

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## A WINTER SONG.

☉ SUMMER has the roses  
And the laughing light  
south wind,  
And the merry meadows lined  
With dewy dancing posies;  
But winter has the sprites  
And the witching frosty nights.

O, summer has the splendour  
Of the cornfields wide and deep,  
Where the scarlet poppies sleep  
And wary shadows wander;  
But winter fields are rare  
With diamonds everywhere.

O, summer has the wild bees,  
And the ringing, singing note  
In the robin's tuneful throat,  
And the leaf-talk in the trees;  
But winter has the chime  
Of the merry Christmas time.

O, summer has the lustre  
Of the sunbeams warm and  
bright,  
And rains that fall at night  
Where reeds and lilies cluster;  
But deep in winter's snow  
The fires of Christmas glow.  
—St. Nicholas.

## TAHITI.

CAPTAIN WALLIS, commander of his Majesty's ship *Dolphin*, when crossing the comparatively untraversed waters of the Southern Pacific Ocean, in the year 1767, discovered the splendid island of Tahiti, which has since occupied so prominent a place in the annals of Missionary enterprise. Little did its discoverer think, when hoisting the broad pennant on the Tahitian shores, and taking possession of the island in the name of his sovereign, King George III., that in a few short years the Missionary, sent by the liberality and sustained by the prayers of British Christians, would follow in his track, search for the lovely spot he had discovered, unfurl another banner, and take possession of that and other islands in the name of the King of kings. This has been effected under the guidance of Him

"Who plants His footsteps in the sea;"

for the providence of God has evidently conspired with the Spirit of God in the accomplishment of this great work.



NATIVES OF TAHITI.

HILDBRAND

The following were the views of the Rev. J. Williams, who went as a Missionary to Tahiti, in the year 1817:

To this mission, considered in its relation to other islands, too much importance cannot be attached; for, in addition to the numerous islands now professedly Christian, there are, within a comparatively small distance, many large and extensive groups of which little is known. Among these are the Fiji, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Solomon's Archipelago, New Britain, New Ireland, and, above all, the immense island of New Guinea. This island is said to be 1200 miles in length, and, in some parts, about 300 in breadth.

"When Pomare, the king of Tahiti, first determined to embrace Christianity, and attempt the introduction of it among his people, before taking any decided steps, he convened a number of powerful and influential chiefs, and stated his wishes to them. Very many made strong objections to the proposed innovation; but Tenania, and his wife, who were reigning chiefs in a neighbouring island, cordially approved of the king's proposition, stating that they themselves had almost come to a determination to burn their god. This feeling had been induced by the death of a beloved and only daughter, who was to inherit their titles and estates; and, as might be expected, was the object in which their affections centred, and on whom their hopes were placed. She was a fine girl, about fifteen or sixteen years of age; and when she was unexpectedly taken ill, every priest of note, far and near, was applied to, and every god propitiated with the most costly offerings which it was in the power of this mighty chief to command. Still the disease increased, and the child died; and as this happened only a short time before Pomare made his important proposition, Tenania and his wife were well