



"A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

is a circle—symbol of spirit and form, of eternity and triunity. In Nirvana, the highest heaven of the saints, Buddha sits on a lotus flower; so, too, the idol of their creation—the monster Buddha-image, which is sixty-nine feet high.

The lotus is not only an object of supreme delight, but the Buddhist sees in it the exemplification of creative power, and of the systems of the universe and growth. "The lotus springs from the mud," is always the reply of the Japanese to those who would have him believe that the human heart is corrupt, and cannot purify itself.

The massive blossom when half open, reveals within a large, bright yellow, inverted cone, which emits a fragrance at once as subtle and intense as if a vial of

choicest perfume had been poured within. "This," says the native, "teaches that hut man perfection is possible and limitless, at once glorious, yet self-contained."

When the dead body of a Buddhist is brought to the cremarium, that the primal elements of his body may be liberated from their fleshy prison, a carved representation, in stone, of the lotus blossom receives the bier. Thus do these people blend poetic and religious fancies, and make of this "thing of beauty a joy forever."—*Sel.*

GOD'S PURPOSES.

THE purposes of God as to the salvation of men pass beyond the range of denominational plans. A narrow view of the divine plan is sure to be disastrous to church work. The kingdom of God can not be confined to the littleness of human judgment. The growth of that kingdom necessitates new departures, as in the case of Cornelius. He was a remarkable man in the fact that in him Christianity and heathenism had an extremely interesting centre of meeting. To be sure, Christianity triumphed; but in some instances heathenism is victorious. In mission-work there is fought, in the soul of every thoughtful heathen, a battle between the old and to him the new.

God's purpose is to prepare the worker and the one to be reached. In this arrangement he not only goes *with* but *before* the worker. In the

heathen world there are honest minds known to God; and to these the Holy Spirit comes in advance of the missionary, and has them in a state of readiness to receive the gospel message. In this view of the case we are brought to a clear conception of the character and Christian experience of those who should be sent out as missionaries. They should be those whom God has called and baptized for this work. Men and women of robust piety and deep Christian experience are alone fitted to grapple with the temptations and vices of the heathen world and lead the people up to the power of Christianity.

Let me ask, do you also trust therein?—*Juvenile Offering.*