

# PLEASANT HOURS

PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

VOL. XV.]

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 30, 1895.

[No. 48.]

## A Game of Tag.

A GRASSHOPPER once had a game of tag  
With some crickets that lived near by,  
When he stubbed his toe and over he went,  
In the twinkling of an eye.

Then the crickets leaned up against the fence  
And laughed till their sides were sore,  
But the grasshopper said, "You are laugh-  
ing at me,  
And I shan't play any more."

So off he went, tho' he wanted to stay,  
For he was not hurt by his fall,  
And the gay little crickets went on with the  
game,  
And never missed him at all.

A bright-eyed squirrel called out as he  
passed,  
Swinging from a tree by his toes,  
"What a foolish fellow that grass-  
hopper is!  
Why, he bit off his own little nose."

## FATHER MATTHEW.

FATHER THEOBALD MATTHEW, known as "The Apostle of Temperance," was born in Tipperary, Ireland, October 10th, 1790. Educated for the Roman Catholic priesthood, he was ordained at Dublin in 1814. From Dublin he went to Kilkenny and Cork, making the latter place his permanent home. It was while he was at Cork that he began his great work in the cause of temperance. Seeing that halfway measures would not serve, he instituted total abstinence societies, and went about the country urging the people to join them.

His success was marvellous. In nine months he enrolled no less than one hundred and fifty thousand names. This was only the beginning of his efforts to save his fellowmen from the curse of drink. From the year 1838 until his death he gave most of his time and strength to the cause of total abstinence. He had not merely an eloquence which won him the rapt attention of great crowds, but possessed a moral influence over those who listened to him which it seemed impossible for them to resist. In Ireland he was looked upon as a saint, and people of all religious names regarded him with veneration. Nor were his labours restricted to Ireland. He visited England at different times, and always with the greatest success. He spent two years (1849-1851) in this country, and was of great service to temperance workers here. So faithful and unselfish was he, that he became heavily involved in debt; though Queen Victoria somewhat relieved this by giving him a pension of fifteen hundred dollars a year. He died in 1856, worn out with toils and cares. Few lives have been more useful. It is probable that he was the means of the rescue of millions from intemperance and its evil consequences. Let us give him the honour due him, though we may not like the fact that he was in the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church.

## KILLARNEY AND SQUAW ISLAND.

BY FRED. G. STEVENS.

YOU have all, no doubt, heard many times of Killarney in Ireland. The beauties of that place are world-renowned. I thought as I looked upon the beauties of its Canadian namesake that if the other

was more beautiful it must be fine indeed.

The village of Killarney lies on the mainland just east of the Mautoulin Island. There is no special beauty about the buildings of which the place can boast. A couple of hotels and a few trading and fish houses besides a number of dwellings are all that go to make a village. What a pity that such a beautiful place should be so cursed as to be noted for its drunkenness.

The inhabitants are principally French half-breeds. Killarney is noted for its pretty girls. This is the first port at which the excursion steamboats stop after leaving Owen Sound en route to Mackinac. When one of these comes by the dock the usual quiet and drowsiness gives place to bustle

which follow each fishing-boat to pick up stray bits or fish lost overboard. Sometimes the fishermen tease these gulls, but they never kill one.

The day I was along the first small fish they caught was used for this purpose. They made a slit in it just above the tail and inserted a piece of stick about six inches long. They then threw the fish overboard, and presently a gull swooped down upon it and tried to swallow it. This was a failure on account of the stick catching in the gull's beak. Then ensued a lively scene. The other gulls wanted that fish and they fought and screamed in the air for a long time, until at last the poor gull disgorged its dinner. I was then too far away to see whether another tried it or not.

## BOYS AND MONEY.

LIKE most grown up-people, the average boy is fond of money. He comes to love it as soon as he discovers its purchasing power, and his fondness for it usually increases in proportion to the amount he has to spend. He does not want money to hoard up. The miserly spirit, nor that of proper economy, does not usually manifest itself early in life. Having had no experience, and not being able to measure matters and things from that standpoint, the boy does not know the actual value of a dollar, and so proceeds to spend it for any object that he happens to want.

We are fully persuaded that one of the most dangerous things for a boy is to have spending money in any considerable amount. Some parents seem utterly oblivious to this fact, and not only allow their sons to have money, but permit them to spend it without making any report as to how it was done. Such a course upon the part of parents is the sure road to ruin for their sons. Money is a golden key that unlocks almost every door to which it is presented. The boy with money to spend has easy access to vices of every character, and to places of all kinds, and such a boy would indeed be remarkable if he did not use his opportunity to see and do things that are wrong. Money to spend not only begets vices, but it promotes idleness, fosters indifference to mental effort, favours laziness, dampens ambition, and sows the seeds of moral and physical ruin. This is one of the chief reasons why the sons of rich men rarely do well in the race of life. It is known to every one that the men who make a success in business and professional life, are usually the sons of poor men, and who themselves had a hard battle in early life. The sons of the rich, if they are allowed money to spend freely, contract vices and habits of idleness, grow self-conceited and indifferent to public opinion, or else become physically and mentally effeminate, and thus are either ruined or unfitted for the struggle of life.

A leading Southern educator, whose school for boys is known from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, requests parents who send their sons to his school, not to allow them more than one dollar a month for spending money. He has found from long experience that more than that involves peril to the boy. It occurs to us that his limit is none too small. In some cases boys are at work making their own money. The parents think that as they make it themselves, they should be allowed to spend it as they choose. This is a great mistake. No boy should be permitted to handle money without giving a rigid account of how every dime is spent. Not to require this is to endanger the boy. To the boys who may read these lines, we say: Do not for a moment think of spending money without giving to your parents a strict account of where it goes. They have a right to know, and you should voluntarily render a statement to them.

LINNEUS said of alcohol that "Man sinks gradually by this fall poison; first he favours it, then he warms to it, then he burns for it, then he is overcome by it."



FATHER MATTHEW.

and excitement. Built on the dock are sheds or stalls in which are exposed for sale beautiful samples of fancy work in birch bark and porcupine quills and sweet scented grass, all of Indian manufacture.

Squaw Island lies nine miles outside of this village. It is not of very great extent and is flat, and is covered with a dense growth of cedar and spruce. It has an excellent harbour and lies in the vicinity of good fishing-grounds. As a consequence of these advantages there is a station for packing fish here. The usual packing and ice houses are here as well as a full quota of shanties of varying size. The fishermen who spend their summers here are as kind-hearted people as I ever met with.

Nearly always there are a few gulls

To another fish was tied a piece of cord and to this a piece of rag. When the gull swallowed the fish the rag remained outside its beak, and no doubt for some time that gull carried its colours as it flew over the waters. Another gull showed more sense than many men and boys display. In the mouth of a small fish one of the men placed a large quid of chewing tobacco. This fish was seized upon almost as it reached the water, and as soon as the poor gull tasted the tobacco it dropped the fish, and going down to the water began to wash its mouth and continued this action as long as we were in sight. If boys had as much sense as this gull they would neither smoke nor chew, for I am sure that there is no pleasant taste about tobacco.