

THE CHILDREN'S RECORD.

have a supply of this precious oil, for every family is liable to have a creaking hinge in the shape of a fretful disposition, a cross temper, a harsh tone, or a fault-finding spirit.—*Exchange.*

QUESTIONS ON JAPAN.

ADAPTED FROM THE "MISSIONARY-OUTLOOK"
FOR MISSION BAND EXERCISES.

Q.—Where is Japan? How many islands?

A.—The Japanese Empire comprises the three most southerly islands of the Kuriles chain.

Q.—Whence comes the name Japan?

A.—From *zipangu*, meaning "root of day," or "sunrise kingdom."

Q.—What is the population?

A.—About 38,000,000.

Q.—What are the religions of Japan?

A.—The two great religions are Shintoism and Buddhism. Shintoism is from the Chinese. Buddhism is from Corea. Japan is a country of wayside shrines, images and temples without number. Some of the great temples in Kito are capable of holding 5,000 persons, and some contain as many as 3,000 life-sized gilt images of saints and gods. A large body of Japanese reject idol-worship. They are called *In-sha*, or philosophers. They follow, but do not worship, Confucius. Veneration of ancestry is common to all the religions of Japan.

Q.—What is the educational system?

A.—The national scheme for education provides for eight universities, thirty-two high schools, two hundred and fifty-six grammar schools, and fifty-five thousand primary schools. The education department has in Tokio a medical college, with eight German professors and several hundred students.

Q.—What reforms have been carried out by the Mikado?

A.—Conformity to foreign dress and manners of European officials; encouragement of the press, there being five hundred periodicals, political, literary and scientific dailies, weeklies, and monthlies; establishment of a national post; reform of marriage

laws; adoption of railways, telegraphs, lighthouses, steamships, arsenals and dock-yards; a civil service of foreign employees, and the legal observance of the Christian Sabbath.

Q.—Have they the Bible in their own tongue?

A.—Yes. The translation of the Bible was completed last year.

Q.—When did the first Protestant missionaries go to Japan?

A.—In 1859 and 1860, when they taught in Government schools, only occasionally finding opportunities to sow the seed of the Kingdom.

Q.—What progress has the gospel made?

A.—To-day, 1888, it is stated there are nearly 20,000 communicants and a Christian population of 50,000 souls.

SARAH GOODWIN AND HER BOYS.

Sarah Goodwin was the name of a poor seamstress, residing in the city of New York. She was not wholly friendless; but those whom she knew, and would have aided her in her struggles, were very poor, and could not. So she a widow with four boys, from the ages of four to nine years, struggling through winter's cold and summer's heat; providing her little family with bread; and that was all. Her boys were good children, always in their home after nightfall, and giving their mother every halfpenny of their earnings, as often as they found work to do. At last the mother fell sick, and through a weary illness she had no other attendance save the occasional help of a neighbor, and the constant aid of her poor little boys. It was touching to behold their kind ways, and to hear their gentle words. Everybody said that they would be blessed in coming years, for their thoughtful love toward their mother.

The widow recovered; but it was now the middle of the bitter winter, and their little stock of fuel was nearly gone. As soon as her strength permitted, she walked through the cold of a cheerless day, to the shop of her employer, and told her pitiful story. But he said it was hard