

Our Young Folk.

CHINESE TREATMENT OF BLIND GIRLS.

A STRIKING illustration of one of the verses of the seventy-fourth Psalm—"The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty"—is given by Miss O. C. Stafford, in a letter from China. She writes:

It is very common to meet blind men on the streets of a Chinese city, but blind women are not seen so frequently. "Why is this?" I asked of an old missionary one day.

"Oh," was the answer, "when a child becomes blind, if a girl, it is almost sure to die; for no care is taken to preserve the life of such a worthless creature. A boy can be taught to do more things for his support, so he is allowed to live."

Then she told me a history that she knew to be true. Several years since a little girl was very sick with small-pox, and when she got well it was found that her eyesight was gone.

This was hard, but even her own mother said that she ought to be killed; that as she was blind, she could not be taught to cook, sew, and keep a house in order, so that when she grew up no man would marry her, and her parents would have to support her always.

Day by day the hard-hearted woman talked in this manner to her husband, until he consented to get rid of the child. He called the little thing to him one day, and taking her by the hand led her toward a pine-thicket on a hill, at some distance from the house. In this thicket he intended to leave her, to be eaten by wolves or to die of starvation.

As they walked along, however, he began to think how cruel it was to thus treat his child; and at last he turned back home and told the mother that he had rather work harder and keep the little one. She did not like it much, but had to submit.

The girl is now fifteen, and has learned to do so many things that there will be no trouble in getting her a husband, and the parents will not have to work for her much longer.—*Youth's Companion*.

INSPIRING CONFIDENCE.

HENRY Ward Beecher certainly owed a debt of gratitude to his teacher in mathematics, not only for the knowledge acquired through his tuition, but for lessons tending to strength of character. He tells this story to illustrate the teacher's method:

He was sent to the blackboard, and went, uncertain, soft, full of whimpering.

"That lesson must be learned," said the teacher, in a very quiet tone, but with a terrible intensity. All explanations and excuses he trod under foot with utter scornfulness. "I want that problem; I don't want any reasons why you don't get it," he would say.

"I did study it two hours."

"That's nothing to me; I want the lesson. You need not study it at all, or you may study it ten hours, just to suit yourself. I want the lesson."

"It was tough for a green boy," says Beecher; "but

it seasoned him. In less than a month I had the most intense sense of intellectual independence, and courage to defend my recitations. His cold and calm voice would fall upon me in the midst of a demonstration, 'No!'

"I hesitated, and then went back to the beginning, and on reaching the same spot again, 'No!' uttered with the tone of conviction barred my progress."

"The next;" and I sat down in red confusion.

"He too was stopped with 'No!' but went right on, finished, and as he sat down was rewarded with 'Very well.'

"Why!" whimpered I, 'I recited it just as he did, and you said 'No!'

"Why didn't you say 'Yes!' and stick to it? It is not enough to know your lesson. You must know that you know it. You have learned nothing till you are sure. If all the world says 'No!' your business is to say 'Yes!' and prove it!"—*Youth's Companion*.

Along the Line.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Letter from the REV. G. F. HOPKINS, dated PORT ESSINGTON, August 30th, 1888.

ABOUT two months ago we removed from our former field of labor on the Queen Charlotte Islands to this place. Coming at that time of the year we found ourselves surrounded by a busy throng of fishermen and their families from all the adjacent Indian villages. Their wants were innumerable. One would want medicine; another wanted us to go to see some sick relative or friend; another wished advice; still another to tell us of his trials; so that from early morning till late at night our time was occupied.

One man from a neighboring village came late one evening and said he wished to talk a few minutes. After being seated, he said that he had been lately married, and that he thought he was getting a very good wife, but he found she was a great trouble to him as she was angry nearly all the time. So he wished me to write to Rev. Mr. Jennings, my predecessor, who had performed the ceremony, to inform him how matters stood. He evidently thought that Mr. Jennings would be able to relieve him as easily as he had pronounced them one.

The regular Sunday services and meetings of the week have been very well attended on the whole this summer. The children's class was not held for a few weeks, but was opened again last evening. Several little ones attended, and testified to their love for Jesus and their desire to grow up to follow in His footsteps. The youngest present—a little girl of about four summers—arose and said, "I love Jesus." Being embarrassed, hesitated a moment, and then added, "And David (her brother aged about six) is getting a large boy."

The day school has been most faithfully cared for by our teacher, Bro. Vermityea. It was not very large at first, as every child over seven years was