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PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XIX.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 4, 1899.

No. 44.

An Autumn Fairy.

BY KATHARINE LUDLOW.

One calm, clear night when children all
Were wrapped in slumber deep,
And when the golden autumn moon
Kept watch above their sleep,
A little boy you know quite well,
Back from a long, long trip,
Came sliding down a moonbeam bright,
With many a hop and skip.

The forest trees he crept among,
And shook the nuts from each;
He knew that they were hanging high,
Above the children's reach.
He found no house on all his way,
Too small for him to pass,
Till fairy halls and castles white
Adorned each pane of glass.

When all his work was finished quite,
Before the break of day,
This roguish little boy of ours
Crept quietly away.

the boat in two, would dash away or
dive beneath the waves.

When forced to the surface again for
the necessity of breathing (for whales
are warm-blooded animals like the seal
and must have air), the boatman would,
if possible, hurl another harpoon into
his body. Sometimes after hours of
fatiguing chase the whale would get
away after all. The line attached to
the harpoon was kept coiled up in tubs
at the bow of the boat, and often, so
great was the speed with which the
whale darted away with the harpoon,
that the friction of the rope on the edge
of the tub would kindle it to a flame if
it were not kept wet. There was dan-
ger, too, of the arms or legs of the har-
pooner becoming entangled with the rope,
when it was in danger of cutting the
limbs in two or breaking a bone.

These dangers have now been done
away with by the use of a gun, as shown
in the picture. Sometimes, too, ex-
plosive bombs are used, which kill the

mal organisms on which this huge mon-
ster lives, were screened.

Formerly whale voyages lasted from
three to five years. The whaler took
immense quantities of "hard tack," that
is, very hard crackers, in the puncheons
which afterwards held the oil. Now the
voyage is very much shortened and its
hardships greatly lessened.

IN A GLASS CASE.

Two or three young men who were
visiting in Washington City recently
went into the National Museum. Pass-
ing a cabinet, they glanced at the label
on it, on which were the words, "Body
of a man weighing one hundred and
fifty-four pounds."

"Where is the man?" asked one of
the young men.

No one answered him. In the cabinet
were arranged an odd assemblage of
heterogeneous articles. Among them

one of them said. That is all that
goes to make me?"

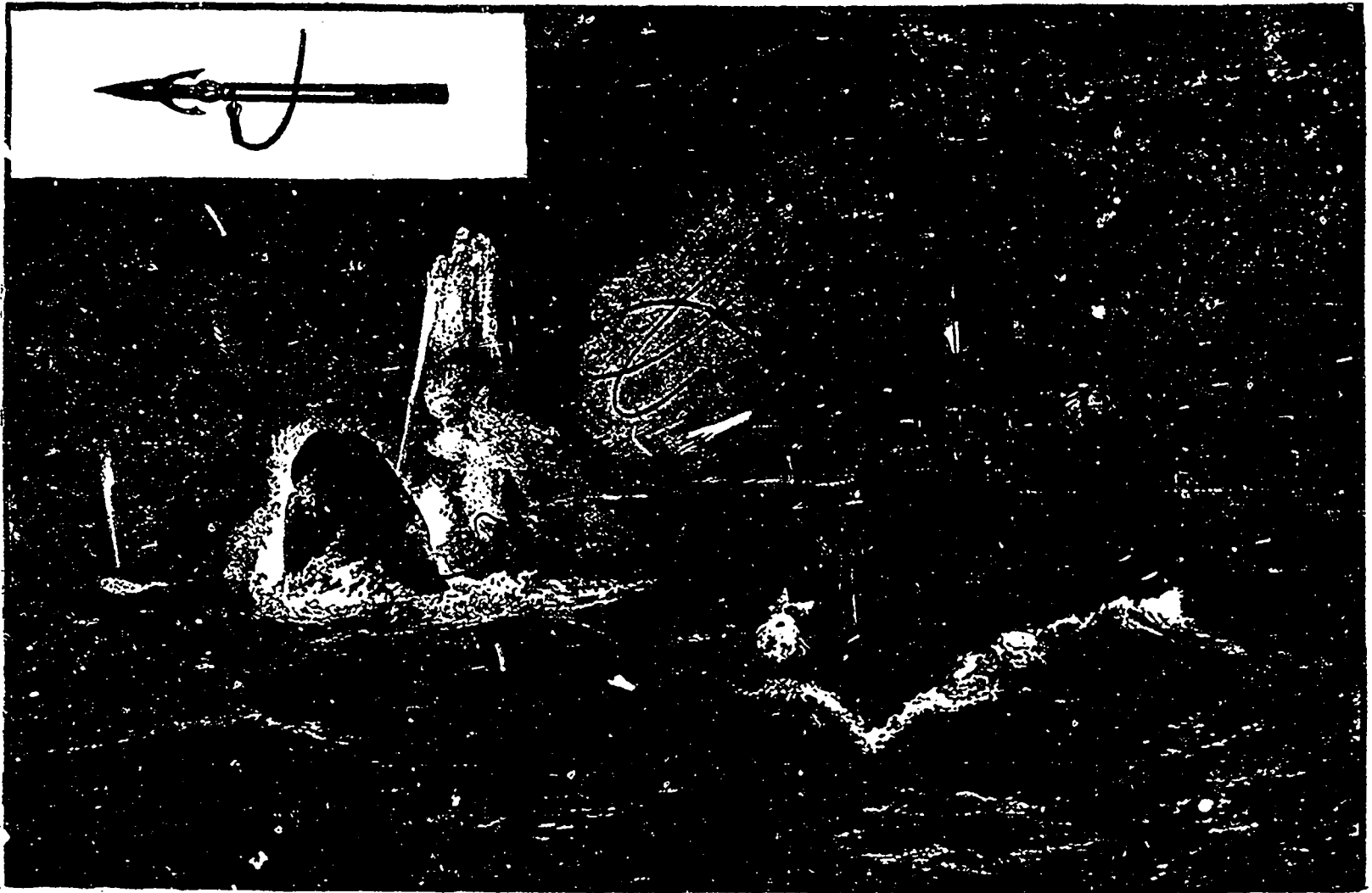
"That is all," said a bystander, smil-
ing, and walked on.

