

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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THAT GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD.

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on earth, good will to men"
From heaven's all-gracious King;
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing;
And ever o'er its babel-sounds
The blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song that they bring—
Oh, hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing;

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Whose toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing—
Oh, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever circling years,
Comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendours fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

THE GIRALDA, SEVILLE

THE accompanying engraving is an excellent representation of the famous Giralda, of Seville, reputed one of the most beautiful towers in the world. It was built 700 years ago as the muezzin tower of the Saracenic mosque. The immense bronze figure of Faith at the top, veers round with the wind, whence the name Giralda. The tower is 350 feet high, and the decoration of the exterior is most magnificent. The mosque—now a cathedral—has one of the largest organs in the world, and is considered one of the most remarkable and beautiful buildings in existence. This engraving is one of a large number which will appear in the *Methodist Magazine* for 1885, illustrating an exceedingly interesting account of travel, entitled "Wanderings in Spain." Spain is one of the most romantic and picturesque countries in Europe, and this series of pictures and sketches will be of unusual importance.

BRITISH FEDERATION.

HERE is no other government in the world which is so "extended" as is that of Great Britain. The United Kingdom—England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland—covers an area of only one hundred and twenty-one

of Newfoundland, which was acquired in 1583; her youngest is the Island of Cyprus, over which she extended sovereignty in 1878.

The governments of these colonies are of three kinds: first, by the crown, that is, by absolute rule, the people having no part in the government. This is the system for India, and indeed

This is the form of government for Ceylon, the Bahamas, the Bermudas, and other colonies, having a total population of a little less than four millions.

Finally, there is the system of responsible government, which is allowed to Canada, Newfoundland, the Cape Colony and Australia only, with a combined population of eight and one half millions.

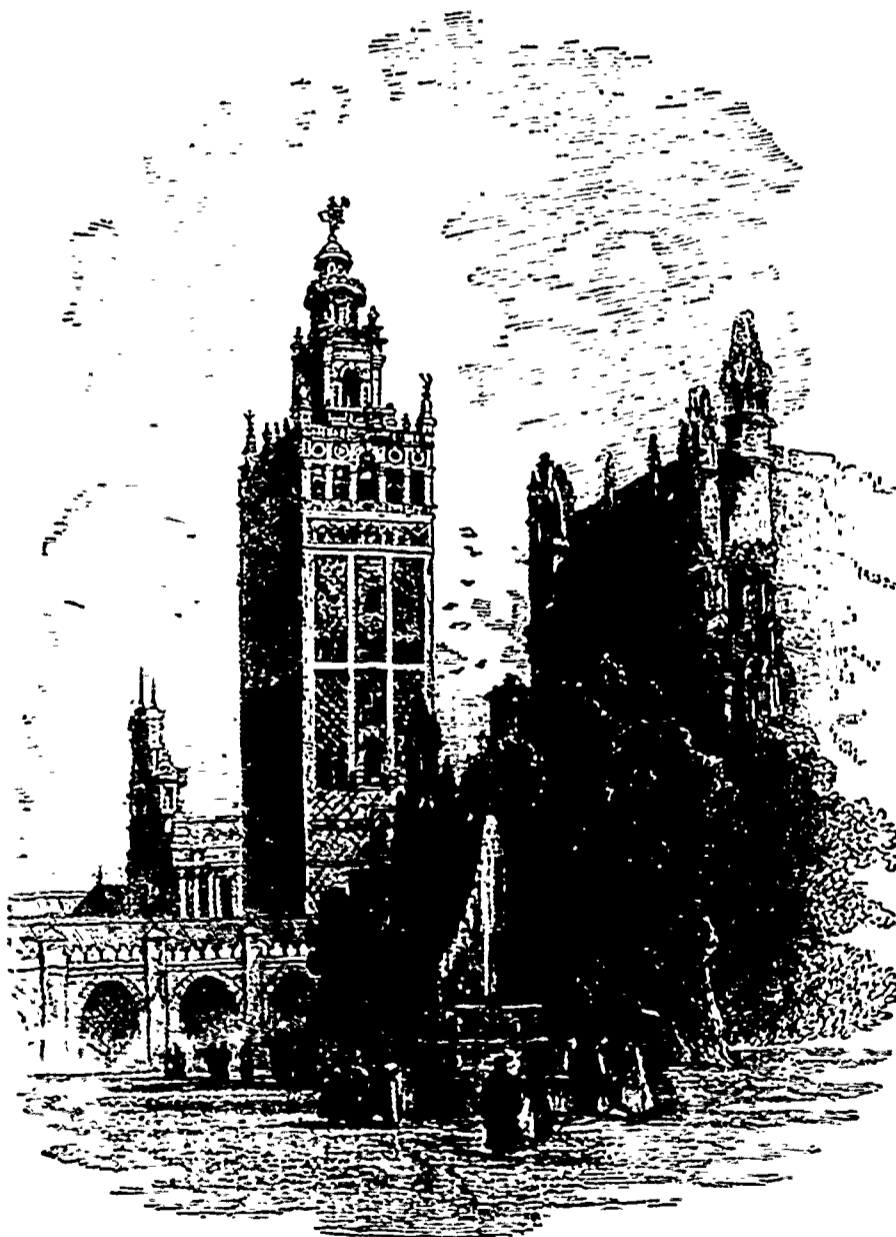
The several provinces which now constitute the Dominion of Canada were formerly independent of each other. They were united by an Act of Parliament passed in 1867. The Dominion is sometimes called a federation, or an association of allied States. It is more than that; it is almost a true union.

Now there is a strong movement in favour of a similar federation of all the governments of Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. There are some difficulties in the way of this scheme which no one has yet been able to surmount.

Beyond this there is a much larger project. It is proposed to make a federation of the British Empire. The details have been worked out by no statesman as yet; but the plan involves a political, or a commercial, union, perhaps both, of the home government and the whole or a part of the colonies.

The idea is a grand one, but in carrying it out there will be immense difficulties. For England would hardly care to give up the absolute power which, in spite of representative governments, she holds over her colonies; and Canada or Australia would apparently gain little or nothing by sharing with each other the government which each now possesses, independent of any other power than England.

If, however any way can be found to accomplish the desired result, it will attach the colonies to the mother country more strongly than ever, and make of Great Britain a much more powerful country than she now is.



THE GIRALDA, SEVILLE.

thousand square miles, a little more than the area of New England and New York, and its population is thirty-five and a quarter millions. Its colonies cover almost eight million square miles, and have a combined population of more than two hundred millions. These colonies are on every continent and in almost every sea. England's oldest colony is that

for most of the colonies in number. The whole colonial population under this species of government is almost two hundred and two millions.

The next class of government is that of representative institutions. The people choose legislatures and make laws; but the home government may veto those laws, and it retains full control over all public officers.

the very sight of the intoxicating draught is enough to awaken the appetite in some men, so that it becomes necessary for them to make a covenant even with their eyes.

WINE is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.