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What have Children to do with Missions?

DEAR CHILDREN,—This is a question not unfrequently put. It may be easily answered. Children have much to do with Missions. First, Because to Christian Missions many thousands of children owe their lives. To this they are indebted for their preservation from an early and cruel death. A few extracts from various Missionary writers will prove this.

At Pekin in China it is the custom for carts to go round the streets to pick up the bodies of such infants as have been thrown out during the night. In 1832 Mr. Gutzlaff, a Missionary in China, states, that it is a general custom to drown a large proportion of the girls as soon as they are born, and this is so common among the Chinese that it is done without any feeling, even in a laughing mood." In New Zealand also, before any Missionaries were stationed there, a universal custom existed of destroying most of the girls in infancy—the excuse was, that they were quite as much trouble to rear, and consumed just as much food as boys, yet when grown up they were not fit to go to war. In the Sandwich Islands when the Missionary first visited them, it was ascertained that two-thirds of the infants born perished by the hands of their own parents