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Publishers' Note.

While the 'Northern Messenger' continues to have sixteen pages it will be found to form two complete papers. The inner one, headed 'Boys and Girls,' will consist exclusively of juvenile Sunday reading while the outer one will endeavor to supply family reading as heretofore. The paper is so arranged that, if desired, the inner double sheet can be slipped, before cutting, from the outer one and each part be read separately from the other.

Converted in Prison.

(Mission Dayspring.)

A remarkable story is told by a lady connected with the English Church Missionary Society in Japan, about a Japanese who was found guilty of the murder of his aunt. Though convicted, he appealed to a higher court and was kept in prison for a year. In some way a New Testament in Japanese came into his hands, and he read it over and over again. The first effect was to make him see what a sinner he was, and how God was displeased with him. He asked earnestly that he might see some Christian teacher, and when his wife was allowed to visit him, he sent out the request that some one who knew about the Christian religion might come and tell him more about it. The prison chaplain was a Buddhist and did not know anything about Christianity, but this prisoner's wife found a catechist whom she begged to go and see her husband. For two months this catechist, whose name was Murata San, was allowed to visit the prisoner once or twice a week. We give the rest of the story as it is told in the 'Church Missionary Intelligencer.'

'Murata San found a man whose heart had been wonderfully opened to the things of God, and his only teacher had been the New Testament. His first question was—what is meant by "coming short of the glory of God?" Almost immediately on seeing Murata San he asked for baptism. Murata San asked him what he knew of prayer. He replied that the only prayer he knew was that which he had found in St. Matthew vi., (the Lord's Prayer) and he always prayed that; he knew no other. Murata San was much impressed by his knowledge of Scripture. When teaching him about sin and its consequences, or God's love and salvation, the man would say, "Yes, I remember; that is in such and such a chapter." He was deeply convinced of sin, and of God's righteousness in judging sin, and his love toward the Lord Jesus Christ for suffering for sin was very real. Knowing that the broken law of his country demanded his death, and that there was no escape, made him see, in contrast, God's most gracious loving-kindness in providing a way of pardon for the breakers of his law. His letters to his teacher, Murata San, were full of gratitude.

'Finally, the governor of the prison allowed him to be baptized. The day at first thought of for his baptism turned out to be the day fixed for his execution. He was not told this; he only heard that there was a dif-

ficulty, so he was baptized the day previous. Prisoners in Japan do not know the day of their execution; they only know when the last morning comes by being roused to an early breakfast, and they are then almost immediately taken to execution. A special guard is set over them during their last night.

'Murata San was not allowed to be there for the end, but the guard told him the particulars afterwards. He said that the prisoner, after sleeping quietly for a few hours, suddenly awoke, and put his hands together and prayed. After sleeping, he awoke again, and said, "Jesus has come," and once more prayed. In the morning, on being aroused early, he knew for the first time that his

Victorian India Orphan Society

Winnipeg, Jan. 27.—Mrs. Crichton, secretary-treasurer of the Victorian India Orphan Society writes to the 'Messenger':—

'The following extracts give incidents which have recently occurred in connection with our Orphanage work at Dhar, Central India, and are very interesting as showing some of the many gratifying results that are attending the work, and bringing us into nearer touch and sympathy with the faithful workers in that distant land who are so nobly fulfilling our Master's last command to his followers.

'We had a visit in Dhar of His Highness



A JAPANESE BUDDHIST PRIEST AT WORSHIP.

end was near. At first he seemed somewhat overcome, but on being asked if he had any request to make, he said, "I am a Christian and should like to be buried by Christians." Many prisoners get into a fearful condition as they are being led out to die, but this man walked calmly to the scaffold and prayed, and as the drop went down he was repeating, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." All who saw him were very much astonished, and said that the Christian religion must have some great power in it to transform a man in so wonderful a fashion.

'Another prisoner requested Murata San to visit him, and, when the catechist went, the Buddhist priests all came to hear the secret of the change which had been wrought in the executed murderer.'

the Maharajah and Her Highness the Maharani of Baroda; they are amongst the most enlightened of all the native chiefs in India, and have together visited England several times and travelled extensively over the European Continent; the last time they were in England they lunched with our late beloved Queen.

'Their object in coming to Dhar was to engage their daughter to our little Rajah; however some hitch occurred by which the proceedings were hindered for the present at least. When they came, I was invited to go to the Girls' School and receive Her Highness the Maharani, and also was asked to bring my girls to the State School, both of which I did; she heard the girls sing, read, saw their work, etc. The next day I was