



[FOR THE PALM BRANCH.]

MR. MIKI AND HIS FAMILY.

"And a little child shall lead them."

Just near our school lives a Chief of Police named Miki. He and his wife live in a small house of three rooms, of which at least two have floors, covered with straw mats, six feet by three. The little parlor is only a six-mat room, then there is a small kitchen, and the other room is used for a variety of purposes. Ordinary living rooms in Japan may easily be used as bed rooms, as the beds are merely very thick quilts laid on the floor at night, folded up in the morning and stowed away in the closet through the day. Washing of the hands and face is done out doors.

Mr. Miki's salary is small, but with small wants, he and his wife are able to live comfortably.

One only child was theirs, a little girl of nearly four years old. She was a dear little girl, bowing so politely to the foreign teachers as they passed the gate of her humble home. This little Matsuye San was most tenderly cared for and loved. The hopes of her

parents were centered in her. Gradually they had saved up money to the extent of twenty yen (\$10) to be used for her. The mother worshipped many gods

for the sake of her child. She has a great armful of gods and charms she had honored to secure good for her child. Always she thought of her that no harm might come to her. She was particular in drawing water from the well to draw just the right amount for fear of offending the god of water. In washing clothes she would be afraid of displeasing the god by throwing the water in the wrong place. During Matsuye San's illness she received some "maujie," a kind of cake often used in funerals, and this she seems to have regarded as unfortunate. She would do nothing that she thought would injure her child, and do anything that she thought would help her. She tried thus to secure the favor of the gods, and yet the child died, so she felt them useless to help her.



MATSUYE SAN.

Mr. Miki spent some time as a student in the home of a Mr. Eudo, a public notary in Kofu. When Mr. Miki married, he and his wife chose Mr. and Mrs. Eudo as their father and mother. In this part of the country it is a custom with many when they marry, even though their own parents be

living, to select parents to act for them on any occasion when they need special help. Mrs. Eudo, though formerly a "geisha" or singing girl, is now an earnest