

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

LIFE SAVING

One of the noblest government institutions is the Life-preserving Service. These stations are located in suitable places near the coast of oceans or lakes, to be of service to vessels in distress, either by storm or fire. At these stations the life-boats are kept, and all the arrangements for sending out help.

When a vessel falls into danger, a signal of distress is given, and at once the men at the station prepare for work, just as earnestly as the firemen do in cities when a signal for fire is given. They do not employ horses, but they pull a sort of two-wheeled cart near the bank. On this are heavy coils of rope and a mortar or short cannon. This is loaded, and with it they shoot out a line of rope, over the vessel. First a small-sized rope

is sent; at once the men in the vessel draw in the rope, and as they draw it in, the men on shore attach a heavier rope, on which to carry the life-car. Our first picture shows them firing the life-line, as it is called, over the vessel. Though this is only a small rope, it is welcomed, as a precious means of life, and in receiving the first offer of life, more comes.

In 1877 a vessel fell into danger, and when signal was made to them they gave no answer. Then the life-boat was sent out, yet they seemed not to notice it. Night approached, when the earnest men on shore succeeded in getting a reply, asking for a life-boat. At once they were told to "Haul on the rope." This they did. It was found that the vessel was a Norwegian barque, and perhaps at first they might have thought, on a foreign shore, they could not ask for help. Hours had passed because they did not understand the plan. Had they not yielded to ask for help, and so enabled the men on shore to instruct them, in a short time all would have been lost. How many souls are acting much in the same way about salvation? They say they do not understand how Christ's suffering can atone for their sin, or there are so many things in the Bible that they do not understand, and so they do not heed the life-line exhortation floating over

them, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Praise the Lord! some will cry out for help whether they fully understand every detail or not, and are saved.

As the men on the vessel draw in the rope a life-car soon reached them, and was filled with passengers, and shut up water-tight, and drawn back to land in safety. Thus all the precious lives were saved. Our next picture shows the life-car as it returns from its journey to the ones in danger. It looks too small, but it can hold a lot of people, and protect them from danger.

What rejoicing and thanksgiving there must have been, when the life-car was landed on shore and opened, and the dear ones taken out in perfect safety!

Baby is the first lifted out, and then one after another, until they all stand out of danger. The old vessel must go down, but they are safe. The storm may rage, but they are out of its reach. The men who laboured to send them this means of escape forget their labour, and rejoice to know the crew are saved.

Thus, redeemed souls rejoice to be free from the wrath which hung over them, forgetting the old haunts of sin which so lately bound them, now giving praise to God for new life. No praise is expected by those who led these souls to

God. No thought of the many entreaties and prayers, but a general rejoicing over the salvation of souls. Every young Christian, or old, may engage in the work of rescuing souls from eternal death, and this is more important than saving the body.

A CUP OF COFFEE.

A vessel had just come from the other side of the world. "Wild Jim," as he was called, was going to return to his old Devonshire home.

"You'll astonish the natives a bit," was the good-bye his comrades gave him, as handsome Jim, with his cap on one side, went up the street of Southampton.

He had not gone far on his way to the station, when a bright-looking shop, with a lot of tempting bottles in the window, caught his eye. A jolly landlord standing by his door cried, "Hullo, my brave British tar! welcome back to Mother Earth! Come and have a glass for your safe return!"

"Wild Jim," always ready for a glass, turned in. He sat on hour after hour till his pocket-money was spent, and his head was aching, and he did not know what he was saying. All at once he became aware of the landlord's heavy hands on his shoulders, and a shocked voice saying, "No, no! this is a respectable

and-half. Will you try ours; hot or cold?" "A jorum of something hot!" he cried, wondering what spirits she would give him.

"Are you Devonshire?" she said with a ready tact.

"To be sure I am! to my backbone." "Then would you like some Devonshire cream?"

"Aye! that I would! It's many a day since Devonshire Cream and I have met."

