

Young People's Department.



JAPANESE BASKET MAKERS.

JAPANESE BASKET-MAKERS.

THE Japanese make very handsome and curious things and sometimes what they have to sell is spread out on big tables on the street. Anything hard, like plates and dishes, may be found in that way, but anything that will spoil by damp weather is hidden away very carefully in dark, dingy shops. Sometimes you have to climb a ladder to get up to where they are, and then you have to wait till they are taken out of a box and several coverings of nice, soft paper are taken from them. They are very fond of making baskets, and in this they are very skilful. Some say that their basket making is truly wonderful. They make baskets of all sizes, from a great big cage large enough to hold heavy stones down to little things so small that you might pass them by without noticing them. And they think this great fun. Sometimes they make them like grasshoppers or beetles, and they smile when you try to brush them away, only to find that they are tiny little

baskets after all! Miss Smith, who lives in Kobe, sends us sometimes very curious little things. They like to make what will surprise people: such as a thing which looks like a little piece of straw, but when you put it on the water it gradually opens out into a beautiful little flower or something of that kind. Children of the Church of England in Canada ought to be much interested in the Japanese, for there are several Canadians who are living amongst them and trying to teach them to be Christians.

A POPCORN OFFERING.

ON my homeward way a year ago, I was thinking of the long little faces when I told my class that our Sunday-school was too young and poor to have a Christmas tree, when I was overtaken by two of the children, who began to talk of their disappointment.

After a while I asked them, "Do you remem-