But the young men did not smile. The
cabinets had set before each of them,
for the first time probably, the awful
problem of his own being

"If that is all that is needed," said
one, "so much gas, so much lime, so
much iron, we should all be exactly
alike. There is something more, which
they cannot put into cabinets."

"Yes," said another under his breath,
"that added by the unseen Power, who
puts into these senseless elements that
which makes man a living soul."

They stood a moment and then passed
on in silence. To each of them his
own soul and his God had suddenly be-
come real, before these cabinets filled
with all the essentials for the mak-
ing of a man—but one.—Our Young
Folks.



WHALE HUNTING.

And when the children woke and looked
Upon each window pane,
They jumped and laughed and shouted
loud:
"Jack Frost is here again!"

WHALE HUNTING.

This is one of the most exciting occu-
pations in which any one can engage.
The whale is by far the largest game
which man can hunt. Some of them
will reach seventy or eighty feet in
length and weigh many tons. The use
of cannon and explosive bombs has al-
most revolutionized the whale fishery.
Formerly the whalers used to leave their
ship in open boats, and when a whale
was seen "blowing," that is, spouting
water, at a distance, they would ap-
proach as near as possible and the har-
pooner in the bow would hurl his har-
poon with all the force that he could.
At the word "stern all" the boat would
instantly back and the whale, lashing
the sea with his tail, sometimes cutting

whale instantly. Great care has to be
exercised that the rope is strong, or the
whale may sink to the bottom. When a
whale is caught, he is towed alongside
of the ship. Some of the sailors leap
on his back and with sharp spades begin
cutting the tough skin or blubber. This
is attached to the tackle of the ship and
is hoisted on board, the whale being
turned over and over in the water as this
fatty envelope, sometimes two feet in
thickness, is removed from his body. It
is then cut into pieces and "tried out"
in open furnaces on the deck, built in
with brickwork. The oil is stowed
away in barrels. Its spermaceti, a
superior kind of oil taken from the head,
of which candles are made, and the
whalebone, which was formerly more
valuable than it is now, are also saved.
Whalebone was extensively used for mak-
ing ribs of umbrellas and dressmakers'
trimmings, but light steel is now substi-
tuted. This whalebone has a fringe of
finer fibre attached to its edges by means
of which the small fish and minute ani-

were two large jars of water, also, jars
containing different kinds of fats, other
jars in which were phosphate of lime,
carbonate of lime, a few ounces each of
sugar, potassium, sodium, gelatine, and
other chemicals. Another section held
a row of clear glass jars filled with gases
—hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen; a
square lump of coal, and more bottles
separately labelled phosphorus, calcium,
magnesium, and potassium. In a little
jar was a fraction of an ounce of iron,
and near by was a lump of ill-smelling
brimstone. The materials in these
cabinets are given in exact proportions
as combined in an ordinary man.

