

you would think they were live fish tugging at their strings.

Japanese boys and girls go to school, according to their idea of what going to school means; but American children would call it a pretty poor sort of a school. First the children study two very old books. They must learn to know and remember all the letters, of which there are a great many. Then they advance to a wonderful story, in the course of which one thousand characters are introduced.

By this time an ordinary Japanese education is completed. How strange it is that they have been going to Sunday School all this time! Their education and their religion are gained at the same time, for you see Shintoism is the prevailing religion in Japan, and the Shintoist worships his ancestors and the Mikado, and when he has learned enough about them to worship them he is educated, in the Japanese sense of the word.

In Japan they wear wooden shoes—a flat piece of wood with a cross-piece at the toe and heel. These raise the wearer two or three inches above the ground. These shoes are bound to the foot with thongs, those in front passing between the big toe and the second toe. But if you speak of the big toe in Japan, you must call it the thumb toe, because the stockings are made like our mittens, with a separate place for the “thumb toe.”

Bright colours are the rule in Japanese dress. The children you see on the street, and at their games make a bright picture, in their little blue dresses faced with red, with great sashes bound tightly around them and tied in a knot behind.

While there is much that is curious and interesting about our little Japanese friends, yet there is one point on which they can teach us a good lesson: the fifth commandment begins, “Honor thy father and thy mother.” In seven other places in the Bible is the same command given, and yet we, who send missionaries to Japan, find there that fathers and mothers are honoured and respected in a way that American parents know nothing about.—*Our Sunday Afternoon.*

#### THE CHILDREN'S LENTEN LETTER.

**C**HILDREN of the Church of England in Canada, remember your Lenten letter prepared and sent to you by the bishops of the Church. It was read in nearly all our Sunday Schools on Sexagesima Sunday. Will you not all save up some of your pocket money to help poor little Indian children who have not the privileges which you possess?

This is *your* missionary work for Lent, and it will make a glad offering on Easter Day. Remember what the Saviour says, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these ye have done it unto Me.”

#### “ORDERS” AND “HOLY ORDERS.”

**B**EEN ordered to sea, Middy? Don't think I should like to be ordered around so,” said Tom Spratt.

“Yes; and your Cousin Frank will be ‘ordered’ next month. He seems to like it,” was Jo John's reply.

“No, sir; he will be ‘ordained,’ that's different.”

“Wherein is the difference, Tom? I take ‘orders,’ he gets ‘Holy Orders’—that is the only thing about it. It's ‘orders’ all the same.”

“But it is the Church, and yours is only the Navy.”

“About the same, Tommy, my boy; everything is ‘holy’ that is right.”

“You always argue so; I suppose you could even get missions into your argument somehow, if you tried.”

“Yes, ‘orders’ are sort of ‘mission’; permission to go, commission to sail under; ‘mission’ is sending, and I am sent to sea. I hold a commission from the President, and I have his permission to do so-and-so.”

“But the Bishop gives Frank his orders, and his duties are certainly higher and holier.”

“Well, *all* duty is holy, high and holy both; your cousin will have his, and I mine. ‘Ordained’ is ordered; ‘sent to sea’ is mission; as ‘join your regiment’ is somewhat like ‘called to a parish.’ Army, Navy and Church have all of them to be ‘ordered and governed’; disorder would be a bad thing for any of them; and all are ‘holy’ in their proper sphere.”

“You wax warm and I begin to see it in your light; seems to me we are all missionaries somehow lately; the Church, the family and the State are all appointed for some good purposes, and among them to turn out missionaries. Shall you missionate while you are gone?”

“Yes, for I too, am under holy orders, though of a lower sort than Frank's will be. I was made a ‘missionary’ at the Font; I was put into the Great Army Militant of the Church, and I must fight the good fight of faith; and wherever I am, must pray and watch, and give alms, and make my ‘mission’ known, and sail under the great sailing orders of the Church. I am so ‘ordered’ to do, though I am a midddy; and you are too, and all of us.”—*The Young Christian Soldier.*

THE Rt. Rev. Dr. Horden, Bishop of Moosee, has translated into the Cree language all the Old Testament Lessons of the Church, the Prayer Book and Hymnal, Pilgrims' Progress, a short Catechism, and a Bible and Gospel history. He has just finished what he regards as the crowning work of his life—the complete translation of the whole Bible into the language of the Crees.