

she trembled in fear that he would become violently enraged, as was common heretofore, and would punish her severely. But to her great astonishment, when he found out what had happened he remained perfectly calm, and did not reproach her at all. After a little thought he said, "We can distribute them among our poor and unfortunate neighbors, and so they can secure a larger crop the coming season. Thus it will perhaps be better than if we had sold them and taken all the money ourselves."

This conduct on the part of the husband astonished and impressed his wife that she said, "This must be due to the power of this Christian religion and the help of God. If this is the result of Christianity, then I want to become a Christian also." From that time she became an earnest seeker after the blessing of God's saving presence, and now she and all the family are rejoicing in a Christian's hope and a Christian's peace.

The great change for the better that has come to Mr. Nakayama's home has been seen and felt by his neighbors. In this way many have been led to a conviction of the benefits that result from following the teachings of Christ, and have thus become seekers after the same blessing. Some time ago one of the missionaries visited that town, and found ten persons who were awaiting baptism. A good Christian church is now growing up in that place.

One of the worst things that is met with in this heathen land is the selling of their daughters by the parents to lives of sin and shame. It is a custom that has been long established and is so common that it is done without shame, and no particular disgrace is attached to the parents on account of such sinful and cruel practices. It was formerly sanctioned by the Government, and even while the laws have been modified the public sentiment is so corrupt and the morals of the people so utterly vile that but little change has been effected. The life of such poor girls is often one of untold bitterness. Many are the cases in Tokyo where they have become desperate and gone and thrown themselves into the river in order to get "anywhere, anywhere, out of the world."

One of the great and blessed results of Christianity is the elevation of the morals and the creation of a better public sentiment in regard to the treatment of women. The result of Buddhistic teachings makes woman a mere appendage to man, and her only use to minister to his comforts.

Some years ago a bright and pretty girl, who had become a Christian and was attending one of the mission schools, was informed that her parents were unable to meet all their pecuniary obligations and she had been sold in order to satisfy their creditors. She was very happy in the school, and the tidings was to her like the sentence of death. Such were the customs of her people that she felt there was no hope. But when her teacher, Mrs. John Ballagh, heard what had happened she went to the girl's home, and found her there in a state of the most perfect wretchedness. Mrs. Ballagh employed every means that she could to get the girl released, but no arguments or entreaties would move the hearts of the cruel creditors; and, in fact, the parents looked upon it as an act of filial piety on the part of a daughter to thus sacrifice herself for their benefit. Mrs. Ballagh tried to move the hearts of the parents with pity for the poor and helpless child; she told them of the great sin which they were committing against God, and that such acts would surely bring His judgment upon them; but it was all in vain. The reply was simply, "It has been done, and there is no help for it."

Mrs. Ballagh then turned to the girl, who sat weeping,

and said, "Follow me." Both then rose and passed out of the room and into the street, and thence to Mrs. Ballagh's home. There followed a demand that the girl should be given up, but Mrs. Ballagh refused to do so. It was finally arranged that Mrs. Ballagh should pay the sum of \$20 and the girl would be released.

The girl then resumed her studies at the school, and at the completion of her course was married to one of the native officials. She has now a pleasant home and continues a faithful member of the church.

In one of the recent papers is an account of a poor girl who had been sold in a similar manner and had no one to procure her release. One day she happened to hear the preaching of the Gospel and was convinced of her sin and need. She was also truly penitent, but was in great trouble, as she saw no way to escape from her present sinful and sad condition. Her only way to get free was to pay the price for which she had been sold, and for some time she remained as she was, but in great sorrow and trying to devise some means to escape. At last she resolved to sell all she had, even her clothing, and thus purchase her release. When she was set free she came to the preacher and announced her faith in God and her purpose to do His will. After she had given satisfactory evidence of her change of heart she was received into the church and is now a consistent and happy follower of Christ. - *Missionary Review*.

Some Absurdities of Heathenism.

The powerful hold which superstition has upon men, and the very foolish things which they will do when they withdraw themselves from God and indulge in idolatry are remarkably illustrated by some recent events in China. There is a large yellow log outside one of the gates of Peking where it has been, it is said, ever since the fall of the Ming dynasty (A. D. 1643). As it is still in a good condition, it commands the respect of all classes of the Chinese. Many of them believe that some god has become embodied in it, and so they annually worship it. (On the 1st of October last the emperor commanded the board of ceremonies to appoint a few officials to pay respect to the deified log.)

From this dedication of a log we pass to the enshrining of a hog, and worshipping of it by reverential throngs of people. Miss Adele M. Fielde, so widely known for her long and faithful labors among the girls and women of Swatow, China in a recent letter says:—

"Last year, a villager living about thirty miles from here went to a neighboring hamlet and bought a porker that he intended to kill. Having paid the money for it, he tied a rope around its body behind the shoulders, and undertook to drive it home. It made objection, after the manner of its kind, to being either driven or led, and when just in front of a temple, in the outskirts of a hamlet, it slipped the noose, plunged into the building, and took refuge under the altar. No exertion of its owner succeeded in getting it out of the fane; and when it finally crouched before the god and refused to stir, the assembled crowd began to look upon it as a devotee, and to fear to interrupt its petitions. Some of the bystanders, belonging to the hamlet in which the animal was reared, made up a purse which repaid the buyer for his outlay, and the contributors then became the owners of the hog whose fame for piety and presence soon spread throughout the hamlet. A new shrine was prepared, and the hog was enticed into it, while awe-stricken throngs came to do him reverence. The whitest of rice was offered for his delectation, and so fastidious did he become as to reject many of the dainties lavishly brought to him by his worshippers.

"One day two men simultaneously gave him eggs to eat, and when he partook of the one offering and rejected the other, the keeper explained that the god dwelling in him saw