

the cause of others of your companions saying "no." One straightforward, fearless, manly boy will have a great influence for good over a large community of boys. Try it for yourselves.—*Evangelist.*

#### WHERE EVERY PROSPECT PLEASES AND ONLY MAN IS VILE.

Far to the south of Japan are the Philippine Islands, some large and some small—altogether an interesting group. There are foreign settlements which were long since established, but as a whole, the islands have made less progress in a century than Japan has achieved in the last fifteen years, partly because the inhabitants, when first known to Europeans, were far less civilized than the Japanese, but partly also to the difference between the Roman Catholic faith, which was taught in the Philippine Islands by the Spanish, and the living faith of Protestantism, which is making such advances in Japan. The large island of Mandanoo is inhabited by several distinct tribes, all of the Malayan or straight-haired race, which extends so widely in and around the East Indian Archipelago.

The inhabitants of this part of the world, lying south of China and Japan, are yet to be reached by the Gospel. We trust that when our young readers shall have become men and women, the truth will have penetrated to many of these dark lands which, in all else save their wretched superstitious, are so very beautiful. One preparation for those who would grow up into a true missionary spirit, is a thorough knowledge of the beautiful world which God has given to men as their dwelling place, and of the contrast between that beauty and the defilement which heathenism has produced. There is a beauty common to all tropical countries.

I read recently an interesting account of the ascent, by a French traveler, of a lofty volcano on the island of Mandanoo. Its altitude is several thousand feet, and access to its summit is most difficult. For a portion of the way the only path of the climbers lay through a rough and almost impassable gorge. The bridges over which they passed consisted merely of thick bamboo, lashed together and suspended from the rocks, while a hand-rail of the same material was their only security as they crept along the edges of dangerous, rocky declivities.

Finally, they were obliged to betake

themselves to the bed of the roaring torrent itself, and to press their way as best they could against the headlong force.

The change from a heated walk in a tropical climate to the chilling stream which had come from mountain springs or melting snow was violent, not to say dangerous. But with all the toil and discomfort our travelers could but admire the rare beauty of this gorge.

To quote their own description of the scene: "The two sides rose nearly three hundred feet perpendicularly above the water, and were diversified with many roaring cascades. Long festoons of lianas and orchids descended even to the waters below, partially veiling great dark caverns, which we would gladly have explored had it been possible to stop in the midst of a pathway so difficult. Above us, at the summit, was an overspreading arch of great tree ferns and other branching trees, through which the sifted sunlight dappled the dark waters below, and produced some magic effects upon the shooting spray of the waterfalls."

It is impossible, in our limited space, to give an extended account of Mandanoo and the other Philippine Islands, but perhaps enough has been said to awaken in my young readers a desire to look up the subject—to learn how large they are, what races inhabit them, their customs and religious faith, or superstitions, when the Europeans first settled among them, and what has been done for their civilization and their spiritual good. It will be easy to find books and maps, and if one and another, by more reading about the country and the people, should become filled with a desire to send or carry the blessed Gospel, it would not be the first time that just that result has followed.—*Youth's Foreign Missionary.*

#### LETTER FROM A PASTOR.

Dear Children:

I hope you committed to memory the lesson in Geography and History given you in the last Children's Record. It will make you familiar with the names of our missionaries and their fields of labor. But besides our own missionaries, the Presbyterian Church has given godly men and women who are laboring in other fields. Among them is Miss Annie Montgomery of Charlottetown, P. E. Island, who a few years ago left her home and is now living in Persia, a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. She is conducting a school in Hamadan and I know the glimpse which she gives