

only one. Over the cap is a stiff band of silk or velvet, embroidered with smart colours and trimmed with little bells, and very often there is in the front a small image of an idol to take care of the baby.

One thing that you will think very funny about Chinese babies is, that they never get any kisses. Instead of kissing them, their mothers smell their faces, and instead of saying what darlings they are, they say how nice they smell. In some parts, instead of being kissed they are pinched on their cheeks, but not hard enough to hurt them.

A great many of these things that I have told you about are often only done for baby-boys, but not for girls. The most terrible things about little girls in China is, that great numbers of them are killed as soon as they are born, because nobody wants them, and even their fathers and mothers would rather kill them than have to spend money on their food and clothes. More baby-girls are killed in the southern provinces than in the northern, because there are more poor people in the south than in the north. They are generally killed by being thrown into a tub of water, or a stream, with something tied to them to make them sink, just as people in England drown little kittens; or else they are burned alive, which is much more cruel; it is generally their fathers who kill them. In some parts of China even rich people kill their little girls, when they have as many as they care to keep. This is the reason why in some places there are so many more boys than girls.

There was one Chinese father, a blacksmith, who had two little daughters one right after the other, who were both taken ill when they were quite little, and both died. By-and-bye a third little girl was born, and the father and mother made up their mind, that it must be the same spirit that was in the other two babies, who had come back in the third, and that it must be a wicked spirit, as both the other babies had died. So the father collected a great pile of wood, and made a big fire on his forge, and then put his own little baby on the top, and stood by and watched it till

it was burnt to a cinder; then he tied a stone to it, and threw it into a canal.

There was another little baby girl, whose mother did not want her, just because she was a girl and not a boy; so she left her on the floor all night, and took no notice of her. In the morning the father came into the room, and when he saw the baby, he went to fetch some water to drown it; but while he was gone, a poor woman came in, and saw what was going to happen; so when the father came back, she asked him not to kill the baby for a little while, and then she went away to a lady missionary, who she knew was very fond of children, and told her about it. The lady came directly and asked the father to give the baby to her, instead of drowning it, which he was quite ready to do, as he only wanted to get rid of it. So the lady took it to her own house, and fed it and dressed it, and took care of it, but it very soon died. A little while after, the same woman came to the lady with another story about a father and mother who wanted to sell their little girl, and who meant, if nobody would buy her, to take her to some hills, and leave her there to be eaten by wild dogs. This time, instead of taking the baby to her own house, the lady said she would pay the woman if she would nurse the baby for her; so she did, and this one did not die.

Another father, as soon as he found he had a little girl, laid her on the ground and covered her over with a large dish, and left her there to cry till she was smothered and died.—*Children of China.*

But we must stop here. You shall hear something more about them next month.  
—Ed.

### HOW GOD LOOKS AT SIN.

During last summer, a Christian lady who was visiting a seaside place, asked some little children to come to her every Lord's day afternoon, to hear about the Lord Jesus.

One afternoon she wanted to tell them what God thought about sin, so she took a microscope, and gave them some very