

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## A STREET IN TUNIS.

AND an inviting looking street, too, in which to walk, isn't it?

You know the city of Tunis is surrounded by a double wall five miles in circuit and defended by a strong castle, which accounts for the archway and masonry you see in the picture.

But I forgot to tell you where Tunis is, though I imagine that all the readers of this paper have studied geography, and perhaps some of you have even been to this old city; still, in case some one should get hold of this paper, and I hope they may, who knows nothing of Tunis, I will state that it is the capital city of a country of the same name in the north of Africa. It is built near the site of ancient Carthage, that Phœnician city founded nearly nine hundred years before Christ. Tunis is a very old city itself, and contains about 120,000 inhabitants. It has many manufactures, of which woollen cloths and caps, embroidery, leather and the essences of Jasmine, musk and rose, are the principal ones. Hides, cattle, caps, wool, oil, soap, grain, wax, sponges, ivory and gold-dust are also exported.

You will find by reading history that Tunis has been the scene of much bloodshed. It has been conquered and re-conquered. It was captured by Charles the V. in 1535; and you remember that Louis the IX. of France invaded it and died there. Study up its history. It will interest you.

## HOW CLOTHES-PINS ARE MADE.

CLOTHES-PINS now come principally from Maine, where the requisite lumber is abundant. A Bangor paper describes the way they are made in one of the large factories, at Vanceboro in that State.

The wood used is mainly white birch and beech. The logs are cut and hauled to the shores of the lake or the streams emptying into it, whence they are floated down to the mill. As fast as required they are hauled into the mill by a windlass and chain worked by steam power, and sawed into lengths of 16 or 22 inches—the former to be made into pins and the latter into boards for the boxes required in packing. The 16-inch lengths are next

sawn into boards of the requisite thickness by a shingle machine, then into strips of the proper size by a gang of twelve circular saws, and finally into 5-inch lengths by a gang of three saws.

The logs have now been cut up into blocks about five inches long and three-fourths of an inch square. Falling, as they leave the saws, on an

subjected to a high temperature generated by steam-pipes, until thoroughly seasoned. There are several of these bins, the largest of which has a capacity of one hundred boxes, or 72,000 pins, and the smaller ones fifty boxes.

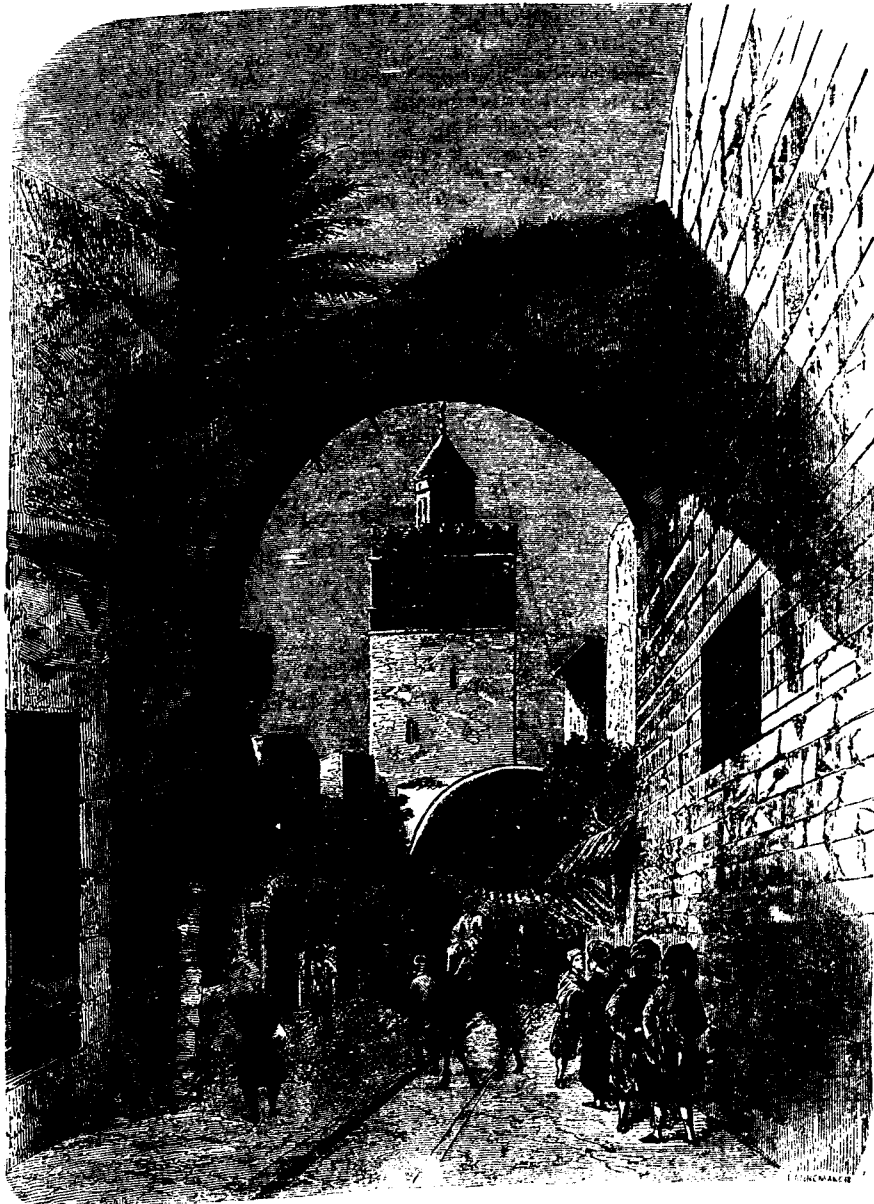
The pins are now ready for polishing and packing. The polishing is accomplished by means of

perforated cylinders or drums, each capable of holding forty bushels, in which the pins are placed and kept revolving until they become as smooth as if polished by hand with the finest sand-paper. A few minutes before this process is completed, a small amount of tallow is thrown in the drums with the pins, after which a few more revolutions give them a beautiful glossy appearance. These polishing drums are suspended directly over the packing counter on the first floor of the mill, and being thus immediately beneath the ceiling of the floor above, are readily filled through scuttles from the drying bins on the second floor, and as easily emptied on the counter below, where the pins are sorted into first and second grades, and packed in boxes of five gross each. The sorting and packing are done by girls. Two hundred and fifty boxes are packed in a day.

The markets for clothes-pins are not confined to any special locality, but are found nearly all over the world. Ten thousand boxes have been shipped to Melbourne, Australia, within four months. Ten firms in London carry a stock of ten thousand boxes each, and two firms in Boston carry a like amount.

In nothing is the wisdom of the founder of Methodism more apparent than in his provision for the training of the youth committed to his care. To his preach-

ers he said: "Take pains with the children, and in visiting from house to house, else you will see little fruit of your labour." The ruler of Egypt who forbade a teacher to read the Koran to adults little understood that, in restricting the instruction to children, he was adding to the teacher's power. On the adults he might make little impression; or if some salutary impressions were made, they might be easily removed; but on the youth his instructions would be like engraving on brass or iron.



A STREET IN TUNIS, NORTH AFRICA.

elevator belt, they are carried into an upper story, and returning to the first floor are deposited in troughs whence they are fed to the turning lathes, of which there are several—each being capable of turning eighty pins a minute. They are then passed to the slotting machines in which a peculiar arrangement of knives inserted in a circular saw gives the slot the proper flange, after which they are automatically carried by elevator-belts to the drying bins on the second floor, where they are