

"Well, mother, I won't think the name-chapters of no use after this. I'll 'salute' you, mother, and run off."

Phil ran out to his play, but his mother often noticed after that that he was careful to send his love to Uncle George, or a kind message to an absent schoolmate, and knew the lesson had not been lost.—*Christian Union*.

THE LOTUS.

The singular beauty and usefulness of the large water-lily called the Lotus, have in all ages attracted to it an extraordinary interest; and, combined with the fables of the Egyptians, the Hindoos and the Chinese have exalted it in the East to honors almost divine.

It was held sacred by the ancient Egyptians. Representations of it were sculptured upon the monuments; the sun was seen rising from it, and Osiris and other deities sat upon it, or were crowned with it.

In India and Ceylon the flower is held very sacred. When princes enter the idol temple they have this flower in their hands, and when the priests sit in silent thought it is placed in a vase before them. It is related that a native, upon entering Sir William Jones' study, seeing flowers of this beautiful plant lying upon the table for examination, prostrated himself before them.

AN EXTENSIVELY USED PRAYER.

The Sanscrit name of the flower is Padma, and by that name it is usually known in Buddhist countries. The words *Om Mani Padma hum!* "Oh, Jewel (Precious One) in (on) the Lotus, Amen!" form the most frequent prayer of many millions of mankind. "These six syllables which the Lamas (Buddhist priests) repeat," says Koeppen, in his work on Lamaism, "form of all the prayers of the earth, the prayer that is most frequently repeated, written and printed. They form the only prayer which the common Mongols and Tibetans know; they are the first words that the stammering child learns, and are the last sighs of the dying. The traveller murmurs them upon his journey; the herdsman by his flock; the wife in her daily work; the monk in his devotions. One meets with them everywhere, wherever Lamaism has established itself—on flags, rocks, trees, walls, stone monuments, utensils,

strips of paper and so forth. They are the essence of all religion, of all wisdom and revelation; they are the way of salvation and the entrance to holiness."

THE LOTUS GREATLY VENERATED IN CHINA AND JAPAN.

The Buddhists of China and Japan also greatly venerate the flower, and associate it with all the leading deities, who are represented in the images in the temples as seated upon it.

The power attributed to the Lotus is in nothing more marked than in its imagined helpfulness to the souls of the deceased. It figures in Chinese paintings of the punishment of the dead. In these pictures the deceased are represented as suffering tortures of various kinds. By their

The seeds or beans are eaten as they are or are ground and made into cakes; the fleshy stems supply a popular nourishing vegetable; while the fibres of the leaf stalks serve for lamp-wicks.

The ancient Egyptians also largely cultivated the Lotus on the waters of the Nile, the beans, the stems and even the roots being extensively used for food. The seeds of the plant were enclosed in balls of clay or mud, mixed with chopped straw, and cast into the Nile. In due season the beautiful petals appeared, shortly followed by buds, flowers and seeds; from which practice the inspired writer enforces the duty of self-denying zeal and faith: "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days."

as had not their mouths full of barley.

"Do you hear that brown thing yonder?" said he, as he strutted up and down the yard, looking contemptuously at a thrush in a wicker cage, who was trilling one of his richest songs. "What do you think of the noise it makes?"

All the hens clucked with contempt.

"Friend!" said the cock to him, "you mean well, but you haven't a note of music—you should listen to me;" and then he crowed with all his might again. The hens all stood on one leg, with their eyes closed and their heads on one side, in mute admiration.

At this moment, Shock, the house-dog, came out of his kennel and shook himself, as if disturbed out of a sound, comfortable sleep.

"Did you hear me crow?" said the elated cock.

"Hear you! I should like to know who didn't?" said Shock; "there's no peace for you, morning, noon, nor night; for the only time when you're quiet, I'm obliged to turn out to keep you from the fox."

The cock shook his gills, and looked very much astonished; and the hens whispered into one another's ears. "Ask my hens," said the cock, indignantly.

"Your hens, indeed!" said Shock. "Why, they know nothing but what you tell them; and if they don't do as you like, you drive them from the barley. You're all very well to call up the maids in the morning, and to sing out when thieves come near the roost; but if you were not the most consummate coxcomb, you would never attempt to decry a thrush."

"I have awoke him out of his sleep," said the cock, in an explanatory voice, to his hens; and he led the way to the fold, where he flapped his wings and crowed again, but not with the same vivacity; and, although they were afraid of talking of it aloud, the hens noticed one to another that he never crowed much from that day in the presence of Shock.—*Child's Companion*.



children, however, such valuable gifts are offered as to induce Kwanyin, the Goddess of Mercy, to appear upon the scene, and cast the Lotus upon the miserable sufferers. This at once ends their punishment, and the evil spirits are unable to torment their victims any more! Such pictures are shown by the Buddhist priests to move the compassion, terrify the consciences, and open the purses of the friends of the dead.

THE LOTUS LARGELY CULTIVATED.

But notwithstanding the sacredness in which the Lotus is held, and the fables and superstitions which are associated with it, many of the Chinese largely cultivate it. The fragrant blossoms reach a diameter of ten inches, and find a ready sale.

THE CROWING COCK.

A FABLE.

"How did I crow then?" said a cock to his favorite speckled hen.

"Magnificently," said the speckled hen.

"I'll get up on the gate and crow again, that all the yard may hear. You tell them to listen." And up he flew to the top of the gate, and flapped his wings, and stretched his neck, and crowed with all his might; then holding his head on one side, he looked down with one eye at the hens, who were huddled together before the gate.

"Fine!" said the speckled hen. "Fine!" said the white hen and the brown hen, and all the hens, and as many chickens

