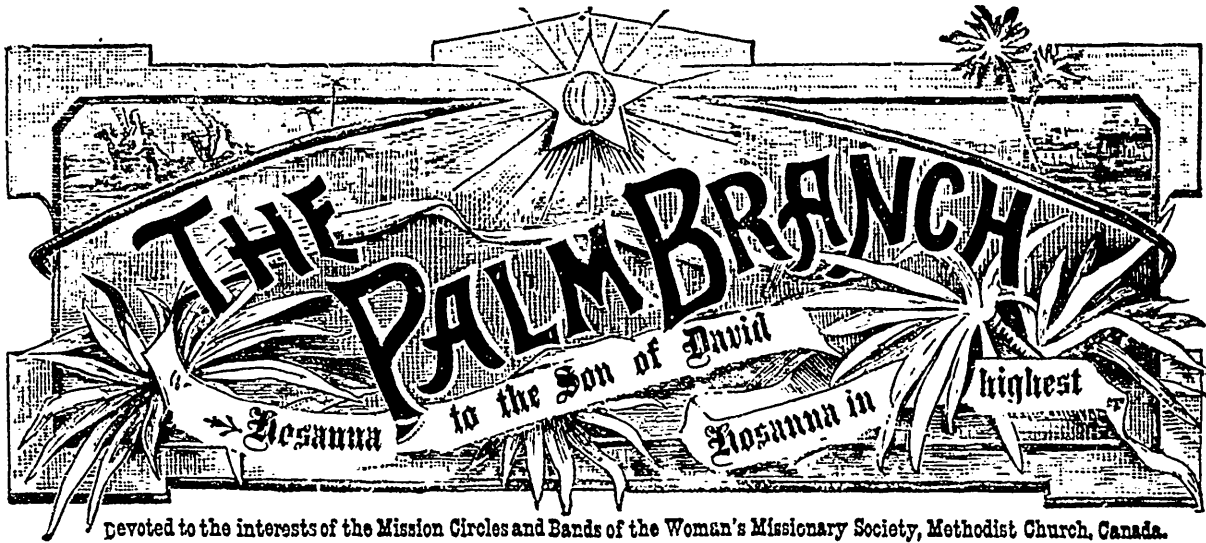


HAPPY NEW YEAR.



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No. 1

THIS is the picture of the chief god of the Japanese. It is a colossal bronze statue, fifty feet high, in a Buddhist temple. If you should go to Japan and visit it you could have your photograph taken sitting on Buddha's lap, or on his thumb, as some travellers do. The priest to whom you pay money, of course, for this privilege, will mail the photograph to your friends if you give him the address. You will probably have to take off your shoes, when you enter the temple, and you must behave well, for some tourists have behaved so ill that the priests have been obliged to post this notice over the door:

"Stranger, whosoever thou art, and whatsoever be thy creed, when thou enterest this sanctuary, remember thou treadest upon ground hallowed by the worship of ages.

"This is the Temple of Buddha, and the gate of the eternal, and should, therefore, be entered with reverence."

Cousin Joy could trust the girls and boys of Mission Circles and Bands to be respectful—not rude—under any circumstances! But you would be rather inclined to weep than to laugh over the ignorance and superstition of some countries,

even at the close of the nineteenth century. To think that people could kneel and worship such a god as that. Do you think he could answer your prayers as our God does?" And yet there is some little good in the Buddhist religion. It teaches obedience to parents, kindness to animals, charity to mankind. But it is a selfish religion; every man loves himself, and thinks himself a god. He needs no power outside of himself to save him. A Hindoo once said: "There is one thing that Christianity has which no other religion possesses." "What is that," was asked. "A Saviour," was the reply; and that is true.

Then woman is not thought of or treated in that country as she should be. No country can prosper that does not educate and refine the mother—half of the human race. Only the religion of Christ does that. No Buddhist woman is a happy mother—no little Buddhist child sings: "I am so glad that Jesus loves me." There are said

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