

Pleasure canal-boats, sketched at the Paddington basin. Pleasure vans - school children's Hampton-Court holiday.

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Notes : Sorties d'enfants en bateaux ou en calèches dans les environs de Londres signature dans la gravure : "Smyth" Smyth (Frederick James) : Graveur de Londres qui travailla pour le Penny Magazine de Charles Knight et qui fit de nombreux bois pour le journal : " Illustrated London News". gravures extraites de "The Illustrated London News" du 11 août 1849 En 1838 : La reine Victoria ouvre le château de Hampton Court au public. Vers le milieu du XIXe siècle, on comptait jusqu'à 180 000 visiteurs par année

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PLEASURE CANAL-BOATS, SKETCHED AT THE PADDINGTON BASIN.

where the birds seem to come for new songs—sweet notes which they gather from the lapping of the water and the whistling of the reeds, and these they sing to the blossoms, and the blossoms breathe them back again to the bees, and the bees whisper them into the bells of the flowers they plunge into, and every insect that alights thereon catches the note, and all day long is humming the low tune high up in the air. To such places as these ought the dear children to be taken, while the pleasure-vans await their return beside the dusty high-road, where only the plantain, the ox-eye, the dead-nettle, and the hemlock grow.

But while the railway rushes on in its lightning-like speed, and the steam-boat tosses the water aside with proud disdain, as if angry that it should, for a moment, check its course, the slow-moving canal-boat, drawn leisurely along by horses, has also its crowd of holiday people; such as our beautiful engraving here represents as another of the moving pictures of London. This is, no doubt, one of the cheapest and safest methods of spending the day, after all. Here there is no rushing and thronging as on the railway, no dashing and rocking as in the steam-packet, nor any shaking in going over the ground as in the

pleasure-van. The ripple the boat makes is scarcely heard. You can even distinguish the rustling of the tiny waves among the sedge that sways idly to and fro on the banks of the canal. It is a beautiful sight to see these boats full of holiday passengers, gliding slowly along within a yard or two of the shore in the summer sunshine; to look down and see them all mirrored in the water, even to the little girl that is leaning over the side, and rippling the surface with her hand, beside the woman in the red shawl that deep down is clear-shadowed. Pleasant it is to stand a little way off, and, while the boat is towed



PLEASURE VANS—SCHOOL CHILDREN'S HAMPTON-COURT HOLIDAY.

azily along, to hear some old solemn hymn chanted; low at first, then gradually swelling higher, and to distinguish the children's voices mingling with those of men and women; and nothing to drown the harmony, saving the measured tramp of the horses which haul the boat, the creaking of a gate, or the short, sharp crack of the driver's whip—sounds which disturb not your thoughts. Not that we would have them always singing hymns, or listening to pious addresses, but leave them a little breathing time to look on nature, to "commune with their own

brarts," to enjoy themselves on the lawn (as the kind Curate of Biddes-ton allowed them to do the other day, after giving them a hearty meal of plum-cake and tea; and, when wearied with their sports and pastimes, sending home, as he did, every poor child with a huge lump of plum-cake in its hand).

In the north of England the school feasts are called "Potations," for so is the word sounded, the origin of which we have never been able to discover nor to find any other meaning for it than that of drinking;

yet it signifies a childish feast or holiday in the midland counties. We want a better compound word than "Pic-nic" for these holidays of the poor, and hope that some of our learned readers will help us to one, and that next year we shall have to record the good deeds of many Joseph Browns.

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