

# PLEASANT HOURS

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## ANTIOCH.

BY THE EDITOR.

FOR six hundred years Antioch deserved the title given it by Pliny—"the Queen of the East." Here was a magnificent temple of Apollo, and the famous grove of Daphne was the scene at once of the greatest profligacy and splendour. A high degree of Greek civilization was mingled with an Asiatic luxury. To the addiction of the inhabitants to a scurrilous wit and the invention of nicknames, may be attributed the appellation of Christians first

among the ruins of Apollo's worship, and chases the fox and jackal over the ashes of classic glory.

As to morals, we cannot praise the ancient people of Antioch. It was at once the greatest and the worst of all Greek Oriental cities under the sway of Rome. Nevertheless, Christianity in Antioch won vast trophies during the early centuries, and here was founded the Church of the Gentiles, at one time there were, in the city limits, 360 churches and monasteries. From here, Paul and Barnabas, with other devoted souls, went forth with the Gospel into the West, and as a

wholly or partially destroyed by earthquakes nearly twenty times, the last one occurring in 1872. On two of these occasions 260 000 souls perished in three minutes. The city was captured and plundered by Sapor, of Persia. Justinian rebuilt and called it "The City of God," in A.D. 536. It was twice taken by Chogroes, was captured by the Saracens, A.D. 638, and retaken by Nicephorus Phocas, A.D. 966. One hundred thousand Saracens perished in an attempt to recapture it, A.D. 970. After a terrific siege, Godefroy of Bouillon captured the city, June 3, 1098, and next

Sabbath and weekly preaching services, attended by considerable numbers. There is a Church here, with a native pastor, connected with the mission of the American Board. Efforts towards self-support are promising. Surely in the missionary efforts put forth in Asia Minor this ancient home of Christians should not be forgotten.

The stream in the foreground of the picture is the famous Orontes. The fortifications which dominate the town were erected by Ibrahim Pasha. The streets are narrow and crooked, and it is difficult to believe that this squalid town is the successor of that city of



ANTIOCH.

given in this city, in derision and scorn, to the followers of Jesus Christ. On the decline of the Roman empire, it suffered severely by wars with Persia. In 331 it was visited by a famine so terrible that a bushel of wheat sold for 400 pieces of silver. When Julian the Apostate endeavoured to restore the worship of Apollo at his once famous shrine, he found only a single miserable priest, and the only sacrifice to the god that he could present was a goose. Its luxury had once been so dangerous that the Roman soldiery were stringently forbidden to approach the place. Here, in purple and jewels, the most accomplished courtiers lived and revelled in pleasure. But now the half-naked barbarian herds his goats

result we are now rejoicing in its blessed hopes. Ten councils holden here, at which Arianism and other heresies were condemned, give Antioch a prominent place in Church history. Among the powerful patriarchates of the early Church, as Constantinople, Rome, Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Antioch, the latter occupied a conspicuous place, and exists, under the Greek Church, until this hour. In letters and oratory the city furnished some distinguished names, such as Ignatius, Theophilus, John Chrysostom, Severus, and Sergius, all famous in the Church.

The political history of Antioch is most eventful, and might be introduced by the statement that it has been

it fell into the hands of the Sultans of Egypt, A.D. 1268. It was, however, speedily turned over to the Turks, who have remained its masters to this day, except during a brief period from 1839 to 1840, when it was held by Ibrahim Pasha of Egypt, who was compelled by the interposition of England to restore it to the Turks.

At the present time Antioch contains about 13,000 souls consisting of Moslems, Greeks, Pagans, Jews, Armenians, Catholics, and Protestants. Missionary operations are carried on by the American Board and the Reformed Presbyterians of Ireland. The latter, using the Arabic language, have large and flourishing schools under the care of Rev. James Martin, M.D., with

brilliant Greek civilization which fills so large a place in history

### "STOP THAT BOY."

THAT boy with a cigar in his mouth, a swagger in his walk, impudence in his face, a care for nothingness in his manner. Stop him! he is going too fast, he does not know his speed. Stop him before tobacco shatters his nerves, before pride ruins his character, before the leafy masters the man; before ambition and youthful strength give way to low pursuits and brutish aims. Stop all such boys! They are the disgrace of their towns, the sad and solemn reproaches of themselves.