

The Children's Record.

A MONTHLY MISSIONARY MAGAZINE
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE

Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Price, in advance 15 cents per year in parcel of 5 and upwards, to one address. Single copies 30 cents.

Subscriptions at a proportionable rate may begin at any time, but must end with December.

All receipts, after paying expenses are for Missions.

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What a wonderful story is that of mission work in Japan. Eighteen years ago if one professed to be a Christian he was liable to be taken and put to death. Now there are many Christian churches. Read carefully the interesting letter of Mr. McVicar on another page which tells of his first Sabbath in Japan. Another strange thing too is, that among the first contributions that were sent to aid the gospel in Japan was that from the Sandwich Islands, from a people who a few years ago were themselves savage cannibals.

Wonderful too is the good news that comes from China as told in Mr. Goforth's Journal, which I hope you will carefully read.

A CHINESE CORNELIUS.

A missionary's wife in China, writing from *Che-man-pu*, tells a story which sounds somewhat like that tenth chapter in the Acts of the Apostles, telling of Cornelius.

"Her husband was making one of those visiting tours which missionaries so frequently undertake among the villages within convenient distance from home, when one morning a servant, who had been dispatched by his master before day-break, stood before him and begged him to come and preach in his lord's village.

Mr. Bergen went and found thirty men who had signed a pledge to study and pray over the Christian doctrine till they should be fit to enter the "Jesus Church." The rich man who had sent for Mr. Bergen, had provided a large room for the meeting, and there Mr. Bergen stayed for several days and preached to them from the Word of Life. They had already been instructed by a native Christian, and had made good progress in understanding the Scripture. The village-school teacher and all his pupils were also studying. May we not expect to hear from this village again? "The entrance of thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

AN OLD DITTY EXPLAINED.

"You all know the old 'Sing a Song of Six-pence.' Have you ever read what it meant?"

The four-and twenty blackbirds represent twenty four hours. The bottom of the pie is the world; the top crust is the sky that over-arches it. The opening of the pie is day-dawn, when the birds begin to sing, and surely such a sight is "a dainty dish to set before the king."

The king, who is represented as sitting in his parlor counting his money, is the sun; while the goldpieces that slip through his fingers are golden sunshine. The queen who sits in the dark kitchen, is the moon, and the honey with which she regales herself is the moonlight.

The industrious maid, who is in the garden, at work before the king the sun--has risen, the day-dawn, and the clothes she hangs out are the clouds, while the bird who so tragically ends the song by "nipping off her nose" is the hour of sunset. So we have the whole day in a pie."

"This may seem a funny thing to put into your record, but it may help you to look at all the good and beautiful things God has given us in nature and to prize them better than either "pies" or "gold."