

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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COLOSSAL STONE STATUE.

THIS is the largest statue in the world. It is over a hundred feet high, and is hewn out of the solid rock. Some idea of its colossal size may be gathered by comparing it with the figures on foot and on horseback in the foreground. It is not known whom it represents—probably some hero or probably some deity of the unknown people by whom it was made.

THREE QUEER BIRDS.

THE trumpeter-bird is the rag-picker of the woods and swamps of Guiana, where he is always at work at his trade, with his stomach for a pack and his bill for a hook. He performs a most useful but most extraordinary service, devouring a perfect multitude of snakes, frogs, scorpions, spiders, lizards and the like creatures. But this terrible bird can be made perfectly tame.

On the Guiana plantations he may be seen fraternising with the chickens, ducks and turkeys, accompanying them in their walks, defending them from their enemies, separating quarrelers with strokes of his bill, sustaining the young and feeble, and waking the echoes with his trumpet while he brings home his flocks at night.

The trumpeter is as handsome as he is useful. Noble and haughty in his aspect, he raises himself up on his long, yellow-gartered legs and seems to say, "I am the trumpeter, the scourge of reptiles and the protector of the flocks."



COLOSSAL STONE STATUE. AT BAMIAN, CENTRAL ASIA.

In Southern Africa there is another great exterminator of reptile—the snake-eater or secretary-bird—a magnificent creature, who attacks the largest serpents, making a shield of his

wings and a sword of his beak. The name of "secretary-bird" is derived from the plumes projecting backward from his head, which look like quills carried behind one's ear

In South America, in the very neighbourhood of the trumpeter's home, there lives the "kamichi" or "kamiki," who wears a sharp horn projecting from his forehead and a murderous spur upon each of his wings. With these three weapons the serpents that he attacks are powerless against him, and are easily put to death.

The secretary-bird, the kamichi and the trumpeter form a valiant and useful trio. The trumpeter has two merits above the others—the ease with which he can be domesticated and his musical talent.

The natives have a saying that he has swallowed a cornet. Whether promenading or war-making, he fills the air with his trumpet-calls, and at the sound of his voice of brass the reptiles take to flight.

Presently the bird arrives, flapping his wings and wielding them like a sword. Having killed the serpent, the trumpeter sounds his blast of victory as he had sounded his charge. — *Youth's Companion.*

BETTER DAYS TO COME.

A young girl of fifteen, a bright, laughter-loving girl, was suddenly cast upon a bed of suffering. Completely paralyzed on one side, and nearly blind, she heard the family

doctor say to her friends who surrounded her, "She has seen her best days, poor child!" "Oh 'oo, doctor," to she said, "my best days are yet come, when I shall see the King in his beauty."