

WIVES AND MOTHERS OF JAPAN.

Fancy any woman in our own or any other enlightened country marrying only to become the drudge and housekeeper of her parents-in-law. Disagreeable as this may seem, the Japanese woman is expected, after her marriage, to consider the father and mother of her husband as her first responsibility and duty. She takes the place of a servant to them, waiting upon them, seeing that they are served properly at their meals, and making their comfort her first care. She is not mistress of the home, but simply housekeeper and subject to the will of her mother-in-law, who does not fail to exact that the house be kept to her satisfaction, although willing to be relieved of the details of the housekeeping. If she is unfortunately the first daughter-in-law to enter the family, she becomes the convenience of every one in the house, and is expected to perform such offices cheerfully and willingly. Not even her husband, should he care to, can relieve a Japanese woman from this custom. Next to her parents-in-law, a Japanese wife's duty is to her husband. She renders to him the services a European would expect of his valet. Never has she an idea of companionship with her husband on terms of equality with him. In every detail the husband is first, the wife second. He is served first; if he drops anything, she stoops to pick it up. It is exactly the opposite of our customs. The servants respect the woman, as she is their mistress, and the one who is nearest to the master, but not by any means, his equal. Even the Empress must give her husband the little personal attentions of all the women of Japan.

A Japanese woman never asks her husband to have any of the care of his children. In private and public the mother has the entire charge and training of them. She showers on them all her love and tenderness. The severest scolding is given with a smiling face. No matter how many servants are employed, the mother's influence is direct and personal, and in this way she wins their complete love and confidence. They never think of going out without first going to her room and making the customary bows and repeating the words used on these occasions. On returning the same form is observed. The mother's entire control and influence over her children is one of the most beautiful and interesting parts in the study of Japanese life. The wives seldom appear with their husbands in public. Occasionally a dinner party is given, when the wife is expected to act as hostess and entertain with her husband. On February 11, 1889, the Emperor for the first time, in an imperial progress through the streets of Tokyo, raised his wife to his own level, by riding with her in the imperial coach. Previously the Emperor had driven first with his guards, the Empress and her attendants following at a distance.

It is not the sex of a woman which counts for her position in Japan, but her dependence upon her husband. Because the men are educated and self-reliant, because they have the right of inheritance and are the bread winners, they are the masters and not the companions of their wives. This is shown to be true in cases where there is no heir born in a family, and the father marries his oldest daughter to a man who is willing to give up his family and the name to take the name of his wife and become the heir of her father. In this case, he is dependent, and the relations are reversed. The young people live with the bride's parents, and it is the man's turn to dread his mother-in-law. Although the woman in these cases is obedient in all respects to her husband, it is not an obedience demanded by him as under other circumstances.

The wife of the peasant is much nearer to being her husband's equal than the wife of the Emperor. Each step in the social scale seems to be a little higher for the man than the woman. A story is told of a working man who was ridiculed because he spent his leisure moments in drawing water from a well some distance away and carrying the heavy buckets to the house to save the health of his delicate little wife. This man had the true chivalrous spirit of a strong man for a weak woman, but the people of Japan have little respect for this spirit.

Japan is so steadily growing in civilization and Christianity that I think we may look forward to a better education for the women of Japan, and a different idea of the people in general as to what the duties and privileges of the Japanese wives and mothers should be.—Amy Morris Lillie, in Philadelphia Presbyterian.

I AM WAITING.

I am waiting for the singing of the song
that will not cease,
When the world shall throb with music,
and the vales be clothed with peace;
When a near the wayside fountain the
lamb and lion rest,
And the dove shall fold her pinions in
the lordly eagle's nest.

I am waiting till the sabre, and the flash
of gleaming spear,
Shall fill no breast with terror, shall
smite no heart with fear;
Till the cannon's lips are silent, and be-
side the broken shell
The partridge lead her speckled brood,
the lily ring its bell.

I am waiting till the angel band that
sang o'er Bethlehem
Shall thrill the silent air of night, and
cheer the world again;
Till the buds of Sharon's blooming rose
shall star each garden wall.
And at the sturdy blows of Truth shall
Baal's image fall.

COMFORTS LOANED.

To the sick, the old, and the feeble certain mechanical devices bring exceeding comfort. One bound to couch or bed finds in a wheeled chair or even a pair of crutches the difference between prison and freedom. Yet such helps may be needed for only a short time, and the exigency arises when and where it is least possible to purchase the thing demanded. Other appliances for the use of shut-ins suggest themselves, all capable of being used over and over and suitable for lending. Suppose the Ladies' Aid Society should own an assortment of such articles to be loaned about the parish as accidents or sudden illness bring them in demand. It seems not alien to the spirit of the local work each church should undertake. We all like to think of our church as a broader, larger home. In such an atmosphere the Ladies' Aid Society represent the motherly element, its sphere is the womanly one of caring for others and remembering the needy and the afflicted. Any influence which fosters love for the church and a home feeling in its adherents is worthy of cultivation. City churches are everywhere ahead of country parishes in practical benevolences close at hand, but no condition except death is unchanging, and live organizations are those testing new lines of activity.—Congregationalist.

"Talk with us, Lord, Thyself reveal,
While here o'er earth we rove:
Sneak to our hearts, and let us feel
"With heed! fewo gkdriqappaurrrhdd!
The kindling of Thy love.
"With Thee conversing we forget
"With Thee conversing, we forget
All time, and toil, and care:
Labor is rest, and pain is sweet,
If Thou, my God, are there."

A LITTLE TYRANT.

There is no tyrant like a teething baby. The temper isn't due to original sin; the little one suffers worse than the rest of the family. He doesn't know what is the matter—they do. But baby need not suffer longer than it takes to make him well, if the mother will give him Baby's Own Tablets. They ease the tender gums and bring the teeth through painlessly and without tears. Mrs. C. Connolly, St. Laurent, Man., says: "Some months ago my little girl's health became so bad that we felt very anxious. She was teething and suffered so much that we did not know what to do for her. I was advised to try Baby's Own Tablets, and from almost the first dose she began to improve, and there was no further trouble. She is now in the best of health, thanks to the Tablets." The Tablets cure all the minor ailments of children, and are a blessing to both mother and child. They always do good—they cannot possibly do harm. Try them and you will use no other medicine for your little one. Sold by all druggists or sent by mail at 25 cents a box by writing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

In the countries of the East the climate is so mild and warm (think of it, at this time of the year!) that the people have many customs which are very different from ours. For instance, the barber doesn't have a shop. If you wish to have your hair cut or your head shaved (and you do, if you are an Eastern person) you just sit down in the open air, and the barber attends to you. First the barber moistens his hand with water and rubs your head for a long time, then he takes his razor and shaves your head from the top downwards quite smooth and clean. Of course it would be very nice and cool, and you wouldn't have to rub your head for a long while to get your hair dry after a bath, but I think I'd rather keep my hair on, thanks.

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