

unceasing vigilance on their part, has done away with supposed evils in mixed schools. "These are day schools composed entirely of children from heathen families. I have had two most interesting mornings visiting two of them and the homes from which they come, with Mrs. Hume and the Bible women, Balubai and Kash'bai. We found the children in a little room up a narrow flight of stairs, sitting on the floor against the walls with their slates on the floor in front of them. Such dear little things as they are, all sizes, and in all sorts of costumes; here a small boy, resplendent in pink and white silk trousers, yellow satin jacket, and a cap with high white feather, and there a bit of humanity entirely in nature's costume, a little living bronze statue who has dropped in for a few moments to see what is going on; there little atoms of girls loaded with jewelry, whose black beads show that they are already married; and here is one with great haunting black eyes with the red paint on her forehead, which may show that she is doomed to life in an idol temple."—*Miss Abbie Child.*

China.—Mr. Denby, our Minister to China, has sent forth the following circular to all our consuls in China under date of February 6th: "To the Consuls of the United States,—Gentlemen: I have the honor to inform you that his excellency, M. A. Gerard, Minister of France, has recently procured from the Tsung-Li Yamen, by virtue of the French treaty of 1858, an order directing the local authorities in all provinces of the empire to expunge from the various editions and compilations of the Chinese Code all claims placing restrictions upon the propagation of the Christian religion. You are directed to bring this circular to the attention of the American missions in your consular districts. It gives me pleasure to add that the Minister of France is entitled to the gratitude of the Christian world for his action in this important matter.

—In an article in *Church at Home and*

*Abroad*, Rev. Mr. Bergen, of Chefoo, says that the terrible poverty prevailing can only be known by those who spend days and nights among the Chinese, seeing them in their common life, and he adds: "This is a *bran-eating*, not a flour-eating, people with which we have to do—a grass-eating and root-eating people. They live practically without meat. Should there be a happy demise of cow or mule, dog or donkey, through accident or tuberculosis or general decrepitude, there is a neighborhood feast. They eat occasionally of wheat bread, buy a bit of pork, have a bowl of vegetables, a few ounces of salt fish, but just about as often as the ordinary American citizen indulges in terrapin or canvas-back ducks."

—H. N. Lachlan, of Gan-King, writes that in China, especially in the south, "the bamboo is almost as useful as the reindeer in Lapland, or the palm tree in Southern India. In furnishing your house it will supply you with tables, chairs, beds, sofas, stools, stands, screens, brooms, mats, mattresses, food, fuel, paper, pencil handles, cups, buckets, bird-cages, pipes, whether for smoking or bringing down rain from the roof, not to mention its uses for carrying, building and boating."

Japan.—It is reported that the Japanese Governor-General of Formosa has prohibited the use of opium in the island, under heavy penalties. This edict may cause an exodus of the Chinese inhabitants; but the authorities say that it would be easy to supply their places by immigrants from Japan. There is no law in Japan more rigidly enforced than that which forbids the use of opium. The *Christian Instructor* says that last summer 4 men, natives, who were detected smoking it were sent to the penitentiary for two years, and the Chinaman who sold them the drug got seven years.

—The Presbyterian Church of Japan is soon to begin missionary work in