

SELECTIONS.

SOME QUEER CHINESE CUSTOMS.

We referred recently to the left-handedness of the Chinese race. Here are a few more illustrations. Builders put the roofs on houses before the walls are built. This is no miracle, and we will explain the apparent impossibility for the benefit of our friends at home. The Chinese consider the walls simply as partitions, and in nearly all cases, such is the fact. The natives have not improved much on the tent, the original design of the dwelling of their ancestors. Tents, of course, have posts along the sides of them to support the frame work on which the roof rests. Consequently the modern Chinese house has posts too, the spaces between them being filled up with bricks. The brick work itself would not support the roof, for the walls are hollow. We once lived in a Chinese built house at an outpost. The building was at the corner of two narrow streets, and the walls were hollow. Every two or three days or so, Chinese carrying bulky burdens weighing about two hundred weight would collide with the corner of the house, and away would go some of the bricks. A native shakes hands with himself when he meets a friend, in so far as he closes both his hands and puts them together, and the women dress much the same as the men putting the Divided Skirt Movement altogether into the shade. A Chinaman wears his hair down the back of his neck, but is not allowed to cultivate a moustache and whiskers till he is a grandfather, though this does not apply to all parts of China. A band of music, — save the mark! — is engaged for a funeral, the music being similar to that used at weddings which take place at night, instead of during the day, the bride going to the house of her intended in a closed up chair, while the father of the bridegroom or the bridegroom himself gives the marriage portion to the family of the bride. Men when singing think it is the superlative degree of perfection, — if there is such a degree — to be able to imitate a woman's voice. To foreigners their singing is like a cat's serenade on the tiles. When an official, or a criminal is sentenced to punishment, he thanks the Emperor for the favor. Foreigners think it a pleasure to be in the company of ladies in public, whereas with the Chinese it is quite different, they consider it is beneath them to be seen in public with their wives who cramp their feet, while foreign ladies compress their waists, though in this instance the Chinese lady is probably doing herself less injury than her foreign sister does in tight lacing. When a man falls down in a fit the bystanders make no effort to revive him but wait till he comes to of his own accord. In this case they fancy the afflicted man's spirit had gone out for a stroll, leaving the body without a tenant so that if they moved the body, the spirit on returning to its home, might not be able to find it, and then the man would die. They say, however, that there are always lots of wandering homeless spirits about, so that sometime the spirit of a goat, or pig, or other animal, finding an untenanted body, takes possession of it till the rightful tenant returns. The people coax this wandering spirit to remain till possession is claimed by the owner, by putting grass in the insensible man's mouth to feed the temporary resident. A military officer wears the plume in his hat pointing behind him and downwards, while his foreign brother wears his in front of his busby and pointing upwards. Of course we all know a cow's tail points downwards, except when the animal is in a tantrum, and most birds have their tails pointing downwards too, so perhaps the Chinaman has some warrant for wearing his feathers the way he does. We have seen the crew of a mandarin gun-boat put their scabbards on their bayonets, instead of their bayonets into their scabbards, the former being fixtures to their guns, and the latter were drawn from their belts. Instead of ramming the powder down the barrel of their muzzle loading guns, they strike the butt of their weapons on the ground. Oil and some liquids are carried in baskets in China and are sold by weight; live fowls, ducks, geese, etc., are also sold by weight, feathers and all. Prefect Kung in English, becomes Kung Prefect in Chinese, and a Chinaman enjoying his pipe eats (or drinks, for the expression is the same) smoke, but to "eat vinegar" shows the person who does so is suffering from an attack of the "green eyed monster" — jealousy. His heart, according to Chinese anatomists, is in the pit of his stomach and not in his left side. The Emperor (and possibly rich men), pays his doctor when he is in good health, but stops his salary when he is sick, so that it is to the advantage of the medico to keep his Imperial Master in good health. When a celestial wishes to state a thing is correct, he uses the negative form and says "it is not wrong".

He wears his collar outside his coat, his cuffs outside his sleeves, and his stockings outside trousers. With us, women only carry fans along with them, in China the men do. A Chinese policeman, on the principle probably that "prevention is better than cure," beats a gong at night to let the thieves know where he is instead of trying to catch them. Finally there are ducks in China which live up in the branches of tree and sometimes make their nests in the chimneys of foreign houses. We have seen this at one of the Yangtze ports, and the birds are called "summer ducks." This is not a *canard*, although it refers to *ducks*. — *Shanghai Paper*.

