

The soft wind stirred the corn,
When sudden in the garden
Another flower was born.

It was the evening primrose
Her sisters followed fast;
With perfumed lips they whispered,
"Thank God for night at last."

Little Helpers.

JAPANESE FUNERAL CUSTOMS.

The Japanese practise both burial and cremation. If the body is to be buried it is placed in a large earthen jar, in a sitting posture, with the head bent forward and the arms crossed upon the breast. The body is placed in the grave, with the face to the south.

The bodies of women are dressed in their best garments, and adorned with their richest jewels. The hair is arranged in most elaborate style, and the face is painted. The *obi*, or girdle, is wound about the waist and tied in front, in the manner worn by widows.

Japanese cemeteries are always in some retired place, and are usually made tasteful and attractive. Almost every grave has its headstone, and some have costly monuments. Over new made graves lights are often kept burning for several nights. The tombs of the nobility are frequently furnished with lanterns or lamp-posts, sometimes very costly, inscribed with the virtues of the departed.

On certain days in the year public ceremonies are performed in the cemeteries. One of these days is called the "Feast of Lanterns," and during this festival the cemeteries are lighted with many bright-colored lanterns. At Yeddo the tombs of the Tycoons are very elegant and costly structures, and worship is celebrated there every day by priests appointed for the purpose.

The poorer classes more frequently burn the body than bury it, and the fire is lighted by one of the nearest relatives. The ashes are preserved in jars or vases, which are either kept in the houses, or placed in temples, or left in the cemeteries.

The wealthy Japanese lavish much expense upon funeral ceremonies. Generous presents are made to all who have assisted, from the coolies and professional mourners to the officiating priests. A sumptuous feast is given to the guests, and poor neighbors are also kindly remembered.—*Little Helpers.*

THE CROSS AND THE CROWN.

A Chinese barber-boy heard the gospel, and believed. Upon offering to relinquish one seventh of his small wages, so as to work but six days in the week he was dismissed from service. His aunt, who had adopted him as an orphan boy, was angry and took away his clothes and shoes. He finally enlisted with others as a coolie, to go to British Guiana, thinking this would furnish favorable opportunities for teaching Christian truth. There he became a successful preacher of Christ; and he was instrumental in building up a church of two hundred members, that last year raised two thousand dollars. His name was Lough Fook, and he died last May at the age of forty-three, after having grandly demonstrated the gospel's power to save.
—*Illustrated Missionary News.*

A PRAYER HYMN.

Our Father, we pray
What Christ taught to say,
And hallow Thy name
That from heaven He came.

O wonderful King,
Thy blessed rule bring
Till earth does that will
Which the angels fulfil!

O give us always
Our bread for each day;
Forgiveness renew,
And let us forgive too.

Keep us in Thy way
Lest evil betray,
Power and glory to Thee,
Our dear King, ever be! M. W. S.