

Happy Days



AN ENGLISH VILLAGE.

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HERE is a pretty picture of one of the little villages that are scattered all through the counties of our "mother land" across the water. There is the little inn, with its old weather-worn sign hanging out across the road, probably with some such name as the "White Horse," the "Red Lion," or the "Goat and Compasses." This last, which sounds so curious, is really a corruption of the words "God encompasseth us," and by long use has been worn down into so fantastic a name.

There also is the little stream running through the orchard, both of which are sure to be found in eight out of ten English villages. On the apple tree we can even see bunches of mistletoe which is so much used at Christmas time for hanging in the houses.

The quaint, old wooden houses look very different to our bright stone or brick ones over here, but they were built long ago, and the villagers as a rule do not like to change their ways of living, but go on in the same old-fashioned way that their fathers and grandfathers did before them.

PRAYING FISH.

A MISSIONARY writes from India: "To-day one of my companions was visiting a house when he

saw a girl rolling up little bits of paper and dough together into pills. So she said, 'What are you doing?' The girl showed her a large piece of paper which was covered with the word 'Allah,' or God. Each piece on which 'Allah' was written was separately cut out, and put into a dough pill, until three hundred pills were made, and then the fishes of the Ganges were fed with them. 'You see,' said the girl, 'when the pill goes into the stomach of the fish, it has the name of God in its stomach, and then the fish will pray for us, and that will bring us a blessing.'

NOTES ABOUT MEXICO.

THERE are nearly twelve million people in Mexico, one-half of whom are Indians. Six-sevenths of the people can neither read nor write.

The homes of the poor people are generally built of dried mud or of pine slabs, and are hovels frequently without doors or windows.

The houses of the better classes are built of brick or stone or timber, and generally are two stories high and with flat roofs, on which the people sit in pleasant weather.

The principal food of the poor people is corn and beans, the corn made into cakes of crushed corn and water, baked hard. Mexico grows a great variety of fruits.

The people are nearly all Roman Catholics. The Virgin Mary is the tutelary deity of Mexico, and more than two-thirds of the people worship her in the form of an Indian maiden.

The most costly church building in America is the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Mexico city. It cost two millions of dollars to build, and its decorations nearly as much more. It was begun in 1575 by order of Philip II. of Spain, and was finished in about one hundred years. It is about 500 feet long and 420 feet wide.

We send missionaries to Mexico, not because the people have never heard of Jesus, but because they have been taught wrong doctrines and have become superstitious and idolaters. They need to have the pure truth that they may believe and be saved.