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If you were a Sunday School superintendent, and a man with thirty-five children appeared, what would you think? That was the experience of Rev. J. M. B. Gill, of Nanking, China. He writes to the Episcopal Board of Missions: "Sunday, a week ago, at my Sunday school, I was surprised to see a man come in with about thirty-five children following him. We are used to big families in China, but nothing like that. He informed me that he was the head of a day-school nearby, had heard of our doctrine, desired to bring his school in every Sunday for instruction, and desired to be instructed himself, also. That was quite an addition to our Sunday School, and with only myself and one young Chinese communicant, who, during the week, runs my reading-room for me, to do the teaching, it pushes us rather hard."

Many tourists in the Houses of Parliament last summer were disappointed to find the famous Westminster Hall closed to their inspection, and turned away wondering what all the elaborate scaffolding meant. It means that examination of the wonderful roof built by Richard II., about 1380, with a view to strengthening the structure, has disclosed an amazing and quite unexpected state of rotteness. It has been discovered that beetles have been at work for the last five or six hundred years, and have bored cavities through some of the beams through which a man might creep. Meanwhile the scaffolding has called forth a letter from Mr. W. D. Caröe, a church architect, who says: "The voluminous and menacing scaffold now erected spells alarm in these wanton days of female unrest. A single match might end for all time any difference of opinion as to the condition of the timbers." In reply, it is pointed out that the suggestion is most unfortunate, and would better have been left unsaid.

In three years the Salada Tea Company have increased their sales 3,290,954 pounds. In other words, they have added to their already large trade, one-tenth of the entire annual tea consumption in the Dominion of Canada.

British and Foreign

The ever-vigorous Dr. Freemantle, Dean of Ripon, is 82 years old, and 18 years ago he succeeded his equally vigorous uncle of 88.

The Sheffield Diocesan Church House was recently formally opened by the Lord Mayor and afterwards dedicated by the Bishop-Suffragan of Sheffield, Dr. Quirk.

Mrs. Thomson, the widow of the late Dr. Thomson, Archbishop of York, died on the 20th ult. Since the death of Dr. Thomson, which took place in 1890, Mrs. Thomson has resided in apartments in Hampton Court Palace.

Several Britanno-Roman relics, just discovered in Winchester, have been placed on show at the Tudor House Museum, Southampton. They include three very interesting crucibles of about the volume of modern egg-cups, all having terminal spikes, by means of which they could be stood upright in sand in the heating chamber. One is still partly filled with melted iron. Crucibles of this kind are very rare.

The death took place recently at Churchtown, near Garstang, of James Compstey, who is believed to have been at the time of his death the oldest bellringer in England. He was born in 1819, and for over 70 years he acted as sexton and clerk, an office which had been in the hands of his father for 30 years. On the occasion of Queen Victoria's coronation in 1838 and again on the accession of King Edward he took part in the ringing of the bells of the Parish Church, Churchtown.

With imposing ceremonies the Rev. John Poyntz Tyler was consecrated Bishop of North Dakota in Hagerstown, Md., on the Feast of the Epiphany by Bishop Tuttle, of Missouri, assisted by Bishop Randolph, of Southern Virginia; Bishop Murray, of Maryland, and a number of other Bishops. The ceremony took place in the local church, of which the new Bishop has been rector for eight years. The decorations of the church

were most elaborate and it was filled with spectators. The sermon was preached by Rt. Rev. B. D. Tucker, Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Mr. J. Newton, Secretary of the Native Races and the Liquor Traffic United Committee, recently received a letter from the Rev. F. C. Cleaver, S.P.G. Missionary at Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa. In the course of a very saddening letter, in which he speaks of having recently attended, as Chaplain, two executions for murders committed under the influence of drink, Mr. Cleaver says: "One day in July I went to the Customs Warehouses in Secondee to find one case of Bibles that had arrived for me, and to 'clear' it through the Customs. One of the officials in charge jokingly said he hoped I should soon find my case—but as there were 16,000 cases of gin and some hundreds of cases of whiskey being dealt with just then, he thought I might have some difficulty. But in a very few days all these had been cleared away and dispatched up the railway. It is coming out in shiploads."

"ONLY A BOY."

"Only a boy," did you say, sir?

"Only a boy," to be sure.

If I live, though, I'll be a man, sir,

And try to be good and pure.

"Only a boy" can say, "No," sir;

"Only a boy" can be strong

In the strength which Jesus gives him

When tempted to do the wrong.

Think, though I'm "only a boy," sir,

The beginning of a man,

I'm a bit of God's great world, sir,

And included in His plan.

I can work for the good of others,

And I promise to abstain

By the help of God from drink, sir,

And the evils in its train.

—Young Soldier.

LITTLE KATY.

By Jeannette Marks.

Not far from where Effie and Tommy Beaver lived there was a little white town, a little town on a hill, with a little church on the very top of the hill and streets that ran down to the lake or pond as the villagers called it. And it was in this pond that Katy Tadpole lived, and in this village old Master All-Wise had his home.

I don't know that Effie Beaver had ever known one tadpole from another, but on this day Effie was much surprised to see a tadpole a good deal larger than the others and quite a different colour. There sat the little creature, not black, or brown at all, but silver and gold and every one of the pretty colours the sunfish has. Effie rubbed her eyes again.

"What's your name?" said Effie.

"Katy Tadpole," answered the pretty creature, in a voice that was as clear as a tiny bell.

"Tadpole!" exclaimed Effie. "But you're not a tadpole!"

"Oh, yes, I am!" contradicted Katy.

She said this so politely that Effie looked again before she answered.

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Well, anyway, thought Effie, she has a tail and tadpoles have tails and she's two pretty little arms; they don't look like a tadpole's, but they are where a tadpole's forelegs usually are.

"Where do you live?" asked Effie, politely.

"At this time of the year I live here; later, I live over there on the other side where the water is deep and cool. In the winter I don't live here at all."

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