

Our Young Folk.

THE TONGUE.

"THE boneless tongue, so small and weak,
Can crush and kill," declare the Greek.

"The tongue destroys a greater horde,"
The Turk asserts, "than does the sword."

The Persian proverb wisely saith,
"A lengthy tongue—an early death."

Or sometimes takes this form instead,
"Don't let your tongue cut off your head."

"The tongue can speak a word whose speed,"
Says the Chinese, "outstrips the steed."

While Arab sages this impart,
"The tongue's great storehouse is the heart."

From Hebrew wit the maxim sprung,
"Though feet should slip, ne'er let the tongue."

The sacred writer crowns the whole,
"Who keeps his tongue doth keep his soul."

—Selected.

A YOUNG SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST IN JAPAN.

IN the Province of Bingo lives a very pretty and gentle girl named Masuda Yu, who is a member of the church at Takehashi. She is a very earnest Christian, and not at all ashamed to make known to others her love to Christ. Her father died when she was quite young, and for some time she has been a great sufferer from dropsy. Many physicians were consulted in regard to her case, but all agreed that it was very doubtful if she could ever be cured. It was finally decided that the only possibility of her recovery depended upon a very difficult and painful surgical operation, but it was thought that she was so young and weak that it was more than probable that she would not survive the operation.

When she heard the decision of the doctors, she said she had entrusted her body and soul wholly to God's keeping, and whatever was the result she had no fears, and was quite sure that all would be for the best. She did not fear to die if that was the Lord's will, and so requested the physician to do what he thought was best. She was then removed to the hospital at Okayama for the purpose of having the operation performed; but when the surgeon in charge saw her condition, he said it was too late, and any such treatment would only shorten her life and increase her suffering. But she requested that the operation might be performed, as she must die any way, earlier or later, and it was possible that the Lord might spare her life. She said to her friends, "I have put my whole trust in Him, and He will surely do what is best."

It was decided to comply with her wish, and a day was fixed for the operation.

When the members of Takehashi Church heard of this, they held a prayer-meeting every evening to pray for the help and blessing of God to be given to this girl. On the day of the operation, a special meeting was held at the church in Okayama, to pray for the same object.

When the appointed hour drew near she sent love to the pastor and the members of the church, with the assurance that she would meet them all in the kingdom of heaven, and requested if she should die her body might be taken to Takehashi, and buried along with her kindred and friends. To her weeping mother, who sat by her bedside, she said, "Do not be troubled about me; I am trusting in God." A few of her friends then united in prayer by her bedside, and also sang one of the familiar and favorite hymns. After they had finished, she read in the first chapter of Hebrews from the fifth verse, in regard to the excellency and glory of Christ and the ministry of angels to believers. Then she added, "I do want to hear from my Christian teacher once more before I leave this world"; and as she finished speaking, the postman handed in the very letter she so much desired. She read it with great joy, and then looked at the photographs of her schoolmates and friends.

Then turning to the doctor, she said, "I am all ready." She showed no semblance of fear, but was as calm and cheerful as usual.

The surgeon said, "Are you ready to die?" and repeated the question three times. She replied, "I am the servant of Jesus Christ, and I believe I shall go to heaven, and obtain a crown of glory. I have no fears of death."

When the surgeon heard this he said, "I have never seen such a brave person before." When he administered the chloroform she was sound asleep in twenty seconds. He was surprised at this, and remarked if she was not a Christian she would not fall asleep so readily, but would be excited and full of terror. The same day another patient was given the opiate nearly an hour before becoming insensible.

The operation lasted upward of four hours. During that time she recovered consciousness, and not being under the influence of chloroform, suffered most intensely. Then she prayed, "O Lord, help me to see what Christ suffered on the cross for my sins, and assist me to bear this pain. Thus in perfect peace and quietness she endured the most excruciating pain. Not a single murmur escaped her lips, and the physician had not the least trouble. When it was proposed to stop in the midst of the operation, she requested them to go on. All the witnesses agreed that if she had not been a Christian, she could not have borne so great suffering in such a manner. Some were thus convinced that Christianity must be the best religion, as it gave such strength and courage in the hours of severest trial.

She remained in the hospital four weeks, and was entirely restored. In four months she resumed her studies at school, and is now happy and busy once more with her former companions and friends.

This event has given great encouragement and strength to the Christians of Takehashi and Okayama.