

been arrested and imprisoned. Meanwhile the gentleman has looked after the baby, and being unmarried he was anxious to have her in experienced hands, so he came to our bungalow hoping to put her in the boarding school.

Miss Grier and I talked the matter over and agreed to take the baby as our own, on shares (as they take some farms in Canada), and pay a native Christian woman to take care of her till old enough to enter school as our charge, which, we trust, she will always be.

Dr. Margaret O'Hara suggested a woman who lives in the Hospital Compound and works for her. She was asked if she would care for the little one, and her answer was: "As fire warms all who come near, so my heart warms towards a baby." So it was arranged, and the little child came next morning in charge of a woman and the chief of police. She was wrapped in a dirty shawl, which did duty for all other garments, and of course, a topee (cap) on her head.

After awhile she cried a good deal, but Dr. O'Hara said she was getting over the effects of opium, for the poor little thing had been kept drugged by the woman who had been appointed to look after it. She is getting on nicely and looks so bright and pretty in her little print gowns.

Dr. O'Hara and I were invited out to dinner one evening lately, and met, among the guests, our baby's protector. He asked us to call her *Pyurie* (long a) the Hindu for "be loved," and when baptized he will attend, and his gift to her will be silver bangles instead of the silver christening mug given to her fair brothers and sisters on such occasions.

The idea of silver bangles may suggest to you that it is wrong to have such things, but native women, Christian or heathen, think it is wrong to have our wrists uncovered, and express surprise that we do not wear bangles. Ah, well! if baby never wears them, she can keep them, like a bank account.

We will all try to guide the little one to the feet of Jesus and trust she may prove one of his precious jewels.—*Leaflet*.

PASSING CHILDREN THROUGH FIRE.

A STORY FROM SCOTLAND.

THE ancient Molech-worship of the heathen seems to have consisted partly in *burning* their little children in the fire. It is possible that in ordinary cases children were "passed through" or between fires, instead of really being burned.

There are relics of this old idolatry still existing. The *Pall Mall Gazette* for March, 1890, gave an account of it in Scotland as follows:

"At the last meeting of the Scottish Antiquarian Society in Edinburgh, the Rev. Dr. Stewart, of Nether Lochaber, read a paper on fire superstitions, in which he mentioned that a correspondent, while in a remote glen in Wigtownshire last march, saw a slight smoke proceeding from a hollow.

On proceeding to the bank above he saw five women *passing a sick child through a fire*. Two of the women standing opposite each other, held a blazing hoop vertically between them, and two others standing on either side of the hoop were engaged in passing the child backwards and forwards through the opening of the hoop. The fifth woman, who was the mother of the child, stood at a little distance earnestly looking on.

After the child had been *eighteen times* passed and repassed through the fiery circle, it was returned to its mother, and the burning hoop was thrown into a pool of water close by. The child, which was about *eighteen months old*, was a weakling, and was supposed to have come under the baleful influence of an evil eye.

The hoop had been twisted round with a straw rope, in which a few drops of oil were scattered to make it burn all round at the same time.

The child was passed through the hoop eighteen times, once for each month of its age.

When the child was taken home a bunch of bog myrtle was suspended over its bed."