

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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An Eastern Legend

BY GRACE DEFFIELD GOODWIN

There's a tender Eastern legend,
In a volume old and rare,
Of the Christ-child in his garden
Walking with the children there.

And it tells this strange, sweet
story—
(True or false, ah, who shall say?)
How a bird with broken platoon
Dead within the garden lay.

And the children, childish cruel,
Lifted it by shattered wing,
Shouting, "Make us merry music,
Sing, you lazy fellow, sing."

But the Christ-child bent above it,
Took it in his gentle hand,
Full of pity for the suffering,
He alone could understand.

Whispered to it—oh, so softly!—
Laid his lips upon its throat,
And the song-life, swift returning,
Sounded out in one glad note.

Then away, on wings unwearied,
Joyously it sang and soared,
And the little children kneeling,
Called the Christ-child "Master—
Lord."

THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Suppose, now, you were a bird, and could soar and sail about in the air wherever you choose. If you were flying over the city of New York you would behold a sight very much like that shown in the picture.

New York City is on Manhattan Island, about thirteen miles long, and about two miles wide at the widest part. The river to the left of the picture is the Hudson, and that on the right the East River, leading into Long Island Sound. In the right-hand corner is shown part of the city of Brooklyn, on Long Island; and on the upper left-hand corner, part of Jersey City, in New Jersey. Crossing the East River is seen the famous Suspension Bridge. It is so high above the water that ocean vessels can pass beneath it. It slopes down on each side to the level of the ground, and street cars run across it. Another bridge is built across East River higher up, and a tunnel is now made under the Hudson.

All around the two river fronts of the city you see hundreds of vessels and steamers, which sail to all parts of the world. The park, covered with trees, at the point of the island, is called the Battery, because it was once strongly fortified. The round building at the extreme left is Castle Garden—an old fort, with surrounding buildings. Here all the emigrants who arrive at New York are landed—sometimes two or three thousand in a day—and are kept till they are shipped to their destination.

From the Battery can be seen a long, straight street, leading northward. This is Broadway, a hundred feet wide and about four miles long—lined with magnificent buildings, and one of the noblest streets in the world.

The population of New York is over 1,207,000. There are only two larger cities in the world—Paris, with 2,226,000, and London, with over 4,000,000. Berlin and Vienna have a little over a million each.

Brooklyn, which may almost be called a suburb of New York—



THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE.

as many thousands who do business in the larger city live in the smaller one—has over half a million.

Parts of New York are more densely peopled than even the densest parts of London. As the greatest receiving and distributing point for the commerce of the continent, New York is destined to be one of the most important cities in the world.

CHARLEMAGNE.

BY BETTIE HORSLEY.

Far back in the centuries, and between dark periods in Europe, rises the strong, majestic figure of Charlemagne. In 768 A.D. he and his brother, Carloman, succeeded their father, Pepin the Short, who had made himself King of France. Carloman reigned over the eastern portion of France a few years and then died, leaving Charlemagne sole king. A mighty and marvellously wise ruler this last proved to be: and when he died, in 814 A.D. he had widened out his dominions until they stretched from the stormy German Ocean to smiling Eastern Italy and from Western France far down the Danube. Fifty-three armies were led by him to victory, and he fought against twelve nations, carrying learning

and law, and, in a certain fashion, the Christian religion wherever he went. Strangely enough, he flared up as a great light in Europe in a most barbarous period, but darkness settled down again as soon as he had passed away. His descendants were most unworthy of him, and too weak and too quarrelsome to carry out his great plans.

Splendid as were many of Charlemagne's qualities, he was tainted with the bloody times in which he lived. War is a fearful necessity when it is a necessity, and an awful crime if undertaken wilfully. The killing and plundering and misery that it carries in its train are fit only to delight demons. No wonder the conquering warrior usually thinks lightly of sweeping his enemies out of existence and inflicting wretchedness on women and children. His nature has been hardened by the frequent sight of suffering, and he counts the death of thousands as a small matter if it furthers his schemes.

We are rather pleased by Charlemagne's picturesque delight in his sword Joyeuse, whose handle contained his signet, and may smile at his avowal, "With my sword I maintain all to which I affix my seal," but when it comes to his slaughtering four thousand five hundred of his Saxon prisoners to subdue

the valour which resisted him thirty-three years we recoil with horror. This brutality born of war and barbarism, remains a foul blot on his fame.

Many and many were the battles Charlemagne was engaged in, but around the minor fight of Roncesvalles lingers to this day a wild romance. He was returning from a somewhat unsuccessful expedition against the Saracens in Spain, when his rear-guard was suddenly attacked in the Valley of Roncesvalles. His best-loved and bravest friends went down in the desperate assault, and above all his kinsman Roland, so dear to his heart. Roland and his comrades fought with daring heroism; but they perished to a man, leaving a story which, woven into song, sent admiring pity into festive hearts, and roused to valour on the field of battle for long centuries.

