

hat, and they stuck some over my ears, and into the button-holes of my jacket. And once, while I sat reading, what do you suppose they did, these little heathen? Why they climbed away up into the king's observatory, from which you can look out over the beautiful palm dotted plains, and beyond to the blue sea; you can even catch glimpses sometimes of ships sailing over the sunlit waters. There they began to sing the hymns they had learned at school. How sweet they sounded! "Happy Day," "The Year of Jubilee," "Around the Throne of God in Heaven," etc. I got up to look at them once, and I saw three or four little dusky faces peering over the white balustrade. They seemed to be away up in the sky, for I could see nothing behind them but the white fleecy clouds. And I thought of heaven, and of how beautiful Christ could make those little ones, if they would but give their hearts to Him, and let Him guide them to the heavenly city! Some of them do love Him even now, and want to have their names written in God's book of life. I think that many of them will be found at the Saviour's side in that day when He gathers His children home.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN.

THE longest unbroken stretch of water on the globe that is traversed regularly by a steamer is between San Francisco and Yokohama. For four thousand miles no land is seen, and sometimes not a sail appears during the voyage to relieve the vast monotony of the ocean. It is, therefore, with a feeling of peculiar relief and pleasure that the traveller at last touches land, and finds himself in a place of so much interest as Yokohama.

Yokohama means "opposite shore." When the Americans and English entered into treaty with Japan, it was a mere fishing village, in the midst

of a marsh, and had taken its name from being opposite Kanagawa, on an inlet of the Bay of Yeddo. By the treaty, Kanagawa was to be the port of commerce. This place was close to the main road extending from Southern Japan to the capital, and was well located for trade. But when the Americans and English came to avail themselves of the privileges of the treaty, they found Kanagawa closed to them and Yokohama fitted up as the place of trade. At great expense of money and labour the Japanese had constructed piers and wharves of solid masonry, and erected a custom house and other buildings for the accommodation of foreign business. The evident intention was to hold foreigners off the main land, and put them where every movement could be watched and controlled by the Japanese officials. The American and English consuls protested at the breach of the treaty, but in vain; and so the fishing village, which, but for the jealousy of the Japanese, would have remained for ever in obscurity, rose to be one of the most important cities of the East.

In Yokohama, some three years ago, a little band of Christians determined to meet daily to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Japan. For two years they met daily, imploring this blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ. At length the blessing came, and in one year as many were added to the Church in Japan as had been added in any six years before, and the holy influence of that prayer-meeting is still felt. Are there not some in our Church who would be willing thus to meet daily to pray for a great outpouring of the Spirit on our Church and on all the work?

It is strange how easily we can tell our brother what he ought to do, and yet when the case comes to be our own, do precisely what we had rebuked him for doing.

NOTICE.

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