

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. VIII.]

TORONTO, JUNE 9, 1888.

[No. 12

BUILDING THE TOWER OF BABEL.

Is this very striking picture the imagination of the artist finds free scope. A company of workmen are dragging up a steep incline a rude cart laden with rope. The skill with which the perspective of the wall and of the plain far below is rendered is very remarkable. The ruin called Birs Nimrud, near the Euphrates, is supposed to be remains of this very tower of Babel.

"BRING PLENTY OF RUM."

A BOSTON sea-captain's wife was one day reading a letter written to her husband by a trader on the coast of Africa, telling him what articles to bring on his next voyage to that country. After naming this, that, and the other thing which it would be well to bring, the list concluded with, "Bring plenty of rum."

This is the Macedonian cry that comes to America from the conscienceless traders who infest the African coast. "Bring plenty of rum!" Rum is in good demand. Rum will sell any time. Rum will buy anything which the poor ignorant natives have. "Bring plenty of rum!"

How does America answer such requests as this? She is fully equal to the occasion.

A single vessel sailing from the port of Boston has taken one hundred and thirty-one thousand gallons of rum to Africa; and reports have come of ships carrying a single missionary and a hundred thousand gallons of rum.



BUILDING THE TOWER OF BABEL.

What will the harvest be if this is the seed sown? And what will be the doom of the wretches who thus scatter degradation, debauchery, and damnation among the benighted heathen? Surely this is a solemn question, and

a question which merits our most careful consideration.

We send out missionaries to the heathen, but one cargo of rum will ruin more heathens in a year than a missionary could save in a life-time.

more accurate, you might carve out of China two empires like India and have enough to make seven more like Japan. And yet, out of Africa, you might construct China and two Indias besides!

Is it not high time that something were done to stop this infamous business? Do not the circumstances of the case demand that a little mission work be done nearer home? Is it not high time that civilized nations tie a millstone to the neck of this infernal traffic, and sink it in the nethermost hell? Surely those who boast of the righteousness and their civilization should take some measures to prevent this wholesale poisoning which is going on before their eyes. The whole business is wrong, and the sooner it is blotted out of existence the better. God speed the day when men shall be done with this dire and deadly traffic, and heathen nations shall no more be cursed with these abominations sent out from civilized lands.—*Safeguard.*

MISSION-FIELDS.

The terms used are rather vague when it is said that "continents are covered with the death shade." We get some idea of the vastness of the mission field from the following measurement. Japan is 47 times as large as Connecticut with its area of 1,700 square miles. But Japan could be contained in India ten times, and even India could be contained in China nearly three times; or, to be