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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK:
Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MARCH 6, 1886

\$250,000
FOR MISSIONS
For the Year 1886.

WHAT GIRLS AND BOYS CAN DO FOR MISSIONS.

Looking through a missionary treasurer's report, I noticed this clause: "Miss Rags, 25 cents," and I said to myself, "That young lady has a queer name, and not a very pretty one, either." A little farther down the report I noticed again, "Miss Rags, 45 cents," and thought, why there is a family of Rags in that town also. But when I came to third "Miss Rags, 31 cents," I then noticed that there was a period after the Miss, and I saw that instead of it meaning a young lady, it was a short way of writing "missionary." I then understood that here and there some one had carefully put all the rags and waste paper, not into the fire, but into the rag-bag, and the money received from the rag-man had been sent to the missionary society. Here seemed to be one answer to the question, "What can boys and girls do for missionary money?" On further study of the subject I discovered that rags were not the only things to have the title missionary. I found Miss Patchwork, Miss Berries, Miss Flowerseeds, and even Miss Hens.

Two little girls in New England raised sage and sold enough to send \$3 to the missionary treasurer. One little girl gathers the eggs carefully and says: "Mother gives me one egg for every dozen I find, and when I have a dozen I sell them and put the money into the missionary box." All over the country, we find earnest, eager groups of boys and girls who have found that interest and enthusiasm belong to that strange class, of which the more you give away the more you have left. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth."

DON'T FORGET THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
AID & EXTENSION FUND
COLLECTION

REVIEW SUNDAY—MARCH 28.

It will be remembered that the General Conference directs that this collection be taken up in all the Sunday-schools of our Church on the Review Sunday either in September or March. Some schools, it is to be feared, neglected to take it up in September. That is the best time. For then all the schools are open. In March those schools that close in winter have not yet come out of winter quarters. But we specially request that the direction of the General Conference be carried out by all those schools which may have neglected it in September. The ministers are all asked at the May District Meeting if this collection has been taken up; and, if it has not, the ministers often pay it out of their own pockets. Now, no school desires this to be the case. The ministers cannot themselves take up the collection, for few of them can be in the schools. It is the duty of the superintendent of the school to see that it is duly taken up and handed to the minister of the circuit.

A LITTLE girl had been given some verses to commit to memory by her Sunday-school teacher. She told her mother about it on coming home, and said they were the first three verses of a chapter in St. John. Her little brother, who was in the room, at once exclaimed, "Papa, don't let her learn them! That's the man who beat Blaine!"



HIPPOCAMPUS OR SEA HORSE.

HIPPOCAMPUS OR SEA HORSE.

This "strange fish," for a fish he truly is, though belonging to a very odd family—the pipe-fishes—is not an entire stranger to our northern water, being found along the New Jersey coast, and quite far up the Hudson River. Some very fine specimens constituted one of the points of special attraction in the New York Aquarium.

The picture gives a striking portrait of the creature; and what a jumble of oddities—the head of a horse, fins of a fish, tail compounded of a crocodile's and a ring-tailed monkey's, and the ribbed body of a Chinese lantern! In general, he is found holding on to some sea-weed or fragment of shell, swaying backward and forward, with oft repeated and very rapid vibrations of the pectoral fin. If it is his pleasure to release his hold and change his location, he moves in the upright form seen in the engraving, using the large back fin for propulsion. His voyaging, however, is very short; as he generally adheres to the first object that lies in his way.

The Hippocampus is very docile, and easily tamed; and to one who is so fortunate as to obtain a specimen, he will serve for many an hour of deeply interested study and observation.

TALMAGE ON TOBACCO.

"We must advise them to abstain from the use of tobacco, because the medical fraternities of the United States and Great Britain concur in calling this habit destructive and unhealthy. Temperance reformers will tell you that tobacco creates an unnatural thirst, and this causes more drunkenness in America than anything else. I say in the presence of this assembly to-day that the pathway of the drunkard to hell is strewn thick with tobacco leaves. America gives a million dollars

to the salvation of the heathen a year. American Christians smoke five million dollars' worth of tobacco. I speak to-day in the presence of the vast multitude of young people between seventeen and twenty-five years of age who are forming their habits. Habits are easy to acquire, but hard to get over. You must either smoke expensive or inexpensive tobacco. If it is cheap, it either contains lime, fullers' earth, lamp-black, burdock and other things, and a little tobacco. How can you afford to put such a mess as that into your mouth?"

Thousands of young men—otherwise and more properly called dudes—are daily seen strutting about our streets, swinging their canes and making themselves conspicuous and offensive by their cigar smoking, and pompous, swelling manners. A million of such fops, gathered into one "grand army," would not be worth, even for a "great moral show," much less for "fighting purposes," the cost of the "kid gloves, you know," they would always insist on wearing.

LEARN MUSIC.

BY REV. J. LAWSON.

EVERY boy and girl, who has the least "ear for music," should by all means attend to the study of this delightful branch of learning. The ability to "read music" is very desirable in those who are to do our public singing. This is too often confined to a few. Instead of this being the case, the singing ought to be done by almost everyone in the meeting. Most people can sing a little if they try, and can improve very much by culture.

Boys and girls, learn music, or, as some say, "learn the notes." Study, stick to it, and you will succeed. Then you can readily learn new pieces when necessary, and join more confidently and more correctly in the singing. Learn music.