

And this is right here in the midst of Christian civilization and within twenty-five miles of the railroad, in the State of Missouri.

From a report by the Rev. W. E. Stevenson, formerly a Sunday-school missionary in western Missouri, under the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work.

SUNDAY NEAREST CHRISTMAS

SANTA CLAUS IN KOREA

Santa Claus in America and Santa Claus in Korea are two very different beings. In Korea he is called *Angwangi*,* and he is supposed to be an old man who lives in the upper air. Like the Santa Claus in America, he brings gifts, but of a very different kind, and he presents them at New-year instead of Christmas.

There is not a girl or boy, man or woman, in Korea who is glad when *Angwangi* comes around. Everybody fears him, for he is a villainous old fiend, whose gifts are typhus fever, cholera, leprosy, and other diseases.

Instead of wearing his shoes inside the house, the Korean leaves them outside the door. *Angwangi* comes down on New-year's eve and tries them on, leaving some memento of his visit. Now nobody wants any of *Angwangi*'s gifts, so one plan after another was tried to prevent his leaving any.

This is the one that the Koreans believe is most successful. A common flour sieve is left beside the shoe mat on New-year's eve. As *Angwangi* has a mania for counting the meshes in these sieves, his attention is at once drawn to them the moment he sees one outside the house. He begins counting, and soon forgets everything else. Before he is aware, daylight has come, and with it *Angwangi*'s opportunity to scatter disease and pestilence for the New-year is gone.

NOTE.—It will be well to have a flour sieve to show to the school as the above story is told.

Adapted from Gale, *Korean Sketches*.

* Pronounce, Ang-wang'-i.