"It is very curious and interesting as
far as it goes, said one of the young
men; "but where are the retorts and
tubes, and the fire, and the chemist?"

The young men stood silent, staring at
what seemed to them a gruesome assort-
ment of carbon, and sugar, and gas, and
iron, with a certain awe and disgust.

"And that is what I am made of?"

A MONKEY HERO.

A nobleman had a favourite monkey,
a large orang-outang. The monkey
was very much attached to his master,
and to the baby boy who was the pet of
the whole family.

One day, a fire suddenly broke out in
the house, and everybody was running
here and there to put it out, while the
little boy in the nursery was almost for-
gotten, and when at length they thought
of him, the staircase was all in flames.
What could be done?

As they were looking up and wonder-
ing, a large hairy hand and arm opened
the window, and presently the monkey
appeared with the baby in his arms and
carefully climbed down over the porch,
and brought the child safely to his nurse.
Nobody else could have done it; for a
man cannot climb like a monkey, and
is not near so strong.

You may imagine how the faithful
creature was praised and petted after
that. This is a true story, and the lit-
tle child who was saved was the young
Marquis of Kildare.

The Girls That Are Wanted.

The girls that are wanted are good girls—
Good from the heart to the lips;
Pure as the lily is white and pure,
Pure as the heart to its sweet leaf-tips.
Girls that are fair on the hearthstone,
Ready and anxious to please,
Kind and sweet to their own folks,
And pleasant when nobody sees.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.
STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON VII.—NOVEMBER 12.
REBUILDING THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM.

Neh. 4. 7-18 Memory verses, 15-18

GOLDEN TEXT.

Watch and pray Matt. 26. 41

OUTLINE.

1. Trials and Temptations, v. 7, 8.
 2. Praying and Watching, v. 9-12.
 3. Watching and Working, v. 13-17.
- Time.—About B.C. 444.
Place.—Jerusalem.

LESSON HELPS.

7. "Sanballat" Governor of Samaria, and as such head of the army. He was serving under the king of Persia. "Tebiah" An Ammonite, and joint governor with Sanballat. The others spoken of in this verse were hostile tribes in and around the city. "They were very wroth"—Because they saw that if the walls were rebuilt then the Jews whom they hated would come into power.

8. "Conspired"—Literally the word means, "joined together in one breath." These tribes may have been hostile to each other at times, but now their great hatred for the Jews brought them into harmonious action. When bad men conspire let good men combine. "To hinder it"—The completion of the walls about the city.

9. "We made our prayer unto our God"—For his strength to save them from the persecution of their foes. "And set a watch against them"—Two things are joined, (1) Divine and (2) human help. God helps those who help themselves. God works in us (1) to will and (2) to do. To him then be the glory for (1) the purpose and (2) its execution. Prayer and watchfulness are joined in a holy life.

10. "The strength . . . is decayed"—The workmen worked day and night, and rarely laid aside their clothes (verses 21-23). Earnestness and fidelity are here manifested. "Much rubbish"—The ruins had to be dug away, and the work was exhausting.

11. "They shall not know"—A mistake, for the Jews had set a watch. Do not despise a foe.

12. "They said unto us ten times"—This verse shows the value of earnest information, also the need of repetition sometimes to make truth emphatic. A true friend warns us of threatening dangers.

13. The news did not produce fear, but awakened courage and fresh precautions. "Set the people after their families"—For mutual sympathy added mutual strength. The family tie ought ever to be a strong one.

14. The exhortation came very properly—first to the nobles and rulers, for they were to be examples of daring. The leaders ought ever to lead. "Be not ye afraid of them"—Why should they not be? Because the Lord was on the side of his own people. Jehovah, the Lord of hosts, was often regarded as "a man of war" by the Jews, who had to fight for their liberties, for their homes, and for their sanctuary. The Jews had everything at stake, for had they failed slaughter or slavery awaited them.

16. "Half . . . wrought in the work"—Built up the walls while the other half kept armed guard. "Habergerons"—Coat of mail, or perhaps only the breast-plate. The presence of the rulers gave confidence.

17. Prepared either to work or to fight as there was need.

18. "And he that sounded the trumpet was by me"—The builders were scattered, but when the trumpet was sounded in danger the Jews were to meet in a compact body ready for battle.

