

young king, who has already done away with so many old and foolish customs, and who is in other things so intelligent, may soon learn to worship the true God and influence his subjects to do the same, and that Christian Churches may take the place of the Buddhist temples of which the land is full? H. M. H.

—*Children's Work.*

About China.

A great many of our boys and girls will be enjoying boat-rides on some river or canal near their homes on these beautiful summer days. But how would you like to live on the water all the time? A great many of the Chinese people are too poor to have homes on the land, so they buy boats to catch fish in, or to carry passengers or freight up and down their rivers or canals. Then the whole family live in this boat all the time. In the city of Canton alone it is said that no less than three hundred thousand people thus live on the water. They are born, they marry, they die in their boats and never know what it is to have a home like yours and mine. Many have never slept a single night on the shore. Your mamma would be in constant terror lest you should fall in the water and be drowned. The little Chinese children often fall over-board, but their mammas just keep a large hollow gourd tied securely around each child's neck, and as they float in the water instead of sinking the children are easily picked up again. A great many people travel from place to place in these boats paying the boatmen at about the rate of a dollar a day. Any man can easily get a boat when he needs it, but sometimes they will not take a woman. Miss Fielde in her interesting book called "Pagoda Shadows" tells us an amusing story about this. One dark, stormy night, she was coming home from one of her mission stations on Swatow Bay. The wind and waves prevented the large boat, on which she was a passenger, sailing fast. At last the boatmen said they could go no farther, and that they must run in near the shore until the wind changed. Miss Fielde had either to stay all night tossing about with the waves or call a small fishing boat with strong oarsmen to take her the last three miles. She decided to call a little boat. Soon one came along, and the boatmen tried to bargain for her passage. The little boat's owners said they would carry one passenger the three miles for twenty-seven cents. But on coming near the large boat, they saw a lady step out of her cabin to join them, when off they paddled with might and main, saying "It is a foreign lady! It is a teacheress! It is a woman!" and no bribe would coax them to return. Their only reason was that if they even carried a girl baby in their boat, that they would catch no fish for many days? I am sorry to tell you that little girls have a very cold reception when they come to live in China. Many a Chinese mother after she learns to love Jesus has told the missionaries of herself killing her baby girls as soon as they were born. Some confess to having killed four, or five, or more. One said she could not remember how many she had thus got rid of. A man living in a small village near the sea shore had a baby girl about three months old. Her mother died and the man did not want to support his little daughter so he just laid her on the shore and watched the waves wash her away! And in that village of three thousand people nobody took any more notice of what he had done than if a kitten had been drowned in your home. Some people use these baby girls to make money with. They build big houses for them and take all the babies in that are thrown out in the streets to perish. When about twelve days old, if strong

and well they are piled into baskets and carried out on a man's shoulder's for sale. He gets twenty cents a day for peddling babies. Who will buy them you ask? Some poor mothers who have little boys growing up buy them to be wives for their sons. We can imagine the wailing cries when these baskets are opened and the naked, hungry, cold little babies are tumbled about to see which will make the best wife ten years afterwards.

All my little girl friends who read this paper will find a new reason to thank our Father in Heaven for sending them to a Christian home where they are welcomed, loved, and cared for. All of you can pray that the missionaries in China may be blessed in their work. Wherever the Bible goes in heathen lands, wherever Jesus is known and loved girls are allowed to live and are taught about Him by their parents. Next time I will tell you about the way little girls in China have their feet bound.

SISTER BELLE.

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M. A. SMITH,

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