

MICRONESIAN MAIDEN'S SONG.

BY MRS. SARAH L. GARLAND.

I bring you, from my island home,
The children's greeting, "Yokwe-kom!"
In Southern seas my island lies,
Beneath the burning Tropic skies;
My father's thatch-hut, low and dark,
Nestles between the palms, and hark!
Far on the reef the breakers roar,
While wavelets kiss the quiet shore.

Once every year, on some bright day
When on the beach we children play,
A cry rings out from near and far
Of "Sail ho! Sail ho! *Morning Star!*"
And when the joyful cry we hear,
And watch her white sails drawing near,
In grateful songs our hearts we lift,
And thank the children for their gift.

For well we know the joy she brings,
Our "Jesus-ship," with shining wings;
A message of God's love she bears—
The God who for the children cares.
I know He loves both you and me,
And so He sends across the sea
His messenger of joy and light
To teach us what is pure and right.

We pray: "God bless the *Morning Star*,
And keep her as she sails afar;
And bless each child whose loving heart
Holds in God's ship his little part."

Mission Dayspring.

A KIND VOICE.

"THERE is no flower of love so hard to get and keep" writes Elihu Burritt, "as a kind voice. A kind hand is dead and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft heart, and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing which love so much needs as a sweet voice, to tell what it means and feels; and it is hard to get and keep in the right tone.

One must start in youth and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice which shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. It is often in youth that one gets a voice or tone which is sharp, and it sticks to him through life, and it stirs up ill-will, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys of home. Watch the voice day by day as a pearl of great

price, for it will be more to you in the day to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A voice is to the heart what light is to the eye. It is light which sings as well as shines. *Sel.*

A CLOUDY SKY.

Children sometimes complain of clouds and murmur at rain; but they forget that perpetual sunshine makes a desert land. If we are to have fertility, fruitfulness and prosperity, we must have clouds in the natural sky; and so in the spiritual world, much of the blessing which we enjoy comes to us from our clouds and storms, as they alternate with brightness and sunshine.

Do not be afraid of clouds. There may be a cloud over your path, but that cloud may drop down fatness, and make glad your heart and life. Your business, your prospects, your plans may be overclouded. Do not be disturbed; the cloud may have behind it the "sound of abundance of rain." Increased fruitfulness and abundant blessing may come to you through these clouds. Look up. There is a sun behind the clouds, there is sunshine beyond the clouds, and there is blessing in the clouds.—*The Boston Christian.*

PRAYING MACHINES.

A missionary from Japan told us the other day about the praying machines: it is a great circular tower-like structure, with many prayers attached to its machinery, so that when a man takes the crank and walks slowly around pushing the heavy machine before him, he gets the credit for all these prayers. "Absurd," you say. "How can grown men be so silly?"

Take care; when you drop on your knees before going to bed and say a hasty prayer, without putting your heart in it—when you rattle off "Our Father" with the rest of the school, while your mind is on something else, when you stand with the great congregation bowing your head with an appearance of devotion, while you do not follow the praying voice to God's throne along the track of a single earnest petition—you are just turning the praying machine; you are doing exactly what the dark-skinned Jap does, with this difference, this vast difference, that he really thinks he is pleasing his gods, and you know that you are offering an insult to the Lord Almighty.—*Forward.*

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.