

"A new sun is rising in Japan. In 1870 there were not ten Protestant Christians in the empire. There are now (May 1876) ten churches, with a membership of eight hundred souls. Gently, but resistlessly, Christianity is leavening the nation. In the next century the native word *inaka* (rustic, boor,) will mean 'heathen.' With those forces that centre in pure Christianity, and under that Almighty Providence Who raises up one nation and casts down another, I cherish the firm hope that Japan will in time, take and hold her equal place among the foremost nations of the world, and that, in the onward march of civilization which follows the sun, the Sun-land may lead the nations of Asia that are now appearing in the theatre of universal history."

Practical Papers.

THE GOLDEN KEY, WITH ENCOURAGEMENTS FOR USING IT

BY THE REV. DAVID WINTERS, WESTMINSTER CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.

PRAYER.

"PRAY without ceasing."—(1 Thess. v. 17.)

Prayer was appointed to convey
The blessings God designs to give :
Long as they live should Christians pray,
For only while they pray they live."

HART.

"Prayer is a retirement from earth, to attend on God, and hold correspondence with Him that dwells in heaven. The things of the world, therefore, must be commanded to stand by for a season, and to abide at the foot of the mount, while we walk up higher, to offer up our sacrifices, as Abraham did, and to meet our God."

WATTS.

"In every storm that either frowns or falls,
What an asylum has the soul in prayer."

YOUNG.

"In the absence of sun, the mild and peaceful radiance of the moon enlivens our path. Let devotion spread a cheering light over your darkest hours. 'The Queen of Night,' says Bowdler, 'unveils its full beauty, when the hours of joy and lustre have passed away, pouring, as it were, a holy light through the damps and darkness of adversity.' Thus will constant prayer cheer the darkest season of affliction."

BICKERSTETH.

"The best means of keeping near to God, is the closet. Here the battle is won or lost."

PAYSON.