

A JAPANESE PRAYING-MACHINE.

This very tall post with a very small wheel is a Japanese praying-machine. The marks on the post are supposed to be prayers. Any one who happens to be going along in the street can give the wheel a turn, and quite a number of prayers will be offered to his god with the least possible trouble, and he feels quite sure of receiving something in return.

The man before it now is a priest; and as it is his business to offer prayers, he stands before it quite a long time, and wheels off a great many prayers. He does not seem troubled about those for whom he is praying, because he does not even know that they need to be saved from their sins. He only knows that it is much easier to turn this wheel than to ask his god for what he wants, and he will answer just as well.

How foolish and even wicked this seems to us in this Christian land! Some day we will hope that everybody in Japan will know what it is to have a "friend in Jesus" to whom they can go for everything they want, and this machine will seem foolish and wicked to them also. It is not wholly because they want to save trouble that they pray in this

way. Some of them have prayer chains in their houses with beads for a thousand prayers on them; and they sometimes sit for hours repeating them over and over, thinking they are doing the right, and will get some benefit from it.

Just think how delightful it is to have a dear Saviour, to go to whenever we are unhappy or troubled; to thank him when he had given us some thing, and tell Him how happy we are. We are sure to know all about it, and will always be glad to hear us, whether any one else does or not.

The Japanese know nothing about this, and we want to tell them of our Bible and our Saviour as soon as we can.

COURAGE.

The Roman Emperor threatened Chrysostom with banishment if he remained a Christian; but he replied:

"Thou canst not, for the world is my Father's house: thou canst not banish me."

"I will slay thee," rejoined the Emperor.

"Nay, thou canst not; for my life is hid with Christ in God."

"I will take away thy treasures."

"Nay, thou canst not; for, in the first place, I have none that thou knowest of. My treasure is in heaven, and my heart is there."



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