

**The Isle of Dreams.**

A CHADLE SONG.

Oh, whither away is the isle of dreams,  
The silent isle of dreams?  
It's over the ocean of starlit skies,  
Away in the west, where the daylight dies:  
Slumber, sweetheart, and your wondering  
eyes  
Shall awake in the isle of dreams!

Oh, who is there dwells in the isle of dreams,  
The distant isle of dreams?  
There's Little Boy Blue, with his silent horn,  
And the dear old dame, whose skirts were  
shorn:  
And you, sweetheart, shall awake the dawn  
In the distant isle of dreams!

Oh, what will you do in the isle of dreams,  
The golden isle of dreams?  
Whatever you've hoped for, the long day  
through,  
In the isle of dreams will all come true!  
Listen, sweetheart, they are calling to you  
From the golden isle of dreams!

Oh, how do you go to the isle of dreams,  
The drowsy isle of dreams?  
Ah, that is something we do not know,  
For you shut your eyes before you go!  
But see, sweetheart, you are sleeping!—so  
You have found the isle of dreams!

**WHAT IS A BILLION?**

SIR HENRY BESSEMER writes to the London Times:

"It is no easy matter to bring under the cognizance of the human eye a billion objects of any kind. Let us try in imagination to arrange this number for inspection, and for this purpose I would select a sovereign as a familiar object. Let us put one on the ground and pile upon it as many as will reach twenty feet in height; then let us place numbers of similar columns in close contact, forming a straight line and making a sort of wall twenty feet high, showing only the thin edges of the coin.

"Imagine two such walls running parallel to each other and forming, as it were, a long street. We must then keep on extending these walls for miles—nay, hundreds of miles—and still we shall be far short of the required number. And it is not until we have extended our imaginary street to a distance of 2,380½ miles that we shall have presented for inspection our one billion of coins.

"Or, in lieu of this arrangement, we may place them flat upon the ground, forming one continuous line like a long golden chain with every link in close contact. But to do this we must pass over land and sea, mountain and valley, desert and plain, crossing the equator, and, returning around the southern hemisphere through the trackless ocean, retrace our way again across the equator, then still on and on until we again arrive at our starting point, and when we have thus passed a golden chain around the huge bulk of the earth we shall be but at the beginning of our task. We must drag this imaginary chain no less than 763 times around the globe.

"If we can further imagine all those rows of links laid closely side by side and every one in contact with its neighbour, we shall have formed a golden band around the globe just 52 feet 6 inches wide, and this will represent our one billion of coins. Such a chain if laid in a straight line, would reach a fraction over 18,328,445 miles, the weight of which, if estimated at one-fourth ounce each sovereign, would be 6,975,447 tons, and these would require for their transport no less than 2,325 ships, each with a full cargo of 3,000 tons. Even then there would be a residue of 447 tons, representing 64,081,920 sovereigns.

"For a measure of height let us take a much smaller unit as our measuring rod. The sheets of paper on which the Times is printed, if laid out flat and firmly pressed together as in a well-bound book, would represent a measure of about one-third hundred and thirty-third of an inch in thickness. Let us see how high a dense pile formed by a billion of these thin paper leaves would reach. Our one billion of sheets of the Times super-imposed upon each other and pressed into a compact mass has reached an altitude of 47,348 miles!

"Those who have taken the trouble to follow me thus far, will, I think, agree with me that a billion is a fearful thing,

and that few can appreciate its real value. As for quadrillions and trillions, they are simply words—mere words—wholly incapable of adequately impressing themselves on the human intellect."

**TOUCHING THE BLARNEY STONE**

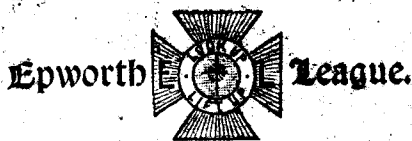
You have heard of the Blarney Stone. It is that wonderful old piece of rock in one of the towers of Blarney Castle in Ireland. To reach it, you have to climb out of a window and be held by the feet while you touch the Blarney Stone with your hands and lips.

