

Fret-away dines on choicest food,
 With always much to spare;
 Chirp-away can scarce get enough
 Of even the coarsest fare.

Yet Fret-away's face is always cross,
 Chirp-away's always bright;
 Fret-away's ever under a cloud,
 Chirp-away walks in the light.

Fret-away whines the livelong day,
 Chirp-away sings the while;
 Fret-away wears an ugly frown,
 Chirp-away wears a smile.

Fret-away, handsome, rich and—cross,
 Perhaps she'll do for thee;
 But Chirp-away, poor, and plain and sweet,
This is the girl for me.

—Mrs. E. H. Morse

What Children Think in China

Little children in China do not learn geography, and have never been taught, "the world is round, like a ball." They think the world we live on is square, and that it is supported on the horn of a giant cow. Poor cow! When the one horn gets tired, she tosses the weighty world on to the other horn, and that makes an earthquake!

And these children have never learned that the earth moves round the sun, or any other of the wise things your lesson books tell you about.

The sun, says a little Chinese boy, is born every morning out of the sky, and "walks" daily across the sky to his watery bed on the other side. He walks so fast that he wears out three pairs of straw sandals a day. When the children watch the rain falling into the stone courts of their houses, they say, with a laugh, as the drops patter down, "To-day the dragon is playing with his pearls," for, far away up in the skies, they believe there lives a great big dragon, and all that happens, good or ill, in their lives, is caused by him. He is very harmless when he "plays with his pearls" and lets the soft raindrops fall on the thirsty earth; but more often he is fierce and cruel, and he has his spirit servants, Wind and Water, Thunder and Lightning, and many others, that he

sends to hurt and frighten the people of the earth. The Children in Blue are terribly afraid of thunder, not only because of the noise, but because they believe it is thunder and not lightning which strikes people to death. "Lightning," they say, "only runs on ahead to show Thunder where to strike."

Do you know what an "eclipse" is? In China they say it is the dragon trying to swallow the sun or moon, and when these lights begin to get darkened, oh, the noise the people make! All the men, women, and children rush out of the houses, and shout as loudly as they can, while some beat drums and gongs. All this is to frighten away the fierce dragon up in the sky, who, they believe, has his mouth wide open, ready to snap up the sun or moon when it gets near enough. Then, when the eclipse is over, and the light of sun or moon shines just as before, the people really think that it was their noise which drove away the dragon, and so saved this earth from being doomed to perpetual darkness.

Our Children in Blue know of no One to take care of them. Even the soft, pretty rainbow, which tells us so much of God's care, only frightens them. "It is alive," they say, "and will eat us up if it catches us." The lovely flowers that grow in such quantities are thought to be the home of wicked little spirits, and should the boys who go to mind the cows or cut wood, come home at sunset with brown hands full of flowers, their mothers would throw them all away, and say angrily, "You stupid boys! Don't you know the flowers belong to the spirits of the hills? And now you have picked and brought some home, the spirits will come with them and harm us."

So you see how much joy may be brought to the little Chinese people when they learn of God's love.—China for Juniors

What Robert's Ears Told Him

Robert had inflamed eyes, and, because he had tried to use his eyes too much, and made them worse, a soft, cool bandage had been tied over them.

He sat on the couch in the sitting-room, looking fretful and discontented, and Aunt