

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

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THE ALPINE SHEPHERD.

Many pleasing pictures have been drawn for us, by travellers, of the Alpine shepherd and his flock. The grassy slopes of the Alps afford fine pasturage for the herds of cows, goats, and sheep owned by the mountaineers. Both men and women tend these flocks, often along the precipitous sides of the mountains, where it would be death to any foot less sure to tread. The short skirts of the women and the bobtailed jackets of the men, give them the appearance of boys and girls, until their faces are seen.

These Swiss mountaineers are sturdy, hardy people, generally honest and polite, though always on the sharp lookout to make whatever fee they can by guiding travellers over the precipitous slopes of the mountains. Their flocks consist chiefly of goats. These goats are usually belled, and each bell is said to possess a different tone. When they are all clanging together, travellers declare that it is really like listening to music to hear them.

Each shepherd carries, in addition to his alpenstock—a stick for climbing—a great horn, known as the "Alpine horn." This horn is truly a huge affair, and it is often the source of wonder to travellers how the shepherd can bear to be burdened with it. Sometimes it is as much as eight feet long, and nearly always from four to six. It is made either of wood or metal, and often a most musical combination of sounds can be produced upon it by a skillful player. Sometimes an entire air is played, the principal one being the Swiss "Ranz des Vaches," or the cattle call. When they hear it the flocks always quit their browsing, and find their way to the shepherd in answer to the summons. In this way they are gathered together for their homeward journey.

The shepherd in the picture does not seem to have a horn anything like so long as the Alpine horns are said to be. Doubtless he is too sensible to provide himself with one so cumbersome.

BASEBALL.

The American people seem to have gone almost crazy about baseball. In every large city there are baseball clubs which have a national reputation. Even the smallest towns do not feel themselves up to the times without baseball grounds

and frequent contests with their neighbours. That would be an old foggy sort of school which did not have its "nine." From May to November our daily papers are full of baseball news. Large salaries are paid to famous players, and millions of dollars are expended to witness important games. We have no means of making an accurate comparison, but we should not be surprised if as much money is spent

the game. If men, for the sake of the salary and the reputation they earn in baseball grounds, are willing to endure the heat of summer and the danger of being maimed for life, how much more ought professing Christians be ready to toil, that they may win a heavenly crown? If people are willing to spend so much money to see their favourite champions win

the hotly-contested field, how much more should we be willing to spend as much, and more, to bring the world back to God? Is it not a shame that a nation professing to be Christian should be more interested in baseball than in the awful conflict between good and evil raging everywhere, and involving the salvation or ruin of immortal souls? Let all Christian people show the same zeal which is shown for baseball, and the world will soon be won to God.—*Forward.*

THE FIRE THAT "OLD NICK" BUILT.

AN imitation of the "House that Jack built."

"Intemperance."—This is the fire that Old Nick built.

"Moderate drinking."—This is the fuel that feeds the fire that Old Nick built.

"Rum-selling."—This is the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that Old Nick built.

"Legislation."—This is the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that Old Nick built.

"Public Opinion."—This is the sledge with its face of steel that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that Old Nick built.

"A Temperance Meeting."—This is one of the blows that we quietly deal to fashion the sledge with its face of steel that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that Old Nick built.

"A Temperance Pledge."—This is the smith that works with a will to give force to the blow that we

quietly deal to fashion the sledge with its face of steel that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that Old Nick built.

"Eternal Truth."—This is the spirit so gentle and still that nerves the smith to work with a will to give force to the blows which we quietly deal to fashion the sledge with its face of steel that batters the stone that grinds the axe that cuts the wood that feeds the fire that Old Nick built.



AN ALPINE SHEPHERD.

during the season for baseball as for all our churches combined.

We say these things not specially to find fault, for we believe baseball to be a noble game; and, apart from the betting that has grown to be connected with it, one of the best athletic sports. If people will spend money for amusements, it is probably better that they do it for an outdoor game like this rather than at the theatre or circus. But we want, like the apostle of old, to draw a lesson from