



NOTICE

Subscribers finding the figure 5 after their name will bear in mind that their term will expire at the end of the present month. Early remittances are desirable, as there is then no loss of any numbers by the stopping of the paper.

A JAPANESE TEA-HOUSE NEAR TOKIO.

The Japanese like their neighbors in China, are great tea-drinkers. The tea-kettle is always on the fire as soon as a visitor calls, tea is prepared and presented to him together with a tiny pipe of tobacco. Public tea-houses are very numerous in the cities and on the high-ways of travel. Some of those in the country are situated in the midst of beautiful gardens and flower-gardens, and in the evening of the year when the flowers begin to bloom, they are visited by multitudes from the cities. We give a picture of one of these tea-houses with pleasant surroundings, which is situated near Tokio (Yedo).

A missionary lady gives the following account of a picnic which she and the girls of her school had on the top of a beautiful hill, where there was one of these pretty tea-houses:

"I have often alluded to the fact that our scholars are very fond of their studies and need no urging to keep them at their books, and yet they enjoy a holiday as much as girls in America. We had been talking for some time of getting up a picnic for them, but the weather has been so cold and rainy all the spring, that we were obliged to put it off from week to week, waiting for it to become warm and pleasant. At length a few days of mild weather induced us to fix upon last Tuesday, May 16, for the long-talked-of holiday, and it was well that we did, for the day proved to be lovely, while ever since it has been cold and rainy.

"We started at a little after eight in the morning, having decided upon No-ken-do, or 'The Plains of Heaven,' as the place for our picnic. This is the name given to the top of a hill eight or nine miles south of Yokohama. It commands a magnificent view of the bay and the surrounding country. Just below the brow of the hill, but overlooking the fine view, is a large tea-house or resting place for the refreshment of travellers. The Japanese always show great appreciation for the beautiful in the location of these tea-houses. On the top of the hill are some fine shady pine trees and a rude sort of low table for the accommodation of picnic parties, which are very common among this people, though their name for them, which signifies 'looking at the flowers,' is rather more elegant than this one we use.

"On starting at the end of our journey, the girls were divided themselves into little exploring parties, while we spread the table and unpacked the tables. The long ride and fresh air had sharpened their appetites, and they ate the more substantial articles that we had provided. After they were satisfied and were all seated at the table, one of the girls, who had appointed themselves our waitress for the occasion, cleared off and washed up the plates, and we sat down to our lunch in the perfect quiet and tranquillity of the spot and the glorious view forming the best part of the feast.

"The afternoon was spent in various amusements, in playing the game and in singing the songs of our school. We had probably never been used to 'sing before,' and it was very novel to us. It was a young woman sitting in a row of pines and grass-

to the true God in the midst of those heathen surroundings—for the remains of an old temple stood near at hand with its broken idols and tablets, and many of the worshippers of such images were gathered about us. We believe the glorious time is not far distant when all these idol gods and heathen temples shall be overthrown, and the true God alone shall be worshipped on every hill-top and in every valley of this beautiful land. Exchange.

FLOWERS AND CHILDREN.

BY HOPE LEYDARD.

At this season, children, like flowers, take a new start. The first days, when even the littlest ones can run out on the delight of the 'darlings' run out yourself, even though some pressing duty must be left for a moment, to enjoy it all with them. You like attention, do you, and perhaps once in a while sigh a little over the days when your young friends waited on you so eagerly? You will have a perfect lover in your little son. What thought the flowered lily brings so eagerly to you are but 'handellans and foreyes' was ever brought



A JAPANESE TEA-HOUSE.

brought you more lovingly. Take care of them, let him find you treasure his offerings, just as you used to treasure his father's flowers in the years gone by. Run races with the children, pick up the stones from the lawn, and show them the pale yellow grass beneath, teaching them how bad habits and evil thoughts will lie like stones on the soil of our hearts.

Take care to admire the little treasures your children find. It is in these slight things that we win our people. Another may be very faulty, even grieve bitterly over her mistakes with her children, but if she wins their love by a thoughtful consideration, such as she would exercise towards her outside friends, she has a hold that will give her faults of character cannot loosen.

