

Youths' Department.

IN THE EDITORIAL DEN.

WONDER how many of our boys and girls ever visited an editor's den? Such piles of magazines and papers full of stories, pictures, and items of interest! Sister Belle is in Toronto this week, and a privileged guest in the home of the editor of the CANADIAN MISSIONARY LINK, our brave, little paper which for nearly thirty years has lovingly brought us news of the men and women we have sent as our representatives to far off India. In spite of many things which would have discouraged an ordinary paper, or caused it to vanish some dark day, this paper, with its special mission, is stronger and better than ever. Long may it prosper, and the good editor rejoice over letters telling her of the real help it gives month by month to our mission circles and bands!

This guest has had the special privilege of sitting upstairs in the cosy den, surrounded with exchanges of years back, with a pair of scissors in her hand and full permission to clip from all these papers for her scrap-books. Such happy hours does not come often in a life-time, so if the young folks see anything particularly good written by me in the future numbers of this paper, just be thankful that Sister Belle paid a visit to Mrs Porter!

Now will you all look over my shoulder, with your mind's eye, at the pictures before me? Such a strange looking man with long hair down his back, an immense beard, dressed in a queer robe, and sitting on the ground in a cramped-up fashion. He is holding a small drinking bowl in his hands. Who is he, and where does he live?

Take your geography and turn to the map of Japan. The island called Yezo away to the north is the home of this man. His people are called Ainus, and are the oldest inhabitants of Japan, like the Indians of America. Only about 17,000 of them are left now, and this number is growing less every year. The terrible drink that makes people drunk in Canada is digging graves for the Ainu people, too. How can anyone love Jesus, pity suffering men, women and children, and yet refuse to help those who are fighting King Alcohol!

The Ainu men wear their hair and beards very long but do not comb them often, or keep themselves clean in other ways, so their manly beauty and strength fast disappear. Their own women think it a mark of beauty to have their faces, arms and hands tattooed. See this picture of one of their society belles. Our boys and girls would be frightened at a face so full of scars, especially around the mouth. The fingers, hands and arms up to the elbows have all been ornamented in the same cruel manner. Why does she do this? It is the fashion, and even in Canada we do queer things, wear hideous hats, and uncomfortable high-heeled shoes just because other people do. It is such a dreadful thing not to know and follow the latest style! So a fellow-feeling makes us give a kindly look at this tattooed woman. Two more pictures show us the outside and inside of her home. The roof and sides are thatched with straw or grass. The house has only one room beside the entry. A large fire of wood is in the middle of this room. The east window is counted the sacred place, for before it they worship. Between it and the fire is the place of honor for guests to sit or sleep. In the north-east corner are kept large round boxes for holding the treasures and sacred things of the family. Outside of this window large posts are set in a row to which are fastened the skulls of deer or bears. Before these posts the people bring their offerings, for this is the only holy place or temple they have.

Just hear those low growls! What can the noise be? Carefully peep around the east side of the house, and you will see a cage full of bears. These people consider the bear a sacred animal, so catch it young, and keep it in a cage until it grows big and fat. Then they call the neighbors in to a party. The bear is killed and eaten with a great many religious ceremonies, and then all the people get drunk!

What do these people believe? They are taught that there are a great many gods, great and small, but one supreme being. He is too great to care for any of them so they have nothing to do with him. The gods of rivers, fields, mountains, winds, and common things need to receive many offerings or harm will be done to their homes by them. Fire is always worshipped,