

children have been taken out and the poor, deluded Indians don't know any better than to obey.

We have many things to encourage us though in seeing some of the children trying so hard to be good and letting their light shine. Little Alfred, whom Miss Burpee wrote about, has stepped "over the line" and is a brave little Christian, unfurling the banner of Christ among his companions, and at prayer-meeting last night four others stood up, showing that they wanted to be Christians. It makes our hearts glad to see them starting for the kingdom. May they learn the abiding in Christ, so that when temptation comes they will stand firm and not go back to the old way of sin.

At prayers in the evening the children are expected to repeat a verse of Scripture. One little fellow who had come to school six months before without a knowledge of the English, repeated for his first verse, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not *steal*." It created considerable merriment amongst the children, but we thought it was very good for the first attempt.

A severe type of la grippe has visited this valley, and we have not escaped. Many of the children were down with it, and all the teachers except two. Miss Smith was very ill and not able to take the school for three weeks. She is better and has taken up her duties again. We feared she was resuming work too soon, but her ambition would not let her stay out of the school. Miss Young is doing good work in her department. She has won the confidence of the children and is helping them in their Christian life.

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## JAPAN.

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Report of the Japan work for the quarter ending December 31st, 1896.

Occasionally we hear from auxiliaries and circles that our reports are too brief and statistical to call forth the interest of the people, that they do not give a life-picture of what we are doing, and so are but little help to the workers at home.