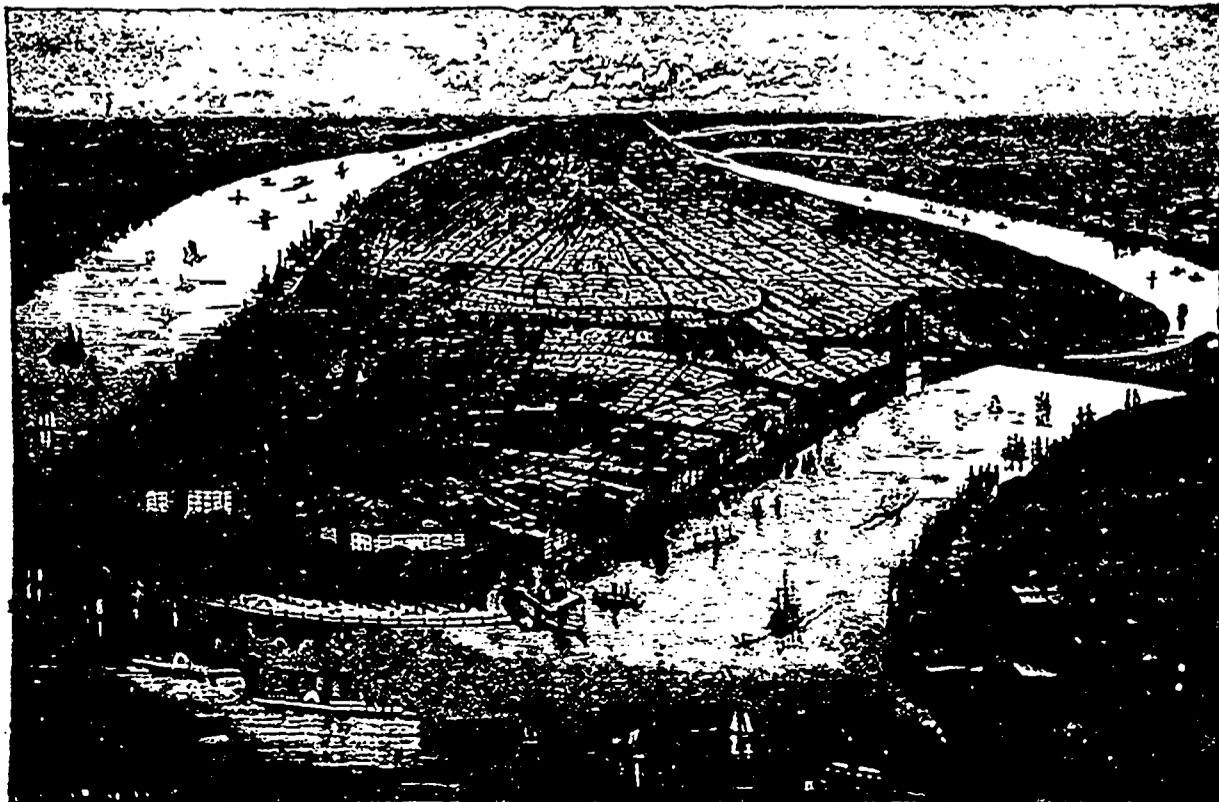
If Charlemagne had been merely a fighter, we could well afford to let his fame rust with his good sword Joyeuse, though in rough and dangerous circumstances a man may splendidly protect by the valour of his arm. This illustrious emperor, however, is rather remembered for his triumphs in peace than in war.

Grandeur than his coronation on Christmas Day as Emperor of Rome by Pope Leo in 800 A.D., was his founding the first European university at Paris and his setting up academies through the length and breadth of his vast empire, and his demanding that every monastery he established should support a school. What an example this magnificent emperor set to schoolboys when, amid his wars and cares and grandeurs, he diligently studied and gave scholars the chief place at his court! Moving the seat of government from Paris to Aix La Chapelle, he secured Alcuin, the most renowned scholar of his day, from England, and founded a college of which he himself took the benefit. Daily he received lessons from the most distinguished teachers in the "Seven Sciences." First, there was grammar, logic, and rhetoric; secondly, music, arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy. These were then considered to complete the circle of knowledge. Till thirty-two years of age he had remained in ignorance, but he mastered Latin and learned Greek and spoke various languages. He even began to write the first German grammar—for he was a German and loved his race—but he had not time to complete it, and his big warrior hands were too clumsy to succeed with writing. The

tablets were put under his pillow at night to afford every possible moment for practicing the art, but write he could not.

To support the dignity of his imperial authority, Charlemagne reared a sumptuous palace, yet, to his credit be it said, he lived in severe simplicity. Temperate in eating and drinking, he wore under his sheepskin cloak garments, woven by his daughters, whom he had trained in one of his industrial schools. Many of you will remember his taking his richly clad courtiers out on a hunt in a driving storm and carrying them through bush and brier and having them afterwards to dine in their spoiled finery.

No measure for public justice, comfort, prosperity, or improvement, was neglected by this wonderful Charles the Great," as Charlemagne literally means. A set of laws, termed "Capitularies," made by him, proved that he valued and knew how to maintain the rights



THE CITY OF NEW YORK.