

## Young People's Department.

### A MOON FEAST.

A missionary in China tells us of the way boys and girls in China are taught to worship the moon. On the fifteenth day of the eighth month great feasts are prepared in honor of the beautiful moon God created to give light at night after the sun has set. A procession is formed in the evening, in which the children may join. Each one carries a lighted Chinese lantern on the end of a bamboo torch. Some of them are very pretty, shaped like flowers, and others like ducks or chickens. The lights burning inside the colored lanterns makes the scene a bright one, and the big round moon looks down from the sky with her gentle beams. Long strings of fire-crackers are set off to attract attention. Everybody who is not in the procession stands in the door, from which he can see the moon the best. Out in the street in front of each house a table is set with fruit and cakes as an offering to the moon. Incense sticks are lighted in her honor, and put on these tables. Then the people fall down on their knees and worship the moon.

The missionary tried to teach the little children in her school how much better it would be to worship the living God who made the sun, the moon and the stars, and to thank Him, instead of the moon, for its bright, beautiful light. She taught them to sing—

"Night has the stars and moon,  
Daytime, white clouds, blue sky;  
They cannot speak, but yet they tell  
Of the Great God on high."

And this verse of an older hymn—

"Soon as the evening shades prevail  
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,  
And, nightly, to the listening earth,  
Proclaims the story of her birth."

One day, after a great storm, the children called the missionary to look at the rainbow in the sky. She pointed

to it, and told them the heavenly Father put it there. They cried out in fear, "Oh, teacher! Don't point at it, or your finger will grow crooked and never be straight any more!" This is one of the Chinese superstitions, but the missionary showed them that her finger was quite straight, and she had no fear of the beautiful rainbow which God had set in the sky as a sign that the earth would never have such a dreadful flood again as it did when Noah and his family were saved in the ark. Thus, in China, as in India, missionaries are trying day after day to lead the little boys and girls who live in these heathen countries to know for themselves the dear Friend who loves children of every nation. "When He cometh to make up His jewels" many a dear little child from heathen lands will be counted in. Our pennies help to send the missionaries who are teaching these children about Jesus, so we must remember our mite boxes and Mission Band collections when the candy store tempts the bright coppers out of our pockets. It is so sweet to know that we are co-laborers with the missionaries in doing work for God in heathen lands by giving our money in this way.

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### A NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

Psalm 87: 7.

Before your eyes may there appear  
That light in which no gloom can dwell;  
And may you through the coming year  
In faith and hope and love excel.  
To you may all its seasons bring  
That joy which has in Him its spring.

—T. Watson.

Iona Station, Ont.