

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. III.

TORONTO, APRIL 7, 1883.

No. 7.

BE IN TIME.

Be in time for every call ;
If you can, be first of all ;
Be in time.
If your teachers only find
You are never once behind,
But are like the dial, true,
They will always trust to you,
Be in time.

Never linger ere you start,
Set out with a willing heart,
Be in time.
In the morning up and on,
First to work, and soonest done,
This is how the goal's attained,
This is how the prize is gained,
Be in time.

Those who aim at something
great
Never yet were found too late ;
Be in time.
Life with all its but a school ;
We must work by plan and rule,
Ever steady, earnest, true,
Whatsoever you may do,
Be in time.

Listen, then, to wisdom's call—
Knowledge now is free to all ;
Be in time.
Youth must daily toil and strive,
Treasurers for the future hive,
For the work they have to do,
Keep this motto still in view—
Be in time.

THE FLOWERY KING- DOM.

If all the people of all
the world can be im-
agined as standing
abreast, in a single
line, so that they should
just touch one another, that
line would be about 500,-
000 miles long, long enough
to reach around the earth
twenty times. And if you
could pass in front of that
line and look on each face,
at least one man in every
four you would see would
be a Chinaman.

There are eighteen pro-
vinces in China proper, each
one being about as large as
Great Britain, and yet it
is very doubtful whether
many of the boys and girls
who have finished their
geographies, know so much
as the name of any one of
these provinces. Americans
talk much of their vast
country, yet China, with
its dependencies, has 300,-
000 more square miles than
are found in all their States and Terri-
tories, including Alaska. On each
square mile in the United States there
dwell, on an average, ten or eleven
persons, while China has at least two



CHINA.

minister for each million
of people. If Christians
knew more about China
and thought more about it,
they would surely make
more effort to give to its
millions the gospel.

The Chinese have many
names for the land they
inhabit. It is from their
name Tsin or Chin, that
our word China comes.
This is very like the name
Sinim, by which it is sup-
posed China is referred to
in the Bible (Is. xlix. 12).
They call it also "The
Middle Kingdom," some-
times "The Central Flow-
ery Kingdom," because they
suppose it stands in the
centre of the earth.

Peking, the capital of this
great empire, is one of the
largest cities in the world,
having an estimated popu-
lation of a million and a
half. It is the seat of
governmental administra-
tion, and of large commer-
cial enterprises. The streets
are generally unpaved, and
according to the state of
the weather, are either
kneedeep in mud or covered
with dust. The houses are
chiefly of brick, one story
high, and often embellished
with grotesque carving, as
shown in our first engrav-
ing, and with much brilliant
painting and gilding.

The street scenes are
generally of peculiar anima-
tion, from the number of
stalls and street buyers and
sellers. All manner of
trades and industries are
conducted in the open air,
and the picturesque garb of
the natives, which is fast
becoming familiar in our
Canadian cities, gives color
and variety to the scene.

The large picture on this
page shows some of these
strange open-air scenes. In
the upper group a juggler is
performing his conjuring
tricks, and making his pup-
pet figures dance. At his
right his assistant is play-
ing on a flute, and at the
same time on a tambourine

and cymbals with his feet, while a
gaping crowd look on and admire.
The central part of the picture shows
the process of drying and preparing
tea over a slow fire, and on either side
has been made towards giving them
the gospel of Jesus, and many thou-
sands have already learned to love
Him, there has not yet been sent from
all Christian lands so much as one