

"How they Travel," "Japanese Children at School," "A Japanese Temple Seince," "The Christian Church in Japan," "Where the Japanese Children Live," "The Christian Family in Japan," "The Feast of the Dolls," "The Feast of Flags.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC TO JAPAN.

"Now children all aboard for Japan, good-bye Vancouver. Did I hear one of you say that your mother was anxious about you and hesitated to let you take this trip across the Pacific Ocean? Well just write her a letter this afternoon and tell her what a beautiful, commodious and comfortable ship this "Empress of China" is, and how attentive the officers and men are to every possible need of the passengers. Tell her that one of the party who has crossed the Pacific four times said that the C. P. R. steamers are the swiftest and safest ships that run between America and Asia.

Now we swing out into the harbor and glide down with the swiftly ebbing tide through the gap, past Stanley Park with its majestic tines of the forest, out into the Strait of Georgia, beautiful and illuminated by the afternoon sun. But dinner is ready—here we are! "Victory!" Post your letters to your mothers and loved ones here, and then turn in for the night.

How cold it is becoming! I thought Japan was away to the South, some of you say. "Yes, but the C. P. R. steamers in order to make a short cut go away to the North. We are now four hundred miles further north than Toronto, and can see the Aleutian Islands. The earth is much thicker through at the equator than it is from pole to pole hence the reason for sailing north." Sunday night—a week to go—tomorrow noon we sailed. Good-night dear," I hear one sister saying to her young brother. But Tuesday morning! What does this mean? Did we sleep all day Monday? No, we have crossed the 180th parallel of longitude where the day begins and skipped a day in order to catch up.

"Banzai, Banzai," here we are at Yokohama. Mr. Borden the treasurer of our mission in Japan is here to meet us. How funny it sounds to hear him talking Japanese to the men with the little carts. How funny to ride in these carts pulled by a man who rushes off to the station at a break neck pace!

What a funny noise the wooden shoes make as people walk along the concrete platforms of the station! Yes, girls and boys, but remember that our language, manners and customs are equally funny to those who are unaccustomed to them. Your hats probably look very grotesque and absurd to these people so please remember that such differences as speech, dress and customs are of little importance and that these people are our brothers and sisters and that Jesus loves them just as much as he loves us. God is their Father and He cares for them.

"Shimabashi! Here we are 4,280 miles on that splendid Canadian Pacific steamer, 18 miles by train to Tokio. What a pleasant trip. But hurry up, Mr. Borden has Juitikisha here ready for us to get into. Although early in March how warm it is in Tokio and what a profusion of flowers! Yes, Tokio is more than 500 miles south of Toronto and Japan is called "The Flowery Kingdom."

Order all supplies for the Junior trip from F. C. Stephenson, Methodist Mission Rooms, Toronto.

The remainder of the visit to the Mission Stations will be supplied in pamphlet form free.

April 7.—"What is it to trust God?" (Trust) Prov. 3:5, 6.

Study the Scripture texts and show that trust involves the following:

- Taking God's word as TRUE.
- Resting our all on it as RELIABLE.
- Uniting all our powers to make it of Use.
- Showing our obedience by our SERVICE.
- Telling others about Him in our TALK.

April 14.—"How to be truly Wise." (Wisdom.) Prov. 9, 10, Jas. 1, 5.

The Scriptural meaning of Wisdom is right judgment concerning religious truth, leading to the knowledge and fear of God, and to sincere and uniform obedience to His commands. The reason, conscience and will are all united in it. It is not merely intellectual knowledge, for many know and do not. It is not just a feeling that we ought to do what we know. Many still have that but do not. Where "I know," "I ought," and "I will" are united, the reign of Wisdom is commenced. If we lack this, we are told to "ask." God is represented as giving liberally to those who do ask. The asking He honors and rewards is not feeble desire or faint longing. It must be presented with earnestness, born of hunger, and patiently, persistently repeated if necessary. Intense desire with confidence in the largeness of the Giver and in the efficacy of asking (prayer) will be rewarded. Wisdom is greater than knowledge as the ability to do is greater than the mere capacity to know. To know is valuable; but to be able to use what I know to best advantage is of greater value. Wisdom is pre-eminently practical. As the theory of Mathematics applied to business will make the merchant or mechanic a success, so the theory of right living known intelligently and as diligently applied to conduct, makes the character righteous. A wise boy is one who uses what he knows. The best way to become wise is to "ask of God," and then diligently use what God gives. Study, Prayer, Practice all combine to make us truly wise.