I wish, through the summer that is coming, our country mothers would resolve to give some special time to our-door life with our children. We have had the troubles come sure that up with us all winter, and often our words have echoed, and we have attributed the cloud for that blessed bed-time to our children, and when the darlings have been around on telling us, 'I love you so, my good mamma, we have been so happy as if we were hypocrites,

with our weariness and disgust for the noise and romps that is a "needs be" to them.

But now, all is changed. "Can I go out, mamma?" is the first question, and we smile radiantly, and go to our work with a sigh of relief. But let us watch ourselves. Let us remember that every moment these little minds are working, those little fingers, lifting first a stone, then pulling a flower, the tongues are going just as fast as ever; so we must teach them to need us, out of doors, as well as in the house.

When our backs ache, and we are trying temptations to strengthen us, let us, though we are tired to death, run once or twice round the house, with the youngsters, and then, as we rest on the steps, they can stick dandelions in our hair, and find us a wonderful spider to look at, and tell us how they long to spend some day in the woods. You were planning a grown-up picnic, but if you can only have one holiday, give it to your little ones. Get papa to let you have the big wagon, and let the children invite whom they will, the blessed little ones, and will be sure to include Ethel, Katy, and little raggedy (Loretta), and with [unclear] and [unclear] ginger-wine, and [unclear]

little above, apparently digging a hole to plant himself, as the flower of the family. He is very dirty, but mamma loves to bathe him, and no cross Bridget shall wash him, carelessly and roughly. Let us spend a portion of each of the summer days, with the flowers and the children.—Working Church.

"SCATTER SEEDS OF KINDNESS."

PICTURES AND TOYS FOR POOR CHILDREN.

There are many ways of doing effectual good besides preaching sermons or distributing tracts. One means of usefulness which is open to almost everyone desirous of serving God through His creatures is to cheer and animate the lives of the children of the very poor. The little folks in comfortable homes, with their abundant supply of playthings, have little idea of the dull, dreary lives of thousands upon thousands of less-privileged children. Of course there are many out-door pleasures which the poorest of young people in country places can enjoy, but even these, in their earliest years, drag along many a dismal hour through the absence of a few bright pictures or toys. Especially is this the case with poor children confined to their beds by sickness or accident. To thousands of humble households the present, for the little ones, of picture-books, or a toy-horse, dog, or other plaything, would be a most welcome gift. And especially does a bed-ridden child delight in a scrap-book of pictures—such a one, for example, as the writer lately saw, which a little girl had made out of a seed-grower's catalogue of seeds and plants, having pasted over every page cuttings from illustrated newspapers and magazines. That particular scrap-book was one of a large collection of similar gifts and toys made by kind young people for a Medical Mission to Diseased Children. Even post-card and handbills may be thus utilized for pasting pictures over. Many a cottage home would be glad of such presents, and the preparation of them is a capital training for the young givers, for there are manifold advantages in such little services. They are not only helpful to those who receive them, but are even more useful to those who prepare and bestow them, for they thus become a means of waking young lives to the blessedness of sympathy, and to the happiness of seeking to do good after the example of the blessed Redeemer, who is pleased when His children thus manifest their love to Him, even by the humblest of kindly services to others of His great family. Suitable texts of Scripture might be introduced wisely, and thus the Gospel kept before many a child, and carried to many a home where otherwise perhaps it would not find entrance, and who can tell the results that might follow with the blessing of God!—Ford and Work.

NAME-LENDING.

There is too much of it, there is too little principle in giving the name and recommending any work or institution. Men are busy, they have not time, they are hopeful, and guess it is all right, they are indolent, and date it as they go, they are benevolent, and trust it is a good object. The talk sounds fine.

It has come within our observation, that men will sign their names as trustees or managers, when they know they should perform some of the duties of trustees or managers.

Have not the applicants said, "Oh, the duties will be merely nominal. We only want your name, others will do the work."

Very well, let those who do the work give their names. It is simply wrong and wicked to give your name, and a rough lot a man, or an institution, unless you know all about it, and can enter its practical working. There are many things that are good in theory, and that look all fair in their inception, which are practically utter failures.—N. Y. Observer.