

THE GIRLS OF HEATHEN COUNTRIES.

Girl life, among more than half the population of the globe, seems the cheapest thing in the dust bin of human possessions. A missionary lady in China tell of twenty-five women between thirty and sixty years of age, personally known to her, among whom were born sixty male and one hundred and twenty female children. Of these twenty-one males and twenty-three females lived till ten years of age. Eight males and thirty-one females were destroyed at birth. Another missionary lady in the same country knew of one hundred mothers who had destroyed one hundred and fifty-eight female children; forty who had destroyed seventy-eight, and six who destroyed eleven.

The motives which induce the practice are too many to admit of enumeration. If a mother has not borne sons, she often destroys all her female offspring that she may the sooner hope to have a son. If she have sons, two or three girls may be allowed to live, but any thereafter will be smothered at birth, because of the expense of rearing them, or from some more oblique cause.

In China we find the illiteracy of females not the same in all parts of the empire. In North China the estimate is, that in sixty or seventy out of every hundred families of wealth the females are able to read. "I have found the wife of Chi-fu of Taiyuen," says a missionary, "to use all the fingers of both hands in counting up the books she had read, and that means learned by heart."

In Shantung, however, not more than one woman in five hundred could read. Possibly a fair estimate for even this literary nation would be, taking the whole of China proper, that one woman in three can read.

There is one other feature of Chinese society which ought not to be wholly unnoticed, even in this hasty allusion to the more prominent ills which the Chinese women is heir to—namely, domestic slavery. It is not easy to write with accuracy about the girl-slavery of the Chinese Empire. A reliable writer "knows of girls disappearing," or, as it is said, "gone to spend a month with friends." Sometimes pressure for money comes on the family and the daughter is *paumed*; sometimes it is said plainly that her father has taken

her to a distant city to sell her. Sometimes she is handed over to the purchaser by indirect methods. The girl is at play and is "kidnapped," and no tidings of her can be obtained. After a month it turns out that her elder brother, or the head of the house, and therefore the disposer of the liberty of the females of the family, was in debt, and the "kidnapped" girl had been sold, and delivered according to previous arrangements.—*Rev. J. T. Gracey, D.D., in Methodist Review.*

THE GREAT INVITATION.

(Matt. xi. 28.)

During a religious awakening in a factory village in New England a foreman was awakened, but could not find peace. His superior sent him a letter requesting him to call at six o'clock. Promptly he came. "I see you believe me," said his master. The foreman assented. "Well, see; here is another letter sending for you by One equally in earnest," said his master, holding up a slip of paper with some texts of Scripture written on it. He took the paper, and began to read slowly, "Come unto me, all ye that labor," etc. His lips quivered, his eyes filled with tears; then he stood for a few moments not knowing what to do. At length he inquired, "Am I just to believe that in the same way I believed your letter?" "Just in the same way," rejoined the master. This expedient was owned of God in setting him at liberty.

The Pope has taken a step in opposition to the attitude he has seemed to occupy hitherto. He has made friends it appears with the Jesuits and desires the restoration of their privileges in Italy. The Italian Government, it is stated, is much annoyed at this, and has decided to intervene and rigidly enforce all laws against the order. The effect, we are told, will be the expulsion of the Jesuits from Italy.

The Rev. Henry Loomis writes from Yokohama of the very promising state of things in Japan. The missionary outlook was never so encouraging—shall we not say, alluring—as at the present time. Both Government and people seem favorable, and in many places the latter welcome the truth. The call is pressing for an increase of both missionaries and teachers.