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WOMAN.

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"Woman, why weepest thou?"
 O'er China's rice-fields, o'er her poppies red,
 The sweet voice ran. It was the loving Christ
 Who spoke and looked on helpless woman, priced
 As cattle in the market, crippled, led
 In heavy, cruel chains. I wondered not He said
 "Woman, why weepest thou?"

"Woman, why weepest thou?"
 From India's temples, from her fanes most rare,
 From hut and palace and zenana close,
 A sound of voices, like sad winds, arose,
 And breathed of woman's sorrows past compare.
 There thrilled again the Christ-voice through the tropic air,
 "Woman, why weepest thou?"

"Woman, why weepest thou?"
 Thy help is near! The Christ has heard the sound
 Of world-wide tears! His heralds swift proclaim
 Surcease of weeping through his mighty name!
 Woman, He died, and on the cross was bound
 To lift thee by unfathomed love from depths profound!
 "Woman, why weepest thou?"

HOPE FOR CHINA.

THE 7th November, 1894, was a very important day in China, for it was the sixtieth birthday of the Dowager Empress An, generally known as the Western Empress.

Those sixty years, which they call a "cycle," may correspond to the jubilee which we celebrated when Queen Victoria had reigned fifty years; so we can understand how there were decorations, and illuminations, and feasts, in the great cities of China, though, of course, they differed largely from ours.

On the 12th of that month the Emperor (by the way, young as he is, he is called "the father of a myriad years,") received all the western ambassadors.

This was partly due to the war, and partly to the Empress Dowager's birthday. She is much respected and beloved in the Flowery Kingdom, so many rich and rare presents were laid at her feet. But on this day the two most noted gifts were presented by the British and American visitors. One of these, presented, of course, by the British Minister, was a token of love from our own Queen Victoria; the other, a joint presentation by the two ministers, was perhaps the most magnificent copy of the New Testament ever made. You see it had to be magnificent to be acceptable to the chief woman in so great an empire. We, in this Christian land, know of its great intrinsic worth, but we can understand that it would have to be made attractive outside to a Chinese woman before she would be led to look inside and discover its wonderful truths.

It was on exhibition in Pekin for a while. Don't you wish you had been there to see it? Well, as you were not, we will have to give you the description of it, which we have read. First there is an elegant teak-wood case, and within that a box covered with old gold plush. Inside a solid silver casket is seen, ornamented with bamboo and birds in relief, the bamboo being an emblem of peace, and the birds representing messengers. The casket cover has a gold plate, stating that the book is the gift of the Christian women of China. Within this casket is the Testament itself. Upon the left hand corner of the book, in raised gold, is an inscription, and another on an oval plate in the centre of the cover, meaning that it has power to save the world. Its silver covers are also embossed with bamboo and bird designs. Each page has a border of gold. You understand that this Testament is in the Chinese language.