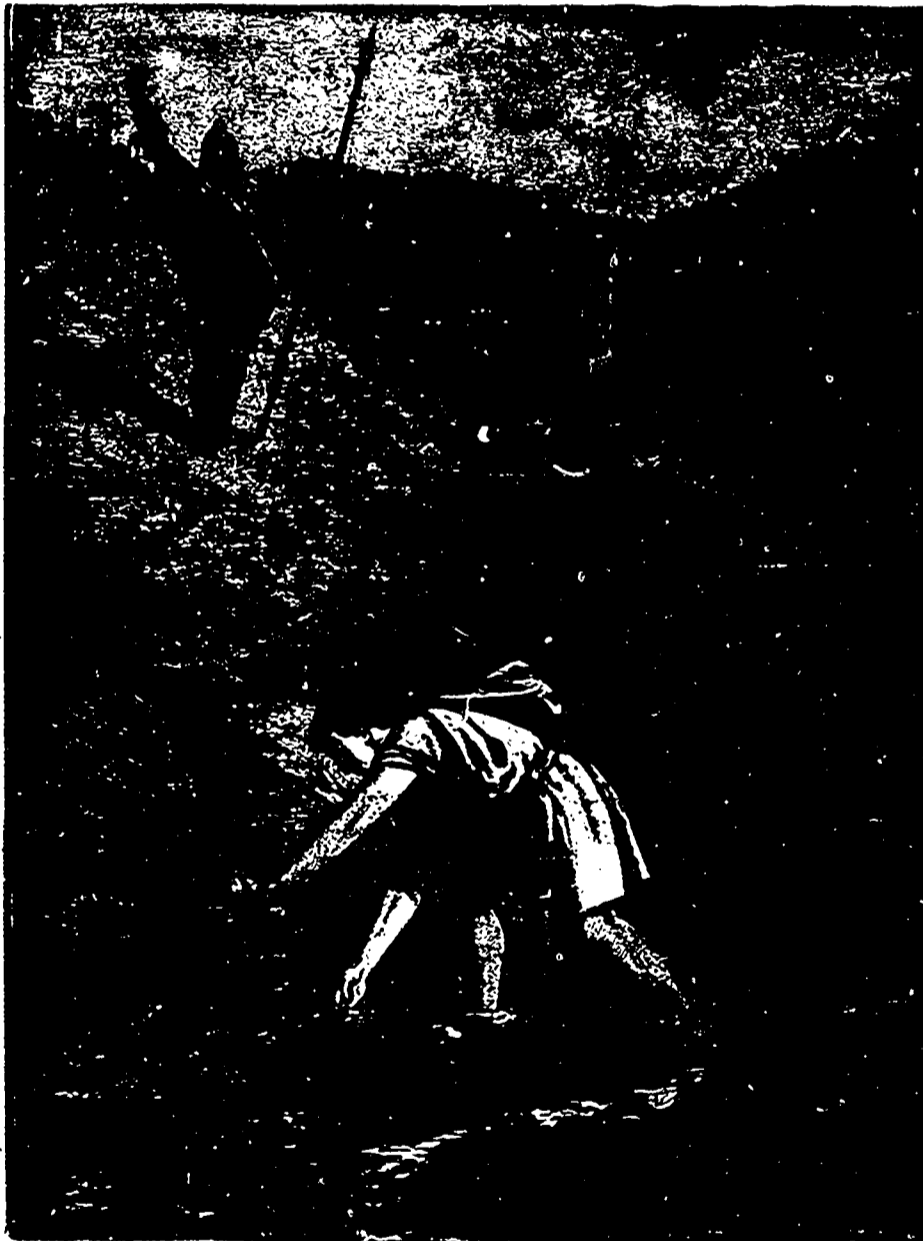
"No spitting tobacco-juice allowed," I would have placarded in every coach, cabin, and public place."

Boys! I trust you will never grow up to be such gentlemen as those described—I say "gentlemen," for, doubtless, those guilty of these indecencies were well-dressed and thought themselves such—but I do not, do you?—Temperance Banner.

A VALUABLE TESTIMONY

Does alcohol help one to better endure intense heat, cold or exposure? Let the testimony of a noted traveller, Sir John Ross, give the answer to this question:

In 1852 he said: "I went to Greenock and was bound apprentice for four years, during which time I made three voyages to the West Indies and three to the Baltic. I had therefore a good opportunity of observing the injurious effects of intoxicating liquors in both climates. My first voyage was to Jamaica, where the captain and several of the crew died. Excepting that I never drank spirits, I took no care of myself. I exposed myself to the burning sun, slept on the deck in the dew, and ate fruit without feeling any bad effect. (The climate in this part of the world is very hot and very trying.) I soon lost my hat and shoes, and ran about bare-headed and bare-footed; but I never tasted spirits, and to this alone do I attribute the extraordinarily good health I enjoyed. My next voyage was to St. Petersburg, where I spent the winter in like manner. I was running about bare-headed and bare-footed on the ice, but I never tasted spirits. My next voyage was to the Bay of Honduras, and alternately to the Baltic. On the last voyage to Honduras all the common sailors—twelve in number—died, and I was the only person that went out in the ship that came home alive, which I attributed entirely to my abstaining from the use of spirituous liquors. I will now say a few words on my voyage to the Arctic regions, which occupied the space of four years. I was twenty years older than any of the officers and crew, and thirty years older than all except three, yet I could stand the cold and endure fatigue better than any of them, who all made use of tobacco and spirits."



DAVID AND GOLIATH.

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The subject of this picture is an excellent illustration of the text, "If God is for us who shall be against us?"

The Israelites and the Philistines are about to fight a battle, when from the ranks of the latter steps forth a giant, full of boasting, and trusting in his huge spear and heavy armour and shield. This giant, Goliath by name, challenges any Israelite to fight him, and thus to decide the issue of the battle. But Israel is afraid; and has no match for him. We all know well how, at length, David the shepherd boy offered himself as their champion, how he was laughed at by his brethren, then armed by King Saul, and how he refused the armour

out on two seats, and using a bottle freely; and seemed to amuse many of the passengers by his shouting. "I'm bound for California and the West." Then would follow a volley of most horrible oaths, that made my blood run cold, but, from the way some laughed, the effect upon them must have been different.

I whispered to the well-dressed stranger in front of me that I wished he might be removed to the smoking-car, but he did not volunteer to speak to the authorities. The distance between stops was quite long, and no brakeman appeared until passing through to announce the next station. I then spoke to him, but he indifferently replied "that we changed cars soon, and he would, doubtless, get off then."