The story is that all who touch this stone will have the power of saying pleasant things to people. The boy who kisses the Blarney Stone will soon have the reputation of being a fine little gentleman, an perfect will be his manners and as kind his speech. The little girl who kisses the Blarney Stone will be very much loved by everybody and will grow up to be the loveliest woman of her sex.

The Irish people, you know, are the sweetest tongued people in the world. When they want to say nice things they can be so very, very nice that, as the Irish saying is, "they can charm the heart out of ye." It was an Irish mother, it was said, who named the Blarney Stone. She had a rough-tempered little boy whom she wished to make gentle, so she held him out of the window by his heels and made him kiss the Blarney Stone. This scared him so that he never was cross again.

Here is the rhyme which Irish mothers teach their children as soon as they are old enough to learn it:

"There is a stone there  
That whoever kisses,  
Oh, he never missees  
To grow eloquent.  
'Tis he may clamber  
To the Council Chamber  
Of Parliament.  
Don't hope to hinder him  
Or to bewilder him,  
Sure he's a pilgrim  
From the Blarney Stone."



W. H. WITBROW, Secretary for Canada.

**PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS.**

DECEMBER 3, 1893.

**Junior Epworth League.**

PURE RELIGION BEFORE GOD.—James 1. 27; 1. 19, 20; 1 Tim. 2. 8; Phil. 2. 12; Eph. 6. 5-8; John 17. 15-16; Titus 2. 12.

**Junior E. L. of C. E.**

HEARING RIGHT AND DOING WRONG—WHY?—James 1. 21-25. (A temperance topic.)

**A GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY.**

"I WANT to live," said Phillips Brooks with in a week of his sudden death, adding with fervour: "The next twenty years present the most glorious opportunity for work and results which the Church has ever had in this country." The bishop was something of a seer. America is on the eve of a great revival. Infidelity is losing its grip on thinking men. The churches have hold of at least one-third of our entire population. Public conscience is tender despite the fact that there is much winking at the evils of intemperance, lust and other bad things. It may be by scourge or other adversity that the American people are to be brought to a higher sense of duty and a deeper consciousness of accountability to God, but in some way we believe there will soon be a great quickening of religious faith, a wide distribution of penitential feeling and a glorious ingathering of deathless souls. Missionary zeal at home and abroad is increasing. The brotherhood of men is recognized as never before. Political revolutions are imminent if not actually upon us. Reports of religious revivals the country over are highly encouraging. Religious denominations are in closer sympathy with each other. Facilities for reaching the unsaved masses with the Gospel are sure to be devised. The best brain and heart of this country are being enlisted in behalf of the Lord's cause. God himself is reigning high over all and will see that even the wrath of

man is made to praise Him. With Rev. Thomas Cleworth we can all sing:

The Lord of Life is ruling out the deeds of hate and wrong;  
His countless hosts are moving sublimely true and strong.  
The banners of Jehovah are streaming 'mid the throng,  
Advancing peace and love!

The vanguards of redemption are crossing land and sea;  
The day of God is bringing sweet hope to you and me;  
For grace and truth are moving to set all nations free  
In the joys of peace and love!

**LESSON NOTES.**

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE EPISTLES.

A. D. 45.] LESSON X. [Dec. 3.

GRATEFUL OBEDIENCE.

James 1. 15-27.] [Memory verses, 26, 27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

We love him, because he first loved us.—1 John 4. 19.

OUTLINE.

1. The Father of Lights, v. 17-21.
2. The Law of Liberty, v. 22-26.
3. The Pure Religion, v. 27.

PLACE.

This epistle was written from Jerusalem by James, the Lord's brother, to the Jewish disciples of Christ throughout the Roman Empire.

EXPLANATIONS.

