

TWO PICTURES FROM LIFE.

I

A black eyed baby lay moping its young life away on the brick bed of a dreary-mud house in Pekin, China.

The feeble voice growing weaker and weaker, was now and then drowned in the sobs and groans of the young mother, who gazed in despair upon her dying child.

"It is almost time," said the mother-in-law, glancing at the slanting sunbeam that had stolen into the dismal room through a hole in the paper window; and she snatched up the helpless baby with a determined air. The mother shrieked, "My baby is not dead yet! My baby is not dead yet!"

"But it has only one mouthful of breath left," said the old woman; "the cart will soon pass, and then we shall have to keep it in the house all night. There is no help for it; the gods are angry with you."

The mother dared not resist, and her baby was carried from her sight. She never saw it again.

An old black cart drawn by a black cow passed slowly down the street; the little body was laid among the others all ready gathered there, and the cartter drove on through the city-gate. Outside the city wall he laid them all in a common-pit, buried them in lime, and drove on.

No stone marks the spot; no flowers will ever bloom on that grave.

The desolate woman wails, "My baby is lost; my baby is lost; I can never find him again."

The black-eyed baby's mother is a heathen.

II

A blue-eyed baby lay moaning on the downy pillows of its dainty crib, and it was whispered softly through the mission, "Baby is dying."

With sorrowing hearts we gathered in the stricken room, but the Comforter had come before us.

"Our baby is going home," said the mother, and, though her voice trembled, she smiled bravely and sweetly upon the little sufferer.

"We gave her to the Lord when she came to us. He has but come for His own," said the father reverently, as he threw his arms lovingly around his wife.

As we watched through our tears the little life slipping away, some one began to sing softly:

"Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly."

The blue eyes opened for the last time, and with one long gaze into the loving faces above, closed again, and with a gentle sigh the sweet child passed in through the gate to the heavenly fold.

"Let us pray," said a low voice. We knelt together, and heaven came so near we could almost see the white robed ones and hear their songs of welcome.

There are no baby coffins to be bought in Pekin, so a box was made; we lined it with soft white silk from a Chinese store. We dressed baby in her snowy robes and laid her lovingly in her last resting place. We decked the room with flowers, and strewed them over the little one.

The next day we followed the tiny coffin to the cemetery.

With a song of hope and words of cheer and trust, and a prayer of faith, we comforted the sorrowing hearts.

Now a white stone marks the sacred spot where we laid her, and flowers blossom on the grave that is visited often and tended with loving care.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord," says the baby's father, while baby's mother answers, "Our baby is safe; we shall find her and have her, some glad day."

The blue-eyed baby's mother is a Christian.—*Chara M. Cushman in Gospel in all Lands.*

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