

"ONLY A LITTLE CHILD."

Only a little child!
Yet, Lord, thou callest me;
Therefore, confidently,
I come to thee.

Only a little child!
And though I sinful be,
Thou, Lord, forgivest me!
I come to thee!

Only a little child!
Looking up, loving thee
Because thou lovest me,
I come to thee!

Only a little child!
Brightly and cheerfully,
Swiftly, obediently,
I come to thee!

Only a little child!
Thou wilt my father be,
Till in eternity
I dwell with thee.

—*Children's Friend.*

CHINESE CRUEL SUPERSTITION.

BY THE REV. J. SADLER, OF AMOY.

In this part of the country there are more pitiable proofs than usual of the great hold superstition has on the minds of the people.

When a father is sick, the idol is brought, and the sorcerer, as its mouth-piece, states what is to be done. He finds out how much money the person has, and accordingly gives his directions. First, it is ordered that offerings be presented to the small god of the place, to see whether his ability is sufficient; if not, then the superior deity in the prefecture, some distance away, must be tried, and this at larger expense. If he fail, there must be offerings to Heaven, as the highest power. These offerings are so ordered as to tax the funds of the sick man's family to the utmost. Often fields have to be sold to meet the outlay, and after this, one child after another. Thus I heard last night of several

children sold out of one family! It will happen that after all the father dies.

This week we have heard of affectionate parents being frightened into casting away their first-born son. The other children were all girls, and therefore the boy would naturally be the more valued. The fortune-teller was called in to report on the new arrival. He duly consulted the year, month, day and hour of the boy's birth, and then reported thus: "If you bring him up, he will be the death of his parents. Neither must you sell him. You must cast him away."

You may imagine the distress of the parents. But there was no help. So they took the little fellow some distance from their home, and left him at the roadside. A peddler came along, took him up, carried him off, and sold him for a trifling sum. When it was too late the parents found, from another fortune-teller, that the boy was really worth bringing up!

HINDU BOYS AND MISSIONARIES.

As a rule the Hindu boys of India respect and esteem the missionaries. A missionary writes, about them as follows:

Some of them meet us on the road and say, "Sahib, are you going to preach?" They will gather around me and ask for books and tracts. One day a boy said, "Sahib, please give me a tract?"

"Can you read?" I asked.

"Yes, Sahib," he replied.

"Then stand in this place, and read out loud this page." He commenced to read and the people gathered to hear what he read about Jesus, and then I explained it to them.

"How many gods are there?" I sometimes ask. If it is a boy just come from his heathen home he will answer, "There are 330,000,000 gods." Another boy who has heard the missionaries preach will say, "There is one God."

"What is sin?" I ask. A Mohamudan boy answers, "Worshipping idols;" a Hindu boy answers, "Eating beef is sin." Do you not desire that they shall all know of Jesus?