

••LITTLE FOLKS••

The Leper Who Was Healed (‘Our Little Dots.’)

In the East there is a dreadful illness called leprosy, and the people who have it are called lepers. No doctor can cure it. It begins with spots on the eyelids and the hands, and then it spreads all about the body. At last the body gets so full of leprosy that the poor leper dies.

At the time when Jesus lived on the earth lepers were not allowed

ing. ‘If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Jesus felt full of pity for the poor man, and he put out his hand, and touched him, and said, ‘I will; be thou clean.’ And at once the leper was well.

Sin is like leprosy. A child’s naughtiness does not look very bad; it is only like a little spot. But it spreads and gets stronger as the child gets older, and no one but Jesus can take it away.



to come into cities. They had to go about with nothing on their heads, and with their clothes torn, and their mouths covered over; and when they saw anybody coming they had to call out, ‘Unclean! unclean!’ That meant, ‘Don’t come near me, I am a leper!’ Nobody was allowed to touch a leper.

One day a leper came to Jesus, and knelt down before him, say-

When the leper was healed he was allowed to go into cities among the people who were well. And if Jesus has called us to be his own loved ones we shall in God’s good time be allowed to go to heaven, to be with God and the angels, and with all the holy people there. When you are tempted to be naughty, pray, ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God!’

Chinese Children.

(By the Rev. F. W. S. O’Neill, M.A., Moukden, North China, in ‘Daybreak.’)

My Dear Boys and Girls,—Just now I should like to tell you something about the children of China, so far as I have come to know about them. Let us take the girls first. That’s polite, isn’t it?

Well, suppose we have a little girl, perhaps quite nice-looking and pleasant, but with the name given by her parents—‘Dog’s Leavings.’ The reason why this horrid name was given to her was because, when very young, she was so ill that she nearly died, and if she had died, she would have been thrown to the dogs to eat. But because she lived, the dogs did not get that meal. So this shows one terrible custom that the Chinese have of getting rid of babies, possibly when only delicate and not even dead.

Well, but our little friend, say, is bright and healthy now and she is not badly treated in her home. She looks after the small baby, carrying it about in her arms or putting it in its cradle, which is like a big longish wooden band-box with no lid, hung from the roof. If she is disobedient, her mother may say to her: ‘I’ll look out for a fierce mother-in-law for you.’ And so our little friend looks forward with dread to the time when she will have to get married. When she is ten years of age or so, she will begin to learn sewing. She sits squatted on the k’ang, stitching the sides of shoes for herself or for the other women in her house. If some of you girls who are scolded for your uneven sewing, could just see the way some Chinese girls and women use their needles, you might be shamed into taking more pains.

But does the girl not go to school, someone may ask? No, not unless she belongs to Christian parents, when she may go to school and learn to read.

When she is, say, 15 or 16 years old, she leaves home, and goes to her mother-in-law’s house that is, gets married.

She may never have seen her husband before, and certainly had no choice in the matter. And neither did the boy choose his sweet-heart. It was the parents who arranged everything. If the girl, now a wife, had a fairly easy time in her own