

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

Vol. XII.]

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 3, 1892.

[No. 36.]

## Golden-Rod.

BY CLARA DOTY HATES.

An idle breeze strayed up and down  
The rusty fields and meadows brown,  
Sighing a grievous sigh: "Ah, me!  
Where can the summer blossoms be?"  
When suddenly a glorious face  
Shone on him from a weedy space,  
And with an airy, plummy nod,  
"Good afternoon!" said Golden Rod.

The breeze received her courtesy,  
And then came hurrying home to me,  
And eagerly this story told:  
"I've seen a lady dressed in gold,  
So shining, that the very light  
That touched her is double bright;  
She nodded, too, a royal nod."  
"Why, that," I said, "is Golden Rod!"

"Come out and see her where she stands,  
Gold on her head and in her hands,"  
He cried; and I without delay  
Went after where he led the way;  
And there she stood, all light, all grace,  
Illuminating that weedy place,  
And to us both, with airy nod,  
"Good afternoon!" said Golden Rod.

## NATIVES OF HAWAII.

WHEN Lady Brassey, the noted traveller, reached the Sandwich Islands, she and her party visited the volcano of Kilauea, where they spent Christmas Day. The crater is a lake of fire a mile across, boiling like Acheron. "Dashing against the cliffs with a noise like the roar of a stormy ocean, waves of blood-red fiery lava tossed their spray high in the air." Returning over the lava bed, she continues: "Once I slipped, and my foot sank through the thin crust. Sparks issued from the ground, and the stick on which I leaned caught fire before I could fairly recover myself." Soon after a river of lava overflowed the ground on which they had just walked. The natives of Hawaii seem almost amphibious. On a narrow board mere boys will ride upon the wildest surf or rapids; and, for the amusement of the tourists, two natives leaped from a cliff, a hundred feet high, into the sea at its base, as shown in the picture.

## EGYPT AND THE HOLY LAND.\*

Rev. Dr. Withrow, editor of the *Methodist Magazine*, has just returned from an extended tour of Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land, which he made in company with a half dozen congenial friends. The experiences of the trip, the sights he saw, the distinguished personages he met and the impressions he formed are thus described by Dr. Withrow:

"I left about the middle of February," he began. "There was in the party Judge Carman, of Cornwall, brother of Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of our church, and Mrs. Carman, his accomplished wife; Rev. S. G. Rorke, of the Bay of Quinte Conference, Rev. F. A. Read, of the Montreal Conference, and we were joined by Rev. M. B. Satterfield, of Chicago. We went direct to London, spending an hour on the way at Liverpool. We were a few days in London, three hours in Paris, after which we went on to Lyons, Avignon,

Arles, Marseilles, Nice, where we saw the famous battle of the flowers on the last day of the carnival; Genoa, Pisa, visiting the leaning towers, or the leaning miracles as they have been called; Rome, Naples and across the Apennines in a snowstorm to Brindisi.

## LAND OF THE PHAROHS.

"From Brindisi we went to Cairo, where

the force of the firman, but the British Government was firm and finally carried its point. I have heard that people who were under the French influence, and who derived benefit from the French administration—certain bankers and the commercial class—were restive under British protection, but the great body of the people, as far as I could judge from the testimony of missionaries and intelligent natives, felt

about the whole force of the empire was behind them. A few English officers at Assouan in the native regiments give a steadiness and, to foreigners at least, a feeling of confidence.

## UP THE NILE.

"We enjoyed exceedingly our 800 miles sail up the Nile to the first cataract in Nubia and our visit to the Temple of Phike above the first cataract, the most beautiful temple in all Egypt. We spent three days exploring the stupendous ruins of Karnak and Luxor and Thebes. The ruins are wonderfully impressive and extended over miles of ground, the temple at Karnak alone being 1,200 feet in length. The temples of Denderah, Edfu, Esneh and many others are of surprising extent and for the most part in admirable preservation. The whole country swarms with life. The great need is more economical irrigation, which the British commissioners are securing by means of dams and dikes for retaining the water of the Nile at its flood. At present almost all the irrigation is procured by manual labour by the employment of shadoofs, an arrangement somewhat like the Canadian wheel sweep, whereby the water is lifted over sometimes four or five barriers. It is most clumsy, but labour is cheap and it does not seem to count for much.

## IN THE HOLY LAND.

"We spent a month in Palestine, most of the time on horseback, sometimes in the saddle twelve hours a day. There were scarcely any roads, the horse tracks being very rugged and sometimes we had only the dry bed of the torrent. The railway to Jerusalem is almost completed as far as Ramleh, almost thirteen miles from Jaffa. A good deal of the road from Ramleh and Jerusalem is also completed. There is an excellent carriage road from Jaffa to Jerusalem, and one is being constructed from Jerusalem to Jericho. It was not, however, completed, and we had to ride, protected by an Arab escort. We saw thousands of Russian, Greek, Cypriot and Abyssinian pilgrims to sacred places, trudging in the hot sun with their sheepskin fur-lined coats. The Moslem population of Hebron and Nablous were very fanatical and followed us with curses and spitting. The Syrian Christians, on the contrary, received us with the greatest kindness, throwing the roofs of their houses and bidding us welcome. Our entrance was more like a royal progress than anything else. We were kept busy returning their salutations. The country around Jerusalem is one of the utmost sterility. The plains of Sharon and Esdralon were, however, of remarkable fertility. In the latter I saw a field of magnificent wheat of about 18,000 acres, which, with out any fences, looked very fine.

## JERUSALEM AS IT IS TO-DAY.

"Jerusalem is in many respects a disappointment and a disillusion. The city within the walls is very squalid and dirty. Without the walls there is a good deal of growth and a number of buildings are springing up, largely from the liberality of wealthy Hebrews, conspicuous among whom were Baron Hirsch, the late Sir Joseph Montefiore and Baron Rothschild. Dr. Merrill, the American consul at Jerusalem, states that the entire number of Jews in Palestine is under 50,000, and it is very slowly increasing. We saw a num-



HIGH LEAP AT HILO.

we spent ten days. We saw the Khedive. He is a bright-looking young fellow and seems very popular. While we were in Egypt the British Government achieved a great diplomatic triumph over the sublime Porte by insisting that the firman confirming the Khedive in his vice-royalty should be in the broad and liberal terms of that which confirmed his father before him. The Turkish Government proposed to limit

that British administration is the greatest blessing that Egypt has ever had. Egypt has been enabled to pay interest on its public debt, and the public works have been carried out without the corvée or enforced labour which was such a terror to the fallen and without the use of the lash, which their former taskmasters employed without mercy. There were less than 3,000 British troops in the country, and

\*In the *Methodist Magazine* for July a full illustrated account of this journey is begun. Special rates to schools.