

panions, Lukea, another 'old boy,' told me afterwards that Bala's uncle and his friends had been saying to him that his illness came from his neglecting the worship of their household idol, and Bala had answered, 'Though I should die, I will not worship the idol.' He told Lukea that his faith was in Christ. We miss him much at Sunday School and teachers' meeting, and it is touching to hear how the villagers speak of him.

"The attendance at Shadashui Poit School is better than it was six months ago. Between sixty and seventy on the roll.

"S—— is a faithful teacher there, and desires above all things the conversion of the children.

"I had a visit lately from the husband of one of our Orphanage girls married four years ago, and now living in the Nizam's territory. He brought a very good report of Sally's welfare, and he looked altogether improved since I had last seen him, the day Sally went off. He is a schoolmaster and lay reader under the C. M. S., and bears a very good character. They live in a little village where there are twenty or thirty converts, about twenty miles from the head station, so Sally, as schoolmaster's wife, has a good sphere of influence."

JAPAN FOR JESUS.

MR. SAMURA, a Japanese student at Princeton, recently gave an interesting address about the progress of Christianity in his native country. In 1859 came the first missionary to Japan, and for ten years no progress was made, so that people might say that money and time were being wasted. In 1872 the first church was organized in Yokohama, having twelve church members, including five or six of his friends. In 1874 he himself became a Christian, and he has seen God speeding the cause ever since. The customs of the country were all at first unfavorable to Christianity; even the calendar made every fifth day a day of rest, so that Christian converts could not have their Sabbath, and the year began two months later than the Christian year. But eleven years ago the Government reformed the calendar, and appointed the Sunday of the Christians as the day of rest. This change went strongly against Buddhism, as it disarranged all its festivals. Then another Christian church was established in the city of Tokio, with ten to fifteen members—a church without a building in which to worship, without hymn-books, or nice music,

and without a Bible, the missionaries not being masters of the language of the people. The young men who joined this church were separated from father and mother because they became Christians. Notwithstanding these obstacles, new churches were started in various places. Then Government introduced the common school system in 1878 for all Japan, rendering attendance compulsory upon the young of both sexes. Next Government gave all people the right to bury their own dead, without handing them over to the ceremonies of the Buddhist priests. And within the last two years the connection of the Buddhist Church and the State has been annulled, so that now full religious liberty is allowed. There are now 130 Protestant churches and 10,000 church members in the whole country, most of them under native pastors. Every year is marked by revivals of religion. He was surprised to find dead churches and "dry" prayer-meetings on his arrival in our Christian land. In Japan the prayer-meetings are very frequent, and young men will be seen praying at them with tears for their fathers and mothers. All the members want to be doing something, so they have sent their own missionaries to Corea. They have also set up street preaching in Japan. And he expects that, by the close of this century, Japan will no longer be a mission-field, but itself a Christian country. Now, however, they have three churches for one minister, and they are greatly in need of more missionaries. The need is more urgent because sceptical books are being published and circulated in the country, so that the struggle is likely to be between Christ and infidelity.

POETIC GEMS FOR YOUNG AND OLD.

THE MAYFLOWER.

IT blooms not in the summer's sun,
When days are bright and long;
And far and wide the blithesome birds
Fill all the air with song.
Nor when the golden autumn flings
Its glories o'er the land,
And richly fruitful harvest fields
Invite the reaper's hand.
But while as yet the storms are out,
And winds of winter blow,
The harbinger of brighter days,
It blooms amid the snow.

It blooms beneath the forest trees,
And on the mountain side,
And where the mighty river rolls
In all its strength and pride.