

usual hour of drinking wine, when the "wineman inside," as he called his appetite for the drink, began to bite him, he would run to this box and put into it the amount he would have spent for the drink of wine and say to himself, "There now! No wine to-day! Your money is safe in the box!" By and by, when he was really cured of the desire for wine he gave all this money as a thank-offering to that God who had led him to break off this wicked habit. We might try fining ourselves a few cents every time we get angry, or say naughty words, or give way to some bad habit until we are cured. This would be a good way both to help ourselves and to earn pennies for our Mission Bands. Who will try this plan for a month?

Chinese books are very different from ours. They begin just where ours end, the last page being the first with them. We read in lines across the page, they in columns from top to bottom. Our notes to explain anything difficult are at the foot of the page, theirs at the top. Our leaves are single and printed on both sides, theirs are double, and printed only on one side of the paper. We keep our books standing on the end in rooms in our book-cases, theirs are left in piles. In writing we use pens and fluid ink. They use a brush and their ink is a solid cake. Their written and spoken language are so different that two men could easily converse in writing who could not understand a word spoken by each other. A Chinese school is noted for its noise. The boys all study out loud at the top of their voices and all at once. If you want to visit a school, just walk along the streets until you hear a terrible racket of boys' voices, and you will find what you are seeking. Some one says the teacher might hear a small clap of thunder, above the din, but a lesser noise would make no impression on him. If there is a lull in the shouting, he raps on his desk which means study harder, shout louder. They have no alphabet like ours. Each word has a distinct sign or character for itself. There are about ten thousand words in common use, and from twenty-five to one hundred thousand in all. If you see a class coming up to recite, they will turn their backs on the teacher, or as they call it "back the book." The teacher then reads a line or two of the lesson, and as soon as he stops they begin shouting over the words he has said. After they can say them without a mistake, he sends them back to go on shouting other words. I have three boys of my own who are very fond of making a noise in every possible way, but I think—even they would grow weary of such a racket as these Chinese boys make all day long. The sleeves of their coats or gowns are very long and wide, and are used as pockets to carry their books, handkerchiefs, etc. One boy was seen carrying a small foot-stove in his sleeves. I think my boys would prefer their pockets to such cumbersome sleeves. But I must wait until another time before telling you more curious things about this wonderful China.

480 Lewis Street, Ottawa.

SISTER BELLE.

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Mrs. A. E. Johnstone, of Dartmouth, N.S., is Correspondent of the LINK for the Maritime Provinces. She will be glad to receive news items and articles intended for the LINK from Mission-workers residing in that region.

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