PROFITABLE AND UNPROFITABLE DISCUSSION. No discussion is likely to prove profitable to a disputant whose chief purpose is to profit that his view is the right view. The only profit aim in discussion is the discerning of the truth in the matter at issue. If two persons have the same aim in common, they can discuss any question to advantage; for each of them will be ready to see the truth as brought out by his opponent, rather than to seek an answer to his opponent's arguments. But if each of the two, or if either of the two, has less of a desire to learn whether or not he is in error than he is to prove that his adversary is in error — then his lack of openness of mind toward the truth will only tend to confirm the victory-loving disputant in his preconceived determination of truth. If you have a readiness to revise your own opinions on a given point at issue, never enter into a discussion of that point with a person who has obviously no desire to revise his opinion on the same subject. A discussion would probably be worse than useless to both of you. — *S. S. Times*

ONE writes:—"Being at Calais, I climbed up into the lighthouse and conversed with the keeper. 'Suppose,' said I, 'that one of these lights should go out?' 'Never! Impossible!' he cried with a sort of consternation at the bare hypothesis, 'Sir,' said he, pointing to the ocean 'yonder, where nothing can be seen, there are ships going by to every part of the world. If to night, one of my burners were to go out, within six months would come a letter, perhaps from India, perhaps from America, perhaps from some place I never heard of, saying, on such a night, at such an hour, the light of Calais burned dim; the watchman neglected his post, and vessels were in danger. Ah, sir, sometimes, in the dark nights, in the stormy weather, I look out to sea, and feel as if the eye of the whole world were looking at my light. Go out! Burn dim! Oh, never!' Kind reader, may we realize every day of this year, that the eyes of God and of the whole world are upon us. And, in eternity, may we not only see that no souls have perished through our faithlessness, but may we be among those who, sustained and triumphing by almighty grace, having turned many to righteousness, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and as the stars for ever and ever!"

A writer in the *Richmond Christian Advocate* has made the notable discovery, that the baptism (?) of an infant is "THE ORDINATION of the parents to their work of watchfulness and care and holy ministry." What queer things one sees in a theological kaleidoscope, of private manufacture, for private delectation! The *Banner of Faith*, an English High Church monthly, has its kaleidoscope too; and here is what it sees: "There is a christening to day! A happy, heavenly sight! Another little mortal child made heir of life and light! Another little seedling placed, with due and reverent care, Within the garden of the Lord, to bud and blossom there!" But kaleidoscopes of this kind do not seem to be over-abundant among the followers of Wesley in England; for a writer in the *London Methodist Times* says: "Our baptism is so meaningless that by many (if not by most) parents the rite is regarded as useless. They are practically Baptists, and this to an extent that has surprised me." — *Canadian Baptist*.

THE PAPER FOR EVERYBODY

THE BUSINESS EDUCATOR

is a handsome Eight Page Monthly, giving lessons in Writing, Arithmetic, Book Keeping, Mensuration, Letter Writing, Business Papers, &c. NICELY ILLUSTRATED. Every young person should be a subscriber. Subscription price, 50 cents per year; 3 months on trial, 10 cents. Specimen Copy free to any address. Mention the Evangelist. C. A. FLEMING, Owen Sound, Ont.

POPULAR HYMNS REVISED

—FOR THE—
WORK AND WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL.
—IT CONTAINS—

319 TUNES and 323 HYMNS
AND IS THE CHEAPEST AND BEST BOOK NOW PUBLISHED.
OVER 300,000 HAVE BEEN SOLD.

PRICES.

NOTE EDITION—BOUND IN BOARDS.		WORD EDITION—IN BOARD.	
Single copy, prepaid	20	Single copy, prepaid	15
Per dozen, by mail	3 00	Per dozen, by mail	1 70
by express	3 60	by express	1 50
IN CLOTH, WITH RED EDGES.		IN CLOTH, WITH RED EDGES.	
Single copy, postage prepaid	40	Single copy, postage prepaid	30
Per dozen, by express	4 00	Per dozen, by express	2 10
by mail	4 75	by mail	3 40

RUDIMENTS OF MUSIC,

A 40-page pamphlet, containing 24 lessons, specially adapted for learners. Price 10 cents per copy, or bound in with Popular Hymns for 5 cents extra on price of book.

