

SUNBEAM

Vol. XXVI.

TORONTO, JANUARY 7, 1905.

No. 1.

A PICTURE WANTING WORDS.

We wonder what the real meaning of this interesting picture is. Is it that the little fellow standing there with his feathered hat in his hand has not been able to say his lesson properly and is going to be punished for a long course of laziness, when his brother interposes and offers to bear it for him? or is it that the boy has been accused of doing something which in reality he did not do, but to save his brother, the real culprit is going to bear the punishment? This may be so. Anyhow, the little boy is actively trying to save his brother.

No boy who has any notion at all of courage and manhood in him, should be afraid to bear his punishment, and we are sure this little fellow would not stand by and see his brother whipped for his own crime. At the same time there is something very noble about the little man who was willing to bear the undeserved punishment of his younger brother. Does not this remind us of the wonderful love and brotherhood of our Saviour, Christ, who bore on the cross the sins and punishment, not of one only, but of the whole world?



A PICTURE WANTING WORDS.

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

Among the Chinese the New Year is the greatest festival of all the year. The people spend days in making the most extensive preparations to celebrate it.

In China a month commences with a new moon, and so New Year's Day is

sometimes as late as the second or third week in February.

The first ceremony that a Chinese performs when the hour of midnight has passed and the New Year has been entered,

is to worship before the spirit tablets of his ancestors, and at the shrines of the household gods. After this the whole family go out of the front door of the house, while the women and servants of the household lift up lamps or torches to give them light. They then bow and do reverence toward a part of the heavens that has been indicated in the almanac. On New Year's morning the front doors of most of the houses are usually decorated with new "menshin," or door spirits. These are gaudily colored pictures of two generals of past ages. It is told that one of the emperors had a dream in which he was informed that evil spirits were attempting to invade his palace. To prevent their entrance he commanded two of his bravest warriors to keep guard at the palace gates. The spirits, frightened at their warlike appearance, were afraid to enter, and since the death of these famous generals it is said their pictures have been found to be equally effective in keeping away evil spirits from other doors.

Every one who goes abroad during the New Year festival is dressed in his best clothing. The children are gorgeous in their coats of many colors, while the shoes, caps and collars of the babies are all decorated with many-colored embroidery. As the weather is cold all the garments are wadded, and the children look like round balls.

On the fourth day of the month preparations are made for receiving back again the god of the kitchen, who, it is supposed, has been absent since the twenty-

fourth day of the preceding month, spending his New Year's holiday in the invisible regions. He is believed to have carried thither the report of the conduct of the family during the past year. A paper horse and various other things necessary for his journey are usually burned by the household on the evening of his supposed

fourth day of the preceding month, spending his New Year's holiday in the invisible regions. He is believed to have carried thither the report of the conduct of the family during the past year. A paper horse and various other things necessary for his journey are usually burned by the household on the evening of his supposed