

THE SUNBEAM

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THE MAGNET.

MASTER FRED has just had the present of a horse-shoe magnet, and he is showing his sister how curiously it attracts the scissors, or anything made of iron or steel. If he were to sprinkle some iron filings, or tacks, or needles on a sheet of paper and pass the magnet to and fro under the paper, it would be very curious to see the objects on the paper following the unseen magnet beneath.

CHINESE BABIES.

A CHINESE baby's cradle is a kind of basket made of straw very thickly twisted. In shape, it is something like an hour-glass. There is a hole at the top and one at the bottom. The little baby is put in at the top. Under the basket, on the floor, is placed a pan of heated charcoal, to keep its little feet warm. How very nice this must be in cold weather. It has rattles to play with, as babies at home have.

Baby's head is often shaved, and its hair, as soon as it is an inch or two long, is braided into a little tail! This tail is tied with a bit of silk or red cord. Sometimes baby has two little tails, one on each side of its head; sometimes one only, sticking out of a round hole in the top of the cap.

A baby's cap, in China, is not made of muslin or lace. It is a stiff band of silk or



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velvet. Little tinkling bells are sometimes added, and so "baby has music wherever it goes." There is generally a little image of a *bush*, or idol, just in front, which the poor heathen mother thinks will protect her dear baby from harm.

In the summer the babies wear scarcely any clothes, but in winter, in the north of China, the babies' clothes are padded so

thickly with cotton that they look like little bolsters! Can you fancy a fat, brown baby, muffled up in thick clothes, and a dark cap fitting closely to its head, with a round hole at the top for its little braided tail to pass through? Such is a Chinese baby in the cold winter days!

Our readers will be interested in this account of their brothers and sisters in China. "What!" I think I hear some one say, "are they our brothers and sisters?" Yes, they are; and therefore we ought to take an interest in them. Then pray for them, and help to send them the good tidings about Jesus, who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me."

A MOTHER'S REPROOF

A YOUNG man, who, when an infant, had lost his father, remarked to a person in conversation: "Whenever I was guilty of disobeying my mother, and she called me to account, she would talk to

me seriously, then kneel down in prayer and tell God all about my conduct, and the consequences of my course. I used to feel at such times as if my heart would burst, and I have often said, 'Mamma, whip, but don't talk to me and pray for me.' Ah," said he, "it was the talking and praying that affected me more than the whipping, though all were necessary"