

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## THE ECLIPSE.

THE boys in the picture are looking at the sun through a piece of smoked glass. It was reported that there would be an eclipse of the sun, and so they found a piece of broken glass, held it over a lighted candle that the surface of it might be coated with smoke in order that they may look at the bright sun without injuring their eyes.

An eclipse of the sun is caused by the moon coming between it and the earth. Sometimes it becomes so dark that persons can hardly see. The next time there is an eclipse of the sun don't fail to look at it through a piece of smoked glass. You will then see a dark object moving gradually upon the sun until that luminary is almost totally hidden. It will be worth seeing. Examine the almanac, which will tell you when the next eclipse occurs, have your glass ready and you will see something you will never forget.

## HOW ALL MAY STUDY ASTRONOMY.

THERE was never a time when the heavens were studied by so many amateur astronomers as at present. In every civilized country many excellent telescopes are owned and used, often to very good purpose, by persons who are not practical astronomers, but who wish to see for themselves the marvels of the sky, and who occasionally stumble upon something that is new even to professional star-gazers. Yet, notwithstanding this activity in the cultivation of astronomical studies, it is probably safe to assert that hardly one person in a hundred knows the chief stars by name, or can even recognize the principal constellations, much less distinguish the planets from the fixed stars. And of course they know nothing of the intellectual pleasure that accompanies a knowledge of the stars. Modern astronomy is so rapidly and wonderfully linking the earth and the sun, together with all the orbs of

space, in the bonds of close physical relationship, that a person of education and general intelligence can offer no valid excuse for not knowing where to look for Sirius, or Aldebaran, or the Orion Nebula, or the planet Jupiter. As Australia and New Zealand and

and in the sun and all his multitude of fellows, which nobody can afford to ignore.

Perhaps one reason why the average educated man or woman knows so little of the starry heavens is because it is popularly supposed that only the

to give one an acquaintance with the stars and planets which will be not only pleasurable but useful. And with the aid of an opera-glass most interesting, gratifying, and in some instances scientifically valuable observations may be made in the heavens.

I have more than once heard persons who knew nothing about the stars, and probably cared less, utter exclamations of surprise and delight when persuaded to look at certain parts of the sky with a good glass, and thereafter manifest an interest in astronomy of which they would formerly have believed themselves incapable. *Popular Science Monthly.*

## THE SEA CAPTAIN'S STORY.

I HAD a little vessel on the coast. She had four men besides myself. I had my wife and two children on board. The night was stormy, and my brother was to stand watch that night. The seamen prevailed on him to take "one glass," to help him perform his duties; but, being unaccustomed to liquor, he fell asleep, and in the night I awoke to find my vessel a wreck.

I took my wife and one of my little ones in my arms, and she took the other, and for hours we battled with the cold waves. After hours of suffering, the waves swept my little one from my embrace, then, after more hours of suffering, the waves swept the little one from my wife's arms, and our two dears were lost to us for ever. After more battling with the storm and waves, behold! she was cold in death.

I made my way to the shore, and here I am—my wife, my children, and all my earthly possessions lost for "one glass" of rum! Oh, beware of the intoxicating cup!

A LITTLE sick boy was told by his mother to take a powder she had prepared for him "Powder powder!" said he. "Mother, I aint a gun!"



THE ECLIPSE.

all the islands of the sea are made a part of the civilized world through the expanding influence of commerce and cultivation, so the suns and planets around us are, in a certain sense, falling under the dominion of the restless and resistless mind of man. We have come to possess vested intellectual interests in Mars and Saturn,

most powerful telescopes and costly instruments of the observatory are capable of dealing with them. No greater mistake could be made. It does not require an optical instrument of any kind, nor much labour, as compared with that expended in the acquirement of some polished accomplishment, regarded as indispensable,