

HERE is Japan's beautiful "Sacred Mountain." Fujiyama, the pride and boast of every Japanese, and the admiration and delight of all foreigners. This is the way in which one of our Lady Missionaries wrote of it—"I count as one of our blessings the privilege of enjoying such scenery. Mountains surrounding us on every side, with Fuji now gleaming white in its snowy covering, rearing its proud head high over all the green rice fields of the plain, now turning to yellow a landscape varied by numerous houses and trees dotting the plains, and oftentimes, crowning all, great snowy cloud billows or a golden sunset sky." Why is the mountain sacred? Because of the superstitions attached to it, and every year it is ascended by hosts of pilgrims who long for a rest which is only to be found in Christ of whom they have never heard.

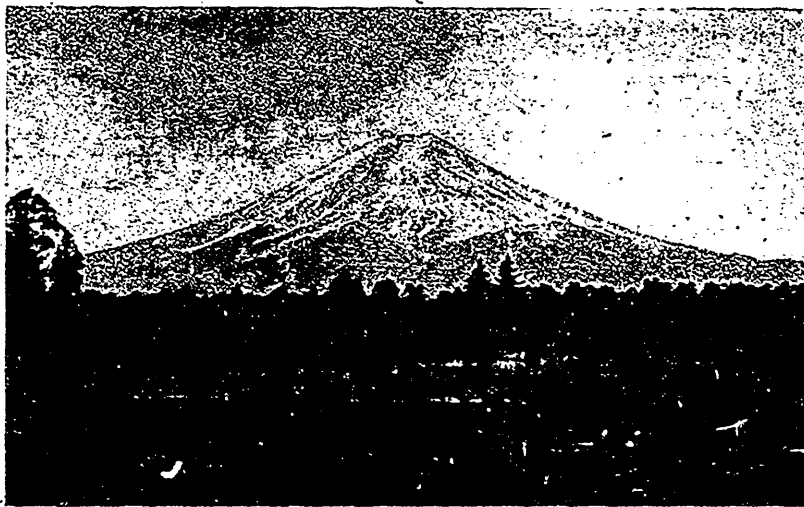
Would the girls and boys of the Mission Bands like to make the ascent up the steep mountain

sides? All right, let us go, only we must be sure to go in July or August; at other times it is dangerous and we might not be able to get a guide, the guides are afraid to risk it. In mid-summer the snow leaves the mountain, and there is heat and dust. This going up of the girls and boys reminds us of the story told of the first Fugi pilgrim. It was Sin-fu, a Chinese sage, or wise man, who, two or three centuries before Christ, led a band of six hundred youths and maidens to seek for their Emperor, Che-Wang-Te, a remedy

for immortality, to be procured only on the summit of this mountain. This band of pilgrims never returned. How sad to think that God's best gift to man should be so lightly esteemed—for Immortality has been brought to light by the Gospel.

Shall we not be tired and want to rest? Oh, yes, there are rest houses on the mountain—they are open now and visited by thousands of pilgrims. The pilgrims must walk

but we foreigners may ascend by horse or kago. A kago is a basket palanquin (or covered carriage) slung from a pole and carried on the shoulders of two men. Afraid? Oh, you need not be afraid for they go with a firm and steady tread. Have we reached the top? Well now we are more than 12,000 feet above the level of the sea. A dizzy height! But Oh, the prospect! it is indescribable—there are Temples, heathen temples, round



FUJIYAMA, JAPAN'S SACRED MOUNTAIN.

the rim of the crater of the lava cone, and from these may be seen five different provinces and a great stretch of ocean. If we could only stay till morning to see the sunrise how nice that would be, for this is the sunrise kingdom—but beautiful as the mountain and the prospects are we are glad to get back again to Yokohama and thence home—home to a Christian Land. But there is hope for Japan.

"Pass not unmarked the island in the sea
Whose waters claim the most celebrity,
Half hidden, stretching in a lengthened line
In front of China, which its guide shall be,
Japan abounds in mines of silver fine,
And shall enlightened be by holy faith divine."