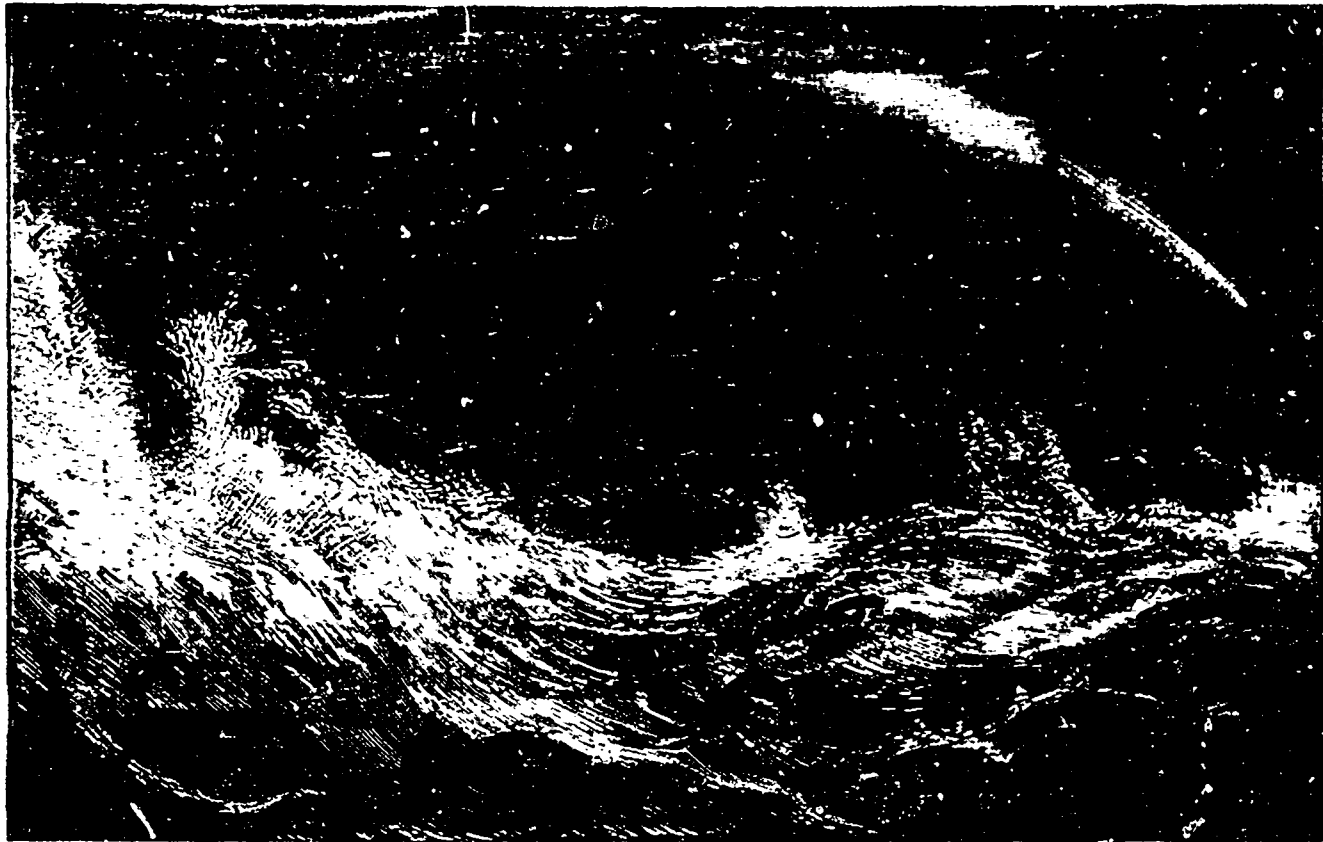
And then he sat down and enjoyed the first cup of coffee he had had for many a long day. When he had finished he pushed his half-crown across the counter, but to his intense astonishment the woman gave him back 2s 5d.

"Well, you will soon have to give up shop if you give away things in this fashion!" he cried.

And then he sat down again; and this time the hours went by, but how differently from the sad morning.

Instead of going to his old Devonshire home, he went back first to his shipmates to try and induce them to join the "new-fangled public."

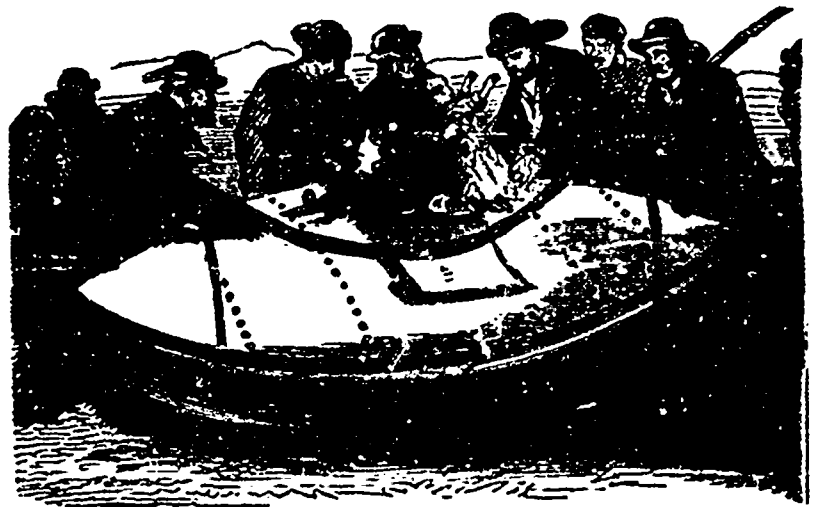
And when he went back to his parents and his old village, "Wild Jim's" name was changed to "Sober Jim." He became a temperance man. "All along," he would say, "under God, of those kind words of that woman and my first cup of coffee."



FIRING THE LIFE-LINE OVER THE VESSEL.



PULLING THE LIFE-CAR TO SHORE.



OPENING THE LIFE-CAR.

house. Never allow too much to be drunk on the premises. And then he was shoved off into the street, and a policeman gave a knowing wink to the landlord.

"Just in time," he whispered; "the superintendent is coming round. I'll get him into the field outside; he'll soon come to."

But Jim was more "to" than they knew, and he felt in his pocket, and found that out of all his money he was going to take to his parents only 2s 6d was left. He waited till he was all but sober and then he retraced his way, as he thought to the station but some how the way was not clear, and he found himself before another bar.

He threw down his 2s. 6d. for "a glass of half-and-half, and make it stiff."

The woman's answer was, "We have not your half-