

LEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

Vol. XII.]

TORONTO, MARCH 19, 1892.

[No. 12

CHINESE TOWN.

SOME of the Chinese towns are laid out in a very curious fashion, the streets being exceedingly crooked. This is traceable to one of the many superstitions with which the minds of the people are filled, as they imagine that by thus turning and twisting their streets they can confuse and keep off evil spirits, which always go in straight lines. One of the many canals which abound in China runs through this town, and there are bridges here and there across it. The houses are all tent-roofed, which is a survival of the tent-houses in which their ancestors lived.

IMPLICIT OBEDIENCE.

I SPOKE to a lady the other day of her sister-in-law, who is one of my esteemed neighbours. "How well she is managing her children without any nurse!" I exclaimed. "She looks calm and untroubled, and yet I know she is diligent."

"She is a woman of great decision of character," was the answer. "She has a system about the children. She never allows them to question what she says, and you know that saves a great deal of fret and worry."

The next morning I made a short call on the subject of our remarks. The lady came to the parlour, and after shaking hands with me, turned to a chair, and found the two-year-old baby had followed her.

"Why, baby I did not know you were here. Run out to brother." "No, no don't want to!" "Oh, yes!" was the smiling answer; "Brother will play with you."

The baby retreated slowly till she reached the middle of the room, and there she stood with her finger in her mouth, eyeing her mother closely. The mother had turned in her chair away from me, and was watching the baby smilingly. It was evident that the caller was entirely forgotten for the moment; it was of the first importance that the baby should mind. I made a little note of the fact, so that there were no "prunes and persimmons" expressed on the mother's pretty face. She had simply spoken, and now expected the baby to do as she said.

"No," burst from the baby.

"Oh, yes," smiled mamma. "Brother is all ready to play with you."

The baby stood a moment longer, finger in her mouth, studying her mother's face, and then ran

out of the room. Then, and not till then, did the mother give me her attention.

The incident made such an impression on me that I want to write it for young mothers. I began with the theory that the best way to bring up a child was to reason with him, and in that way teach him obedience. I abandoned that theory long ago, and wish now that I had never held it for a day. When "implicit obedience" was brought to my mind, I rejected it, largely because, under my new responsibility, I was now conscious of my own fallibility.

"How can I," I would say to myself, "always know the right command to enforce?" Now I say to myself, "Be as nearly right as you can, but go ahead." Implicit obedience lovingly enforced is the only way to bring up a child, and "eternal vigilance" is its price.—*Christian Union.*

quiet owls who go round the fields in the dark and pounce upon all the mice and insects that would injure the corn.

The owls mostly eat the mice whole, without any attempt to tear them with their claws. But if they have young ones, they carry the mice home to the nest in their mouths, and sometimes they have been known to carry as many as forty mice in an hour to the hungry little ones who were waiting for food.

THE USE OF TOBACCO.

ONE of the strongest arguments against the use of tobacco is the intense nausea and sickness felt by people in their first attempt at smoking. It is nature's protest against abuse, and it would be well for millions if they heeded the warning, for, offensive

to smell and taste as it is at first, the dislike often changes to intense craving, and the user of tobacco has become its slave, the habit being often harder to overcome than the use of strong drink. And of what use is it?

Very few persons can state distinctly the effects of tobacco upon them, the kind of pleasure which the use of it gives, and why they continue to use it. Let any user of tobacco ask himself these questions, and he will be surprised to see how unsatisfactory the answers he receives will be.

It is a habit which always grows stronger at the same time, weakening the will and finally making a man its abject slave. Its physical effects are such as to warrant its abandonment, even if there were no other consideration.

All its ill effects are transmitted from parents to child, and usually with a weakened constitution and a disposition to intemperance. It is a filthy habit. It is an expensive habit.

Smoking to excess produces nausea, vomiting, and trembling, with accelerated motion of the heart, and it is an open question whether the prevalence of heart disease, which has been attributed to the rapid, exciting, modern life, should not be really attributed to the extensive use of tobacco.

It is with tobacco as with deleterious articles of diet, the strong suffer comparatively little, while those not of robust health, or who are predisposed to disease fall victims to its poisonous operation. Under such circumstances an article so injurious to the health and so offensive in its mode of enjoyment should be speedily banished.



CHINESE TOWN.

OWLS.

THE chief peculiarity of owls is their mode of flying, and their quick sense of hearing. Their food being mostly mice and other small animals which easily hide themselves in the ground, great silence and clear sight are necessary, as well as quick hearing. So we find the wing of an owl is provided with feathers so remarkably soft and pliant that in striking the air they make no rushing sound as the feathers of other birds do.

There is something in the strange appearance and the silent flight of owls that has made them often feared, and superstitious people have thought them always ominous of evil. But there is hardly a more useful bird anywhere; its food consists of vermin and insects that would do great harm to the crops; and the farmers ought to be very thankful to the