

AN INTERESTING INCIDENT.

A missionary of the China Inland mission tells an interesting story of a mandarin who gave an entertainment and presented a large testimonial to the Christian hospital out of gratitude for medical services rendered to his aged father. The son was absent on duty and the father was relieved from a sickness which was supposed to be fatal. His gratitude was boundless, and the memorial tablet on which were inscribed the thanks of the donor was eight feet by four in size, suspended from a bamboo pole, carried by two men and preceded by a band of musicians. As they approached the house large bunches of fire-crackers were fired and the tablet was presented with very polite words.

The most striking incident connected with this story is that while the old gentleman was at the worst, and when it was supposed that he could not recover, the wife of the absent son, acting in the place of her husband, performed an act which was supposed to propitiate heaven and to secure the restoration of her father-in-law. With her own hand she cut a piece of flesh from her own arm and had it cooked and administered to her father-in-law that he might recover. That such a thing is possible in these days, and that it was done in the sight of mission premises and by an educated and prominent family, gives striking testimony to the depth of superstition in heathendom as well as to the sentiment of filial piety which exists among the Chinese. — *Missionary Herald*.

PRAYERS OF A MOHAMMEDAN.

A Mohammedan says his prayers five times a day. Wherever he is when the hour of prayer comes and whatever he may be doing, he spreads his mat, sits upon it, turns his face toward Mecca, bends until his forehead almost touches the ground and then says his prayer which is generally something from the Koran.

The five hours of prayer are, first, between day-break and sunrise, at noon, in the afternoon, four minutes after sunset, and at nightfall. In a city or town the times of prayer are announced from the tower of a mosque. The muzzein cries "Allah is great. I testify that there is no God but Allah. I testify that Mohammed is the apostle of Allah. Come to prayer. Come to security. Allah is most great. There is no Deity but Allah."

HOME INFLUENCE.

BY DR. CUYLER.

Dr. Horace Bushnell in his unrivalled volume on "Christian Nature," has pitifully said that "whatever fire the parents kindle, the children are found gathering the wood. They help either as apprentices or accessories. If the mother is a scandal-monger, she will make her children tattlers and gossips and eaves-droppers. If she directs her servants to say at the door that she is 'not at home,' the children will learn to be polite liars." If the father begins the Lord's day with his huge, Sabbath desecrating, secular newspaper, it will go through the family. If he puts a decanter on his table, the boys will be apt to hold out their glasses for a taste. That millionaire who in one part of his will bequeathed his costly wine cellar to his heirs, and in another clause disinherited one poor dissipated son for his drunkenness, revealed the secret of the poison-gas which he had let in from that cellar. Parental ill-temper often sours the atmosphere of a home, so that both children and servants can hardly escape being snappish and irritable. How can cheerful, healthy piety breathe in the malarious air of a home saturated with irreligion? It was the wretched air of Eli's house which ruined Hophni and Phineas; it was the godly atmosphere of Hannah's home which produced a Samuel.

An American paper remarks that—"The man who sits down and whines that prohibition won't prohibit is like a man who sits down in the fence corner and whines that his plough won't plough of itself. A prohibitory law is only the tool with which the work of abolishing the liquor traffic is to be done, and the people must give impetus and action. To say that prohibition don't prohibit is only to say that the people are too indolent to make it effective. They must be waked up."

That there should be a Christ, and that I should be Christless; that there should be a cleansing, and I should remain foul; that there should be a Father's love, and I should be an alien; that there should be a heaven, and I should be cast into hell, is grief embittered, sorrow aggravated.