PURE WORDS

A Sunday-school paper for the intermediate scholar; contains 4 pages, each 11x16 inches, printed on fine tinted paper, handsomely illustrated with fine imported engravings. To see it is to adopt it in your school, or subscribe for it for your children.

Prices: Single subscription, 1 year, 75 cts.; in clubs of 5 or more, 45 cts. per year.

BUDS OF HOPE

A neat little paper for the infant class; it contains 4 pages, 7x9 inches each, and is handsomely gotten up, finely illustrated with the best imported engravings, and is otherwise very attractive for the little folks. Send for specimen copies.

Prices: Single subscription, 1 year, 45 cts.; in clubs of 5 or more, 25 cts. per year.

BIBLE SCHOOL

For Superintendents, Teachers, and Sunday-school workers in general. This is a 32-page magazine devoted to the general Sunday-school work. It contains valuable information regarding the running of Sunday-schools and the latest Sunday-school news, also the International Lessons for each month, with explanatory notes, blackboard exercises, geographical notes, etc., etc.

PRICE SINGLE COPY ONE YEAR. 75 CENTS.

STANDARD

LESSON LEAF

A lesson sheet containing the International Lessons; a separate sheet for every Sunday in the year. Besides the lesson it also contains explanatory notes, which make it so simple that any one can understand it.

PER MONTH.		PER YEAR.	
10 Copies	15 cts.	10 Copies	\$1 25
25 "	25 "	25 "	3 00
50 "	40 "	50 "	5 50
100 "	\$1 10 "	100 "	10 00

STANDARD

LESSON LEAF QUARTERLY

Contains the same as the Lesson Leaf; bound in pamphlet form and containing lessons for 13 Sundays.

PER QUARTER.		PER SIX MONTHS.		PER YEAR.	
10 Copies	40 c.	10 Copies	70 c.	10 Copies	\$1 25
25 "	90 "	25 "	\$1 60	25 "	3 00
50 "	\$1 65	50 "	3 00	50 "	5 50
100 "	3 00	100 "	5 50	100 "	10 00

BIBLE LESSON QUARTERLY

For teachers and Bible classes. This is an indispensable help for the Bible classes for which it is especially adapted. It contains 64 pages, 6 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches, which are devoted to the International Sunday-school Lessons, with introductory remarks and expository notes by Isaac Errett. Illustrative material by A. N. Gilbert, and geographical notes by J. W. McGarvey.

PER QUARTER.		PER SIX MONTHS.		PER YEAR.	
10 Copies	75 c.	10 Copies	\$1 40	10 Copies	\$2 50
25 "	\$1 65	25 "	3 00	25 "	5 00
50 "	3 25	50 "	6 00	50 "	11 00
100 "	6 00	100 "	11 00	100 "	20 00

SAMPLES SENT FREE ON APPLICATION.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL HELPS OF ALL KINDS

—SUCH AS—
MINUTE BOOKS. COLLECTION ENVELOPES; LIBRARY CARDS,
CLASS BOOKS. CALL BELLS. LIBRARY REGISTERS,
SCHOOL BANNERS, CLASS BANNERS, QUESTION BOOKS,
LIBRARY REGISTERS, QUESTION BOOKS.

Imported Reward Cards,

SUNDAY-SCHOOL LIBRARIES, READERS, PRIMERS, QUESTION BOOKS, ETC., ETC.

Books, Books, Books,

OF ALL KINDS AT THE LOWEST CASH PRICE.

COMMENTARIES, BIOGRAPHIES, DEBATES,
CONCORDANCES, HEBREWS, ENCYCLOPEDIAS,
BIBLE DICTIONARIES, —WE ALSO—

FOR BOOKS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS OF LITERATURE UPON RECEIPT OF THE REGULAR RETAIL PRICE.

MAPS! MAPS!! MAPS!!! MAPS!!!

No Sunday-school should be without Good Maps. We can furnish your school with any kind of a Map at ROCK BOTTOM PRICES.

MAPS OF PALESTINE FROM \$1.50 TO \$12.00.
MAPS OF PAUL'S TRAVELS FROM \$1.50 TO \$8.00.
POCKET MAPS, \$1.00.

SEND FOR CIRCULARS.

BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS

FOR SCHOOL USE VERY CHEAP.

—ALSO—

BAGSTER'S FAMOUS POLYGLOT BIBLES
FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

SEND FOR CIRCULARS AND PRICES.

STANDARD PUBLISHING COMPANY,

22 and 24 EAST NINTH STREET, CINCINNATI, O.