

SUMATRA CHILDREN.

How many of the readers of this paper can tell me anything about Sumatra? Where it is, what it is, what comes from there? I do not think that it would be a very difficult matter to interest these far-away children in the story of Jesus. There are thousands of such children in the islands of the sea growing up without a knowledge of Jesus and his love toward them. What are you doing toward sending the Gospel story to them? If you are only a little child you can do something.

I am just going to give you a few general facts about Sumatra, and I want you to find out more for yourself. I am not going to tell you where it is, for if you don't know, you will remember it better by finding it on the map for yourself. The island is 1,050 miles long and its greatest breadth is 250 miles. Its population is estimated at between three and four millions.

The inhabitants are for the most part Malay Mohammedans.—*S. I.*

POSTURE DURING PRAYER.

President Mark Hopkins used to teach his students that those who neglected the natural attitudes of prayer would soon lose also the spirit of prayer. In not a few of our Sunday-schools and congregations a large minority do not take any devotional attitude during prayer. But they cannot enter into the prayer and make it their own while they sit with heads upright and their eyes wander about the room. They reverse the Legend of Prague, and not the beleaguering army of demons, but the blessed angels of prayer

"Fold their tents like the Arabs,
And as silently steal away."

How can the heart be praying while the eyes, like the fool's thoughts, are wandering over the earth? It is not a question of forms and no forms, for we cannot worship except in some attitude and through some form, but it is a question of the best form.

TEMPERANCE.

A public dinner had been given General Harrison on one occasion. At the close of the dinner one of the gentlemen drank his health. The General pledged his toast by drinking water. Another gentleman offered a toast, and said: "General, will you not favor me by drinking a glass of wine?" The General, in a very gentlemanly way, begged to be excused. He was again urged to join in a glass of wine. This was too much. He rose from his seat and said in the most dignified manner:

"Gentlemen, I have twice refused to partake of the wine cup. I hope that will be sufficient. Though you press the matter ever so much, not a drop shall pass my lips. I made a resolve when I started in life that I would avoid strong drink. That vow I have never broken. I am one of a class of seventeen young men who graduated at college together. The other sixteen members of my class now fill drunkards' graves, and all from the pernicious habit of wine drinking. I owe all my health, my happiness and prosperity to that resolution. Would you urge me to break it now?"—*Youth's World.*

A HELPLESS GOD.

A missionary, accompanied by a Christian native, visited a grand heathen temple lately in India, at a place called Roosrah. There was a huge brass god here, weighing more than half a ton, which used to be covered with precious jewels. The visitors found no worshippers, but the temple door locked. The priest in charge, on being asked the reason of this, said, "To keep the god from robbers."

"What! did any one rob the god?"

"Yes," said the priest; "some time ago a Brahman, who came here to worship, stole all the jewels which the god had on his right arm, and now we have to keep the temple locked lest the other arm be stripped too."

You may be sure that the missionary was not slow to declare that a god who could take no better care of himself than this was hardly worth trusting in.