

## FEEDING THE TEMPLE BIRDS AND DOGS IN JAPAN.

Connected with many of the Buddhist temples in China and Japan, are a number of domestic animals, birds or fishes, which are treated as if they were sacred, being tended by the priests with the greatest care, and given burial like to that of human beings when they die. The priests teach the people that it is a highly meritorious act to purchase food from them wherewith to feed the animals, and few visit the temples without doing this. It is one great source of the income of the priests.

The Buddhists believe in the transmigration of souls into the bodies of various animals, and a strict follower of this religion will by no means take animal life, lest he should dislodge the human soul, which for the time being is in the animal. He much prefers, and he thinks it a work of great merit in him, to preserve life and to carefully tend and show honor to living things; and not only for the reason we have mentioned, but, also, as some amends for the ills the animal creation suffers at the hands of man.

At a celebrated temple in Honam, near Canton, a dozen enormous pigs are maintained in the greatest possible comfort and plenty. Every honor is paid to them, and when one dies another is immediately found to take its place. Their styes are kept beautifully clean, and some of these animals live to a good old age—fifty, sixty and even seventy years.

At a famous temple in Hangchow there is a very large pond, filled with various kinds of fish, which are so tame that they will raise their bodies half out of the water to receive the food given them. At other temples swans are kept; at others turtles, &c.

In some of the Japanese temples beautiful horses are kept, and treated as sacred; and in others curious and ugly-looking dogs, which the Japanese make house pets of. At one temple in Oyama there are no less than thirty of these dogs. An English gentleman who visited this temple writes:

"I watched what was going on, when I saw that the visitors gave a man a small coin, and that he then threw the food on the ground, causing a playful rush of the dogs. The food was boiled rice, made into small rolls, and no one seemed to go away without paying for some to be given to the dogs."

In the grounds of the temple, which the Japanese lady and her little girl represented in the picture are visiting, birds are kept as well as the queer looking

lessons of kindness to the creatures whom God has made it would be well, but they are instructed in the strange doctrine of the passing of human souls at death into the bodies of animals, birds, &c., and what otherwise would be harmless and even beneficial, becomes superstitious and hurtful. And then the little ones are taken inside the temples and taught to worship the idols and pray to the false gods.

But Christian truth is now

and the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ be established in all parts of the country.—*Ex.*

## BRAIDING: HOW TO BRAID MATS.

I well remember my first attempt to braid. It was not a success, but I feel sure that the failure was owing (in a great measure at least) to the materials which were put into my inexperienced hands.

The piece of work was an antimacassar, the material was book-muslin, and I had to from the buds, flowers, leaves, and stalks of fuchsias with worsted braid. Can you imagine any work more troublesome than that of sewing thick, stiff braid on to thin, stretching muslin?

Fortunately for you, my dears, this style of braiding is no longer in fashion. A thicker material has taken the place of the thin, and therefore the task of braiding is much less difficult to accomplish.

When braid is clumsily put on, it only spoils the appearance of the material it is intended to improve; but when braid is neatly and properly sewed on, it most certainly makes the material look much handsomer than it did when without braid.

Of the three kinds of braid, cotton, worsted, and silk, that made of cotton is decidedly the easiest to manage. Worst-ed braid is stiff, and unwilling to turn itself over and backwards. Silk braid is quite amiable in that respect, but it is very soon injured. Beginners whether old or young, cannot, you know, do anything perfectly at first, and in braiding, as in other kinds of work, stitches have often to be taken out, for sometimes the braid is allowed to run

off the line, and then it has to be removed and put on the boundary mark. Well, cotton or worst-ed braid is none the worse for these alterations, but silk braid would be certainly damaged. You little ones would be sure to catch hold of some of the threads of the braid as well as of the working thread, and then that portion of it would look rough and ragged; and as braid cannot be cut and joined in the middle of a pattern, you see the pre-



dogs; and the exceeding tameness of the birds is well shown in the picture. The engraving is copied from a Japanese drawing, and shows exactly the style of dress, mode of arranging the hair, &c., of Japanese ladies and girls.

Chinese and Japanese parents are very fond of taking their children to the temples where the sacred animals are, in order that they may have the pleasure of feeding them. If at these visits they merely learned

spreading in Japan, and many parents and children are learning that an idol is nothing in the world; that there is no other God but One, and no other Saviour but the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of the heathen temples are being closed or used for other purposes, the bells and bronze images being sold as old metal, and the wooden idols destroyed.

May the idolatry of the Japanese soon cease entirely.