Gleanings from Gladstone

"We believe many of our Juniors will appreciate some of the great thoughts of great men, and so shall give them such to think about from month to month.)

"Limbs will grow stiff with age; but minds not always."

"Whenever we turn our face away from God in our conduct, we are living atheistically."

"Science is made for few men, but duty is the mistress of all men—they cannot be men without it."

"I would encourage every one, in every rank of life, to rely upon self-help more than on assistance to be got from his neighbors."

"When you cultivate the plant that grows from the ground you cannot help thinking a little who He is that makes that plant to grow."

"A Christianity without Christ is no Christianity; and a Christ not Divine is no other than the Christ on whom the souls of Christians have habitually fed."

"There is One who helps us all, and without whose help every effort of ours is vain."

"As the heavens cover the earth from East to West, so the Scriptures covers and comprehends the whole field of the destiny of man."

"The greatest can know but little; the smallest may know something, and perhaps in a different way."

"Happy is the man well employed; miserable, in my opinion, is the idle man."

"Whatever we do, we ought to do it

as well as we can. If we want to do it in the best manner, to compare and communicate with one another is of very great importance."

"Be assured that everyone, without exception, has his place and vocation on this earth, and it rests with himself to find it."

"The hardest characters are often reared amidst the severest circumstances."

"Is not reverence one of the firmest and surest bonds of human society, as well as one of the most refining elements of human character?"

"In devotion to duty you have the great secret of life..... if you have devotion to duty for the guide of your daily course, nothing can ultimately go wrong."

"I would recommend to you as guides, Truth, Charity, Diligence, and Reverence, which indeed may be called the four cardinal virtues of all controversies, be they what they may."

"How comes it to pass that the sight of the British flag always raises the spirit of Englishmen? It is because it has always been associated with the cause of justice, with opposition to oppression, with respect to national rights, with honorable commercial enterprise."

The Story of Indoor Sun

Once on a time in far Japan
There lived a busy little man,
So merry and so full of fun,
That people called him Indoor Sun.

Now, Indoor Sun made mirrors fine,
Like those in your house and in mine,
And in those looking-glasses bright
His own face shone from morn till night.

It made him feel so very sad
To see his face look cross and bad,
That he began to take great care
To keep a sweet smile always there.

And soon he found that those he knew
All seemed to like him better, too;
For, like the boy who never doubts one
Began to smile on Indoor Sun.

Now try this just one day and see
How bright and smiling you can be;
You'll find both happiness and fun
In playing you're an "Indoor Sun."
—Little Folks.

Boys We All Like to Know

The boy who keeps clean in person, speech, and habits.

The boy who is as polite to mother and sister as to other ladies.

The boy who never makes fun of old age at any time, anywhere.

The boy who never boasts in his play, or is unfair in his games.

The boy who is never unkind, or cruel to his pets.

The boy who is always ready to help other boys in (not into) trouble.

The boy who can be depended on when the teacher is not looking at him.

The healthy, happy, whistling, fun-loving boy who tries to remember that God made him to be a joyous, loving, lovable, helpful being.

Such boys are always in demand, and are the stuff out of which the strongest, holiest, and most useful men grow. Do you know such boys? Are you one of them? If so, keep growing and "show thyself a man."

Never despair of your boys. Dr. Myers wrote "they call the ragged urchin 'Bob.' They almost despair in the attempt to teach him or to save him. He seems to be lost to all consecrated effort. A hopeless waif of the streets. They, afterward called him Dr. Robert Morrison, the first and greatest missionary to China."