

Missionary.

Dangerous Trip in a Houseboat.

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A trip by a houseboat is decidedly novel, interesting, exciting and spicy, so much so, indeed, that we find it almost impossible to read, study or write. The

ture is seen the stern of the houseboat still partially filled with water.

Picture No. 2 gives a scene under a part of the tent—viz., ourselves arrayed in our worst, after a busy forenoon, about to partake of our midday meal. We are all sitting on boxes, with others in every hand. I need not say we enjoyed our dinner. We ate heartily, though hurriedly. Incidentally observe the patched condition of the sail above our heads.

tion in front of a blackboard; he told of the journey across the American continent, the ocean, and, finally arriving at Japan, he drew a map of the country, indicating the mountains, the railroads, the rivers, with a rough sketch.

The introduction of the Statistician caused laughter, for she was a young woman whose well-known hobby was figures. She told the population of Japan, its wealth, the number of islands, the population of the principal cities, the comparative number of educated and illiterate people, the number of Christians, etc.

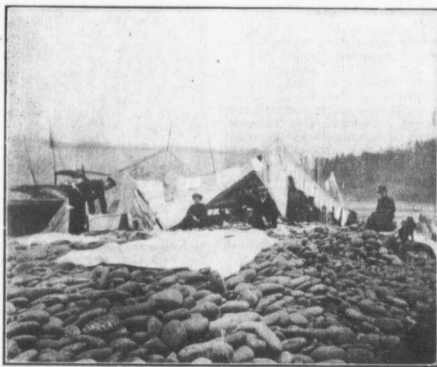
The Observer told, in a sketchy style, something of the people, their dress, their houses, how the children played; of their charming festivals, of dols and chrysanthemums; of what they ate, of the fact that their back yards are always marvels of beauty, while the front yard may be strewn with tin cans, etc.

Then the Theologian was introduced, and proved to be the pastor, who told in his inimitable way of the religions of Japan, the forms of worship, of what was being done to promote Christianity.

The President of the society led in prayer, souvenirs were distributed—a tiny Japanese fan to each person—and what was pronounced a delightful missionary meeting came to a close, with an invitation to the travellers to report again should they visit other countries.

Not Easy.

Robert E. Speer says of the difficulties of missionary work: "It is the richest thing about this missionary enterprise that it is not an easy enterprise. I count it among the finest moral resources of the Christian church that this task is one of enormous and stupendous difficulty. Why does a man's heart go out toward the problem of the evangelization of Islam, except because it is the hardest missionary problem in the world? The Roman Catholic Church is afraid of nothing—misery, sickness, dis-



AFTER THE WRECK—No. 1.

scenery is most diversified and exceedingly beautiful; the mode of travel is totally new; the rapids are numerous and their ascent laborious and exciting; the boatmen and trackers are noisy; villages, temples, shrines and pagodas almost countless; the native boats passing up and down are many; wrecks are not infrequently seen, with their damaged cargoes arrayed on the shore or mountain side to dry; and there are not a few other sights and sounds and experiences that keep eyes, ears and nerves constantly alert.

Our party had two houseboats, and of course we should have been surprised if both of them had come up without accident. The unfortunate boat had just ascended one of the smaller rapids when, no one knows how, she got loose and was carried against a sharp projecting rock with great force, which, of course, opened up several large seams. Messrs. Mortimore, Hoffman and Cox at once set to work bailing and rowing. They reached shore none too soon, for the boat soon sank in about seven feet of water. Wondering why the other houseboat was so long out of sight, I stepped out and walked back to learn the cause of the delay, and was soon informed of her mishap. I at once called a small boat and went down to see and to help. I arrived in time to assist in removing most of the cargo from the boat, and an unpleasant task it was I assure you. At last we had all the dripping boxes on shore. What an uncomely sight! We at once commenced opening the boxes, but I shall not describe the contents because I cannot. I leave it all for the readers to imagine. We were nearly four days unpacking, drying, repacking and reloading.

Picture No. 1 shows a rear view of the scene on shore. Note the immense tent made of the houseboat sails which we had to erect to shelter the boxes, etc., from an almost continuous drizzle. When the sun did shine we had as many wet articles as possible outside, as you see in the picture. In the left of the pic-

A Company of Travellers.

The curiosity was great in the young people's room of the church when the bulletin board announced the following:

"We take pleasure in announcing that we have secured the service of a company of travellers who have recently returned from Japan, and they will be with us at our next missionary meeting, June 9, 1904. The company is composed of

The Historian, who knows the past of Japan.

The Geographer, who knows how the party went.

The Statistician, who is always giving figures.

The Observer, who doesn't pretend to know, so always looks.

The Theologian, who studies strange religions.

Of course all the young people, and the older ones, too, will desire to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity for enlarging their knowledge concerning Japan. Come one and all.

The Missionary Committee.

One and all came, and on the evening of the meeting the room was crowded.

After a brief missionary song service and prayer the chairman of the committee rose and introduced the Historian, who proved to be a young man who had recently entered the church—a "bookish young man." With his hands in his pockets, and in a chatty and interesting way, the Historian told of the past of Japan, of her early ruler, who claimed to be descended from the sun, of the entering of Christianity and civilization.

The Geographer was then introduced; he was not a stranger, but was the president of the society. He took his posi-



AFTER THE WRECK—No. 2.

ease, martyrdom; but the Roman Catholic Church, since the days of Raymond Lull, has been afraid of Islam. The duty of evangelizing Islam is laid upon the shoulders of Protestant men and women, because it is the hardest work laid out for men to do."