

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## HINDOO CARRIAGE.

THIS is a very queer sort of carriage. What clumsy looking wheels and springs. Instead of horses the small cattle of the country are used. One would think that the drapery on the animals would be intolerably hot. I suppose it is used to keep off the flies.

## WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE ?

THE young man who starts out in life without a fixed purpose is like a ship going to sea without a rudder. He voluntarily subjects himself to the fate of being tossed about on the waves of chance, and finally, when the best years of his life are spent, is brought to sad reflection on the shoals of disappointment. He will then very naturally take a gloomy view of his situation, and it is very fortunate for him if he does not rashly conclude that life is hardly worth the living. We do not argue that all who do have a fixed purpose at the outset reap the success they covet, for honest, straightforward endeavour is too often met with reverses and disappointment; but it must be conceded that in a large proportion of cases the rule holds good. It often happens that more honour is acquired in defeat than in success—so much depends on the obstacles to be overcome. The fact is too frequently overlooked, and calculations having failed, the regular path of endeavour is deserted. It is then that the young man is apt to halt and seriously reflect. He will do well if he do not at this time seek to ape the example of those who succeed by luck—and thus enter upon dangerous ground. It should be borne in mind that for every person who has attained to conspicuousness in the acquirement of wealth by bold ventures, myriads of those who have failed in the attempt are found. He who wrote that "on the great sea of human life, as on that where the ships do go, the wind and the waves favour the brave sailors," did not mean that sort of bravery which is so often coupled with foolhardiness. The truly brave man goes forth to con-



those who scoffed at him. In his boyish pastime he had trained himself to use the sling and hurl a stone with deadly certainty. Saul insisted that he should put on an armour and a helmet of brass and a coat of mail, but David said he knew nothing of such armour, and casting it off he took five smooth stones from the brook, and declared with fire in his eye that with them and his sling he would show Goliath that there was a God in Israel. He was true to his word. The great warrior clad in heavy armour fell at the first fire. It is reasonably certain that David could have killed him in no other

way. David knew his weapon. The world to-day needs more of the spirit of David. If a young man chooses to be a farmer, he should study how he can turn a straighter furrow than his neighbour, and learn how seed should be sown to insure a harvest.—*Rochester Commercial Review.*

## SOME LITTLE FOXES.

Do you not think it both careless and stupid for a person to sign his name so indistinctly that it cannot be read? Think of writing a letter carefully, about important business, and then making a few indistinct scrawls for the name and place of the writer! It would serve them right if no notice were taken of their letters; it might teach them a lesson, but they are the people who make a great fuss if they do not receive an immediate answer, and, to avoid trouble, time is spent in trying to decipher the address.

Then there is another habit that it is to be hoped our young folks will avoid—signing the letter and adding the name of the place and not the State. If you are writing to an intimate friend, who, of course, knows where you are, it is not so important that you should write the name of the place and State in which you live; but when you are writing a business letter, always remember that the world is a big place, and there are a great many people in it, a great many persons of the same name; and if you will examine the gazetteer, or a postal guide, you will be surprised to see how many places there are of the same name, especially in the United States. It is very certain that after you have done this, unless you are extremely careless, you will never omit the name of the place, county, and State from a letter.

There are habits of care as well as carelessness, and these habits are formed when we are children. If, when you begin to write, you form the habit of signing your name carefully, adding the place and State, you will do it carefully when you are grown, without an effort; you will have formed that careful habit. It is as impolite to scrawl a few marks that have no meaning, at the close of a letter, as it is to pronounce your name in an indistinct manner when asked to give it. Writing is talking on paper.