"Do not err"—Be careful to avoid wrong views of God and duty. "Father of Lights" God, who is here compared to the sun, shedding its beams abroad. "Shadow of turning"—The day turns to night, but God is light always. "Beggat he us"—God has made us his children, giving us the right to be sons of God. "Firstfruits"—The first sheaf of harvest was given to God, so all believers are God's own children. "Wherefore"—Because we are God's, and should be like him. "Slow to speak"—We should hear more than we say. "Slow to wrath"—We should not let ourselves yield to anger. "Worketh not the righteousness"—No person in anger will do God's will. "Lay apart"—Give up and turn away from"—Superfluity of naughtiness"—"Abounding wickedness" is the meaning. "Ingrafted word"—Or, the implanted word in our hearts, as seed is sown. "Doers of the word"—We must obey God's word, as well as hear it. "Deceiving"—Any one is deceived who thinks he can be saved without observing the truth. "Beholding"—Looking at his own face in a mirror. "Forgetteth"—People are always forgetting just how they look. So does every one who hears his duty but does it not. "Perfect law of liberty"—God's law, which gives freedom to all who obey it from the heart. "Blessed in his deed"—He will find a blessing in obeying God's word. "Religious"—One may seem, but not be religious. "Bridleth not his tongue"—How many cannot keep from angry words! "Deceiveth"—He mistakes if he thinks himself religious. "Pure religion"—These are the acts to which pure religion leads. "Visit"—To help all in need. "Unspotted"—Without wickedness.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

What are here shown—

1. As the characteristics of a false religion?
2. As the characteristics of a true religion?
3. As the results of a true religion?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. From whom do we receive every good and perfect gift? "From the Father."
2. How should we receive the word? "With meekness."
3. What should we be? "Doers of the word."
4. When is religion vain? "When the tongue is not bridled."
5. What is pure religion and undefiled before God? "To visit the afflicted, and live uprightly."
6. What is the Golden Text? "We love him," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The unchangeableness of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What was the Lord's deepest humiliation? He was "reckoned with transgressors" (Luke 22. 37), and endured the shameful death of the cross.

**ONE GIRL'S WORK.**

A FEW years ago a little girl applied to a pastor, in one of our large cities, for admission into his Sunday-school. She was told that the classes were so full there was no room for her, and that the church was so small that no more classes could be organized. Much disappointed, the little girl began to save pennies (her family was poor) for the purpose of enlarging the church in order that she and other children like her might be accommodated. She told no one of her ambitious purpose, however, so that when the pastor of this church was called to her bedside a few months later, to comfort her in her severe illness, he saw nothing unusual, only a frail child of six and a half years. The little sufferer died, and a week later there were found in her battered red pocket-book, which had been her savings bank, fifty-seven pennies, and a scrap of paper that told in childish print the story of her ambition and the purpose of self-denial.

The story of that little red pocket-book and its contents, and the unflinching faith of its little owner, got abroad. It touched the heart of saint and sinner alike. Her inspiration became a prophecy, and men laboured and women sang and children saved to aid in its fulfillment. These fifty-seven pennies became the nucleus of a fund that in six years grew to \$250,000, and today this heroine's picture, life-size, hangs conspicuously in the hall-way of a college building at which 1,400 students attend, and connected with which there is a church capable of seating 8,000, a hospital for children, named the Good Samaritan, and a Sunday-school room large enough to accommodate all the boys and girls who have yet asked to enter it. A fairy story? It reads like one, happily it is not one. The little girl's name was Hattie May, and the splendid institutions described are located in Philadelphia.—Harper's Young People.

Young people must have fun and relaxation somewhere. If they do not find it at their own hearthstones, it will be sought in other and less profitable places; therefore, let the fire burn brightly at night, and make the home nest delightful with all those little arts that parents so perfectly understand.

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING...**

In a few weeks the many thousands of readers of Pleasant Hours will be looking about for gifts for their friends. We hope they will not forget the great variety of beautiful gifts that our Book Rooms in Toronto, Montreal and Halifax have placed at their command. This year we have a delightful variety of

**Christmas Cards and Booklets**

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**WILLIAM BRIGGS,**

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