

FUNNY MISSIONARY WORK.

Who does it? Rev. Dr. McKay, our missionary in Formosa. What is it? Pulling teeth. If any of you young people have ever had a tooth pulled you will think that it is not a very good way to get the heathen to love the missionary and listen to his preaching. If a Doctor pulls a tooth for you perhaps it makes you afraid of him. But when people have a bad toothache there is no friend more welcome. There is no doctor among these poor people in Formosa, and they have to suffer great pain from toothache, sometimes for months. When Dr. McKay travels through the country they come in crowds to get bad teeth pulled. Then, having confidence in him as a helper and friend, they are the more ready to listen when he tells them of a friend that sticketh closer than a brother, the Great Physician who is able to heal the soul from the disease of sin.

Hear what he says about it in a recent letter. I went, says he, "to our new station at *Tho-a-hng*. There I extracted many teeth, preached in front of the chapel, and sung several hymns."

Again he says of another place which he visited. "Being engaged healing and speaking to them I scarcely got time to take food. One day fifteen called, each begging me to go first and see some one of his family."

He speaks as follows of another place, a village with about 500 people in it, which he visited: "Having been there many times during the past dozen years many knew me and came out to welcome us. Benches having been arranged in an open space, many sat down to have teeth extracted." Then as evening came on "a fire was made in an open space, of grass and brush. It gave good light, and there, standing on a bench, I preached to men, women, and children, who had rejected me with scornful indifference many times." This time we had a "grand meeting. Little children five years of age" as well as old people, stayed and listened and sang.

Thus you see that pulling teeth is doing real missionary work. It gives ease from

pain and it leads the people to look upon the missionary as a friend and makes them to listen better to his words.

Do you remember how the first great missionary, the Lord Jesus Christ, used to do when on earth, in healing sickness as well as forgiving sin. Pray that our missionaries as they carry the glad tidings to a sin sick world may be blessed in their work.

THE WORD WELCOMED IN EGYPT.

BY MISS M. L. WHATELY.

"Bring out the aged, that they may hear the Word of God before they die!" These words were uttered by some poor Egyptian peasants, who, with a group of dark-veiled women and ragged children, were crowding round a lady seated on a native mat on the ground near a large village a few hundred yards from the Nile. It was during the last week of the year 1885; a Bible was in the lady's hand, and she was reading from it, pausing to explain every now and then in a simple and intelligible manner, the hearers being mostly extremely ignorant, and all Mohammedans.

The peasants had been listening and asking questions for some time as Mrs. Shakkor read to them and spoke of the sinfulness of man's heart and our need of a Savior, &c. Presently two or three of them rose and said one to another, "Let us bring out the aged, that they may hear the Word of God before they die!" Then they pushed through the crowd, and in a short time two very old men appeared, assisted by their sons or neighbors, and one of the feeblest of all was carried and placed where he could hear.

The village urchins, always very troublesome, even climbed the weak shoulders of the poor old man in their childish curiosity to gaze at the stranger, but he seemed to heed nothing except the reading, and leaned forward with a hand behind each ear, not to lose a word! Nor were the other old people less earnest to listen to the story of God's love for sinners through Him who is ever "mighty to save." Truly we may say Jesus of Nazareth was passing by on that day.