

PLEASANT HOURS

PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XV.]

TORONTO, MAY 4, 1895.

[No. 18.]

TURKISH BOY AND GIRL.

Our picture gives us interesting glimpses of child-life among a people far less favoured than boys and girls in Canada. They have schools, but the teaching is very imperfect, consisting chiefly in learning by rote passages from the Koran, or sacred book of the Turks. In the upper corner our little fellow is shown carefully transcribing, probably from the Koran, to his tablets on his knee. We should think that the swinging hammock would be a far more comfortable bed for the baby than the rather clumsy looking cradle in the other upper picture.

WRONG SIDE OUT.

JACK was cross: nothing pleased him. His mother gave him the choicest morsels for his breakfast, and the nicest toys. But he did nothing but fret and complain. At last his mother said:

"Jack, I want you to go right up to your room and put on all your clothes wrong side out."

Jack stared. He thought his mother must be out of her wits.

"I mean it, Jack," she repeated. Jack had to mind. He had to turn his stockings inside out, and put on his coat and his pants and his collar wrong side out.

When his mother came up to him, there he stood—a forlorn and funny looking boy, all linings and seams and ravelings—before the glass, wondering what his mother meant.

But he was not quite clear in his conscience.

Then his mother, turning him around, said: "This is what you have been doing all day—making the worst of everything. You have been turning everything wrong side out. Do you really like your things this way so much, Jack?"

"No, mamma," answered Jack, shamefacedly. "Can't I turn them right?"

"Yes, you may, if you will try to speak what is pleasant. You must do with your temper and manners as you prefer to do with your clothes—wear them right side out. Do not be so foolish any more, little man, as to persist in turning things wrong side out."—*Christian Advocate.*

THE MOSQUITO.

This insect is a troublesome little fellow who is much more fond of us than we are of him. He persists in playing "hide and seek" with us in every field and garden where we may be, and far too frequently comes into our sleeping rooms and keeps us awake with his attentions.

And though he has no friends among us he is well worthy our study. We shall find him wonderfully made and probably created for some good, for God never made anything without a purpose.

Mosquitoes are a kind of gnat. They have long cylindrical bodies, and when at rest one wing lies gracefully over the other. Under the microscope the nervures as well as edges of these wings are completely covered with little scales, shaped like oblong plates, and beautifully marked lengthwise.

The antennae or feelers of the gnat have a fine feathery appearance, and their eyes, covered with network, are so large as to envelop the whole head. Some are of a brilliant green, and in certain lights look like red.

But look at this instrument that the mosquito uses for piercing the skin when he gives us a nip. It is called a trunk, and is a very curious contrivance, very much like a lancet in a surgeon's case. It is in a little case which is split from end to end,

finished. There are sometimes 250 to 350 eggs, and the young insects hatch from the under side, leaving the empty raft afloat, which becomes lighter than ever. At first the larva swims just like little fishes, then it changes to a chrysalis, and in another week that bursts open and lets the winged mosquito fly. There are six or seven generations of these little creatures in a summer, and if it were not for the dragon flies and swallows, who make way with thousands of them, we should be eaten up alive!

So the mosquito is a wonderful little creature after all. A great deal more so than you thought. And if you are stung by one of them, do not move away too quickly. Let the mosquito draw the beak out carefully, because the sting will be far less painful than if she left the fine poisoned hooks in your flesh.



TURKISH CRADLE.

TURKISH BOY AND GIRL.

THE BRIGHTEST STAR.

Look up at the sky to-night, and pick out the brightest star. This is the planet Jupiter.

The globe on which we live is only one of many which revolve around the sun, says Professor C. A. Young, and that the "giant" of this family is the planet Jupiter, which makes its circuit in a little less than twelve years, in an orbit about five and one-fourth times as large as the orbit of the earth.

Except the moon, Jupiter, when visible, is the most conspicuous of the heavenly bodies. Venus is, indeed, sometimes decidedly brighter; but she is never far from the sun, and so is essentially a twilight star: while Jupiter, for several months

each year, shines all night long with a white, steady brilliance.

Its distance from the earth and its brightness varies considerably from time to time. It is nearest and most brilliant when it is opposite to the sun, and rises just at sunset. Then it is a little less than four hundred million miles away. These "oppositions" are separated by an interval of about thirteen months.

In 1894 the opposition occurred December 22, and until March Jupiter will be the principal ornament of the midnight sky, though in the early evening Venus will for a time outshine him in the west.

Compared with the earth, Jupiter is about in the proportion of a football to a marble. According to Barnard's latest determinations, Jupiter measures eighty-four thousand three hundred miles through the poles, and its equatorial diameter is eighty-two thousand eight hundred miles, its circumference being more than eleven times that of the earth, and its bulk about thirteen hundred and seventy times more. Nearly fourteen hundred earths would make a ball as large as Jupiter.

KIND HEARTS IN COURT.

The other day an unusual scene occurred in the Brighton District Court in the suburbs of Boston.

A coloured woman was charged with assault upon her landlord. It came to light during the trial that the latter attempted to evict the prisoner from the house on Western Avenue by force. Failing in this, he caused the doors and windows to be removed.

The unfortunate woman, with a newborn babe at her breast, and seven starving children by her side, became almost frantic at this act of cruelty, and in her excitement smashed a pane of glass.

According to the testimony the landlord also laid violent hands upon her person, which, being resented, gave rise to the charge of assault.

"When the doors and windows were taken out," sobbed the poor mother, "the cold wind rushed in, the children and the baby almost froze; and it was Christmas Eve, too."

The case at once appealed to the tender feelings of Lawyer D. D. Corcoran, who stepped forward and voluntarily defended the prisoner.

Although the prisoner had pleaded guilty, Judge Baldwin insisted on hearing all the evidence, which resulted in her being found guilty of only breaking the glass.

At the conclusion of the case Lawyer Corcoran silently took down his shiny silk hat from a peg and as silently passed it around the courtroom.

A hush fell upon the chamber, broken only by the sobs of the coloured woman, quite overcome with emotion at this act of signal kindness.

Captain Gaskin handed the glossy tile to Clerk of the Court Kennedy, who passed it on to Probation Officer Sanborn. Then it travelled among the policemen present until the judge himself was reached.

When the kind-hearted lawyer at last placed the hat, heavy with the weight of generous offerings, in the lap of his quondam scantily-clad client, the scene was most pathetic.

Such was the unusual termination of a trial arising out of a case of eviction in Brighton district during this merry Christmas season.