

SUNBEAM

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MENDING THE NETS.

The fisherman's wife, in the illustration, is trying to teach her little daughter how to mend her father's nets when they are broken, and they need mending very often. They are sitting on the beach and working away at the net as it hangs from the big fishing vessel. There is a certain way of making nets, and also a certain way of mending them, and they have to be well and strongly netted. Don't these things—the boat, the nets, and the mending—remind us of something we have read in the story of the life of Jesus? Didn't the Master call two of his noblest disciples to leave their lowly occupation of mending the nets with their father on the shores of Galilee, to come and follow him? And these two men, James and John, left their work and their home and their friends, and cast in their lot with him who had come where to lay his head. Do you think Christ would have called them if they had not been doing anything?



MENDING THE NETS.

THE RABBIT IN THE MOON.

I suppose every boy and girl on this side of the world has heard of the man in the moon, and has looked many a time at his jolly round face in the great silver orb in the heavens. But our opposite neighbors, the Chinese young folk, look for a rabbit in the moon.

Once upon a time, the story runs, there was a grand meeting of animals in China

to do honor to the god who was their special friend and protector. On a high hill there was an altar built of stone for sacrifice to the deity. The wood was piled upon it, and the priest stood by with his torch waiting for the beasts of the field and wood to come and lay their offerings upon the altar. And first there came from the jungles of Thibet the lion, the great king of the forest. Advancing with

stately step he declared with a mighty roar that he would use his great strength for the support of his god; he would crush to the earth and tear in pieces any enemy who offered him insult.

As the great beast retired into the forest the beautiful and fleet horse pranced forth. Proudly curving his neck, he spoke, saying that his deity might rely on his swiftness at any moment. The lion was strong and savage, but where speed was required he was useless. At any moment, he said, he was ready to travel on the errands of the god anywhere over the broad earth; and he would carry his friend into safety and bring to him news of the treason of his enemies. And then with a graceful leap the horse bounded away and in a moment was out of sight. Then the cow stepped forth in her gentle way, and promised to nourish all little children who were in the god's favor; and the patient ox declared that he would drag, day after day, great stones for the building of the temple in honor of the deity.

The dog offered to sit before the entrance and defend the holy place from all unworthy to enter. The tiger and the elephant, and even the anaconda, each and all came forth and promised to use their power to the glory of their god. The gay and brilliant birds of Asia, perching in the trees overhead, all sang praises in his honor, and declared that the groves around the temple should ever resound with their