

# PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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## A Boy's Mother.

BY J. WHITCOMB RILEY.

My mother, she's so good to me!  
If I was good as I could be,  
I couldn't be as good. No, sir!  
Can't any boy be good as her!

She loves me when I'm glad er mad;  
She loves me when I'm gladder  
bad;  
An' what's a funniest thing,  
she says  
She loves me when she pun-  
ishes!

I don't like her to punish me;  
That don't hurt, but it hurts  
to see  
Her cryin'; nen I cry; an'  
nen  
We both cry, an' be good  
again.

She loves me when she cuts  
and sews  
My little cloak and Sunday  
clothes;  
An' when my pa comes home  
to tea,  
She loves him 'most as much  
as me!

She laughs and tells him all I  
said,  
An' grabs me up, and pats my  
head;  
An' I hug her, an' hug my pa,  
An' love him purt' nigh much  
as ma.

## FREDERICK THE GREAT AND THE PAGE.

Our picture represents an incident recorded in the life of Frederick the Great. This somewhat irascible monarch found one day a page asleep in the waiting room, and espied a letter sticking out of his pocket. The rather unscrupulous king abstracted the letter and found it was a very touching one from the aged mother of the boy, full of love messages and praise for her son, but betraying very straitened domestic circumstances. The king's heart was touched, and folding a bank note in the letter he replaced it in the lad's pocket. He was greatly pleased at the lad's surprise and delight when he awoke and found he was able to help his mother.

When the present writer was visiting the palace of "Sans Souci" which means "without care" (although the weary monarch often found it very full of care indeed), we saw the long anteroom where this scene was supposed to have occurred. I was struck with the very narrow seats on which the pages had to sit while waiting. The guide said that the pages used to fall asleep, so the king had the seats made small so that they could not go to sleep with comfort, so they had to keep awake. Possibly on one of these very seats the

page may have had his sleep which was followed by such a pleasant awakening.

The old king, I have said, found Sans Souci very full of care. At the end of the terrace are shown the graves of his dogs and horses with their epitaphs and the monarch used to say, "When I sleep there beneath the sod, then, and not till then, shall I be 'free from care.'"

under the sun, there would be two inches of salt left on the bottom. Taking the average depth of the ocean to be three miles, there would be a layer of pure salt 20 feet thick on the bed of the Atlantic. The water is colder at the bottom than at the surface. In the many bays on the coast of Norway the water often freezes at the bottom before it does above.

of water. The force of the sea dashing on Bell Rock is said to be seventeen tons for each square yard. Evaporation is a wonderful power in drawing the water from the sea. Every year a layer of the sea fourteen feet thick is taken up into the clouds. The winds bear their burdens to the land, and water comes down in rain upon the fields, at last through rivers. The depth of the sea presents an interesting problem. If the Atlantic were lowered 6,564 feet the distance from shore to shore would be half as great, or 1,500 miles. If lowered a little more than three miles, say 19,680 feet, there would be a road of dry land from Newfoundland to Ireland. This is the place on which the great Atlantic cables were laid. The Mediterranean is comparatively shallow. A drying up of 660 feet would leave three different seas, and Africa would be joined to Italy. The British Channel is more like a pond, which accounts for its choppy waves.

It has been difficult to get correct soundings of the Atlantic. A midshipman of the navy overcame the difficulty, and a shot weighing thirty pounds carries down the line. A hole is bored through the sinker, through which a rod of iron is passed, moving easily back and forth. In the end of the bar a cup is dug out and the inside is coated with lard. The bar is made fast to the line, and a sling holds the shot on. When the bar, which extends below the ball, touches the earth the sling unhooks and the shot slides off. The lard in the end of the bar holds some of the sand, or whatever may be on the bottom, and a drop shuts over the cup to keep the water from washing the sand out. When the ground is reached, a shock is felt as if an electric current had passed through the line.

—*Electrical Review.*

## SURE SIGNS.

SOLOMON said, many centuries ago, "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right."

When I see a boy slow to go to school, and glad of every excuse to neglect his books, I think it a sign that he will

be a dunce. When I see a boy haste to spend his every penny as soon as he gets it, I think it is a sign that he will be a spendthrift.

When I see boys and girls often quarrelling, I think it a sign that they will be violent and hateful men and women.

When I see a child obedient to his parents, I think it is a sign of great future blessings from Almighty God.



FREDERICK THE GREAT AND THE PAGE.

## WONDERS OF THE SEA.

THE sea occupies three-fifths of the surface of the earth. At a depth of about 3,500 feet waves are not felt. The temperature is the same, varying only a trifle from the ice of the pole to the burning sun of the equator. A mile down the water has a pressure of over a ton to the square inch. If a box six feet deep were filled with sea-water and allowed to evaporate

Waves are very deceptive. To look at them in a storm one would think the water travelled. The water stays in the same place but the motion goes on. Sometimes in storms these waves are forty feet high, and travel fifty miles an hour—more than twice as fast as the swiftest steamer. The distance from valley to valley is generally fifteen times the height, hence a wave five feet high will extend over seventy-five feet

be a dunce.