Many comparisons may be drawn between building these walls and those of the spiritual Jerusalem.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.—Neh. 4. 7-18.
- Tu. Tempters unheeded.—Neh. 6. 1-9.
- W. The wall finished.—Neh. 6. 10-16.
- Th. Dedication and rejoicing.—Neh. 12. 27-30, 43-47.

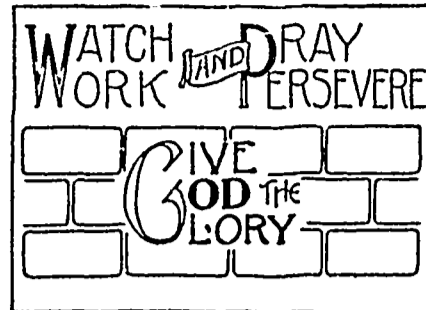
- F. Evil designs frustrated.—Psalm 64.
- S. Able to stand.—Eph. 6. 10-18.
- Su. Watching and prayer.—Mark 13. 23-37.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Trials and Temptations, v. 7, 8.
What enemies had Nehemiah?
Who was Sanballat?
Who was Tobiah?
Who were the Arabians? the Ammonites? the Ashdodites?
Why were they wroth?
What did they set out to do?
2. Praying and Watching, v. 9-12.
What did the Jews do to prevent it?
To whom did they pray?
What did Judah say in discouragement?
What did the enemies say?
What report did the Jews bring?
What said the Saviour about praying and watching? Matt. 26. 41.
3. Watching and Working, v. 13-18.
Where did the working station guards?
How were these armed?
Whom were the people to remember?

faith, and the sword is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The strength and success of Nehemiah lay in watching and praying. Enemies were on every hand, and a constant guard



became necessary, lest the wall should be again broken and the work retarded. By perseverance in their task the builders at last completed the wall of the city. They had employed the four elements of



and the rulers stood behind them. The people who carried burdens worked with one hand, while they held a weapon in the other. So built they the wall, "for the people had a mind to work."

French Evidence—"You say, sare, zat you ar-r-o convinced of zee guilt of zee prisonaire. On vat do you base zee confidence?" "I vill toll you, my general. I vas told by a washerwoman of the Rue Sebastopol zat she found in zee insite pocket of zee vite vest of a ho-r-ee rubbaire of zee Petit Picpus, a lettre from a scavenger of zee Quartier Latin in wheech he say zat he has just over-r-r-heard a boulevardier say to zee crossing sweepaire in front of zee Gr-r-ande Oper-r-ra-house zat hees gr-r-ranmozzaire called out in her sleep zat D-r-r-eyfus vas guilty!" Profound sensation.



MEN ENGAGED TO WALK IN CHINESE FUNERALS.

We have spoken elsewhere of the pomp and parade with which the Chinese celebrate their worship, their public festivals, their marriages and funerals. Our cut shows some of the paraphernalia of a funeral procession—the banners, hal-

berds, state umbrellas, and the like. These stolid-looking fellows in the picture will beat their gongs and clash their cymbals and make a horrible din, and exhibit the most poignant sorrow in proportion to the amount of money paid for their simulated grief.

What were they told to do?
Who defeated the plots of the enemies?
What work was then resumed?
While some worked what did others do?

Where were the rulers?
How were the builders armed?
Where was the trumpeter?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where are we taught in this lesson—
1. Concerning seeking God's help?
 2. Concerning helping ourselves?

The builders spoken of in our lesson had sword and shield, and so have we on'y the Bible tells us that our shield is



success—watching and praying, working and persevering—but to God, who had wrought the work, they gave the glory (Chap. 6. 15, 16).

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER ANSWERED.

Three days after he reached Jerusalem Nehemiah rode round the city at night and found its walls and gates broken down as he had heard. He said to the rulers, "Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem;" and they answered, "Let us rise up and build."

Doing the Work.—In the third chapter of Nehemiah you will learn how the work was divided among many different families. Some of the women worked, and no doubt the children helped, too. Some repaired the walls, others the gates and locks, and every one did his share.

Opposition.—In verses 7 and 8 of our lesson we learn that some of the Jews' enemies joined together to fight against them and hinder their work. Nehemiah set soldiers, with swords and spears and bows, to watch, and told the people not to be afraid, for God would help them fight for their homes and families. One half of the men worked while the other half held spears and shields and bows,

ARE THEY IN YOUR LIBRARY?

BOOKS FOR BOYS.

- Snap Shots from Boy Life. A Boy's Talks to Boys. By F. C. T. O'Hara. Illustrated by A. P. Cooper. Cloth. \$0 75
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