

STORIES OF OUR OWN MISSIONS.

A HONAN CHRISTIAN.

One of our missionaries in Honan, China, writes:—"Twenty years ago, a lad went from this neighborhood to South Honan, a refugee from famine. There the grace of God saved him, and he joined the church.

This year he returned on his brother's invitation to his old home. Arrived home, he began to tell of the true God, which angered his mother and brother.

They said that their gods had fled the house since he left the South for home, and he must sacrifice a hen and invite them back. This he refused to do.

Nor would his twelve year old son bow to the idols that his father did not believe in, so they were turned out of the home. They are spending the new year season with us."

WANTED TO BE IN THE FASHION.

Here is another little incident from one of our Honan missionaries:—"The young daughter of a missionary, having no foreign playmates, continually objected to being dressed in foreign style.

She looked with longing eyes on the small feet of her Chinese playmates, and at quiet times used up all her mother's scrap cloth and rags, trying to bind her feet.

Unknown to mother or father, she ordered a pair of small pointed shoes to be made for herself. Nor would she have her hair hanging loose, or have the plait tied with anything but a cord, as the other children called her ribbon a garter."

THE GIRLS WERE BEING MARRIED.

Here is a sad little picture from Dhar, India. Dr. Margaret O'Hara, one of our missionaries there, writing to the RECORD, says:—"Only one girls' school has been opened and the attendance is small, so far.

"This is the season for "making marriages" and many of the little girls are being married or attending the ceremonies of more favored friends."

Poor little things. When they should be playing at home, or at school, they were being married at the will of their parents, some to boys they had never seen, some to old men, old enough to be their grandfathers.

When these people learn what Christianity is, from our missionaries, and follow its teachings, then the little girls of India will have a happy, real girlhood like those in our own land.

HARD CURE FOR THE SICK LADDIE.

Dr. O'Hara sends another sad little picture out of which good came. This time it was a boy. Here it is:—"One of our patients in the hospital is a boy nine years of age.

The father came to call me to his village telling me of the illness of his son. From what he said I suspected tetanus, and enquired if the child had received any injury. The father assured me that he had not.

On reaching the village I found the child with large open sores on the abdomen, chest, spine, and shoulders.

I said to the father, "Are not these injuries?" "No," he replied, "that is our way of curing."

The child was brought to the hospital and after some weeks treatment the sores healed and the tetanic spasms ceased.

What is better, the father, mother, an uncle and aunt, have become quite interested in the Gospel. As this was the first visit made to the village, we are hoping that many may be brought out from among them.

A WONDERFUL CONTRAST.

Think of this picture, in a letter just received from Rev. J. W. Mackenzie, our missionary in Efate, New Hebrides.

"We opened our new church here last week. It was a memorable day for our people and I do not suppose they ever had a more enjoyable time. Between four hundred and five hundred were present from the adjacent villages. It was a grand sight. All were so clean and bright looking, and so nicely dressed.

I could not help contrasting it with sights I have witnessed at this same village in years gone by, when the majority of these same natives were gathered for a heathen feast, and how fiendish they looked, as, naked, painted, and feathered, they danced around the drums set up in the public square."

PAPER GODS.

Dr. Malcolm, of Honan, writes that "paper gods" are very plentiful there at the time of the Chinese New Year, about the first of March with us. "They are posted up on the doors and gates of their homes and above every fireplace. People bow before them, knocking their heads on the ground," worshipping these gods. Our missionaries are trying to teach them of the true God and of Jesus, the Saviour.