

PLAY YOU DO NOT MIND IT.

SOME youthful housekeepers one day  
Were getting supper in a way  
That was delightful, really;  
The grass a velvet carpet made  
Beneath the glowing maple's shade;  
No room so charming nearly.

Then Flossy brought a napkin red;  
"I will make a lovely cloth," she said,  
But when she came to try it,  
Alas! 'twas not quite large enough  
'T' hoid the table slightly rough,  
'Twas useless to deny it.

The rueful looks of blank dismay  
Began to chase the smiles away,  
So meagre did they find it.  
'Till outspoken sunny little Nell  
"We'll leave it so," 'tis just as well,  
And play we do not mind it."

The joyous smiles returned once more,  
Too soon the dainty feast was o'er,  
And shadows gathered thickly;  
A star shone silvery in the west,  
Warning each merry little guest  
To seek the homefold quickly.

The lesson is as plain as day;  
A cloud may rise above your way  
The sunshine is behind it;  
When things go wrong and others frown,  
Just put all rain repining down  
And play you do not mind it.

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Pleasant Hours:

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS:

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15, 1884.

OUR JAPAN MISSION.

WE devote this number of PLEASANT HOURS largely to our mission work in Japan. It is the first and only foreign mission of our Church. It is the only point at which we touch the great map of heathenism in the world. Even in the British Empire only one man in seven is even nominally Christian. We need to multiply not to diminish our foreign missions. The blessing of God on our Japanese Mission is strong encouragement to go on in this good work. It is one of the most successful ever planted. If only the cent a day for which Dr. Sutherland asks be forthcoming, there will be plenty of money to carry the Gospel to the heathen, and we hope that some readers of PLEASANT HOURS will become missionaries of the cross to those dark lands.



A JAPANESE DOCTOR.

SOUL HARVESTING IN JAPAN.

THE news from Japan continues to be of great interest. The work extends, characterized by deep spiritual experiences and rich answers to prayer. Dr. Gordon, of Kioto, under date of May 8, writes:

"In the April number of the *Herald* is a brief account of a visit I made to Tamba, about the beginning of the year. Some of our young men have been over there recently, and the work continues. The Goma Christians are still more joyous in their faith.

"But the greatest change has been in Funaida and vicinity. Here were several school-teachers who have seemed interested in the external results of Christianity rather than in Christ as a personal Saviour. Indeed, their personal interest has apparently been waning. The words of the experienced Japanese Christian teacher, as well as those of the foreign missionary, halted on their heart's threshold. But, when one or two of our most experienced men went over with their fresh baptism from above, the doors were thrown open and a new joy and peace took possession of them. One of them, the principal teacher, a man of years and considerable reputation in the community, was greatly moved. The next day, when the young men had gone to another village to see another teacher who was filled with doubts and atheistical speculations, this older teacher followed them. Entering the room where they were, he said his joy was so great that he could not stay at home, and told the doubter that he would not return till he, too, had received a blessing. So the day and a good part of the night were spent in argument, exhortation and prayer; and the young sceptic is now a rejoicing believer.

"A teacher in another village went home from the meeting of the first night under deep conviction of sin and his need of a Saviour; spent the night in prayer, till about 3 a.m., when, as he believes, the answer of blessing came. He started at once for Funaida to tell the news of his new-found joy, but, as

he could not get the ferryman up to take him across the river, he was constrained to wait till morning.

"A little beyond lives a young sake brewer, of considerable wealth. He has been an earnest Bible student for some time, and has now been touched by the same blessing. He will probably give up his business; indeed, it is now a matter of family consultation. He has put a younger brother in the home of Pastor Koki, of Osaka, and he himself is now studying theology of the Bible in our vernacular theological class. He is one of the men I had in mind in my letter in the *Herald* when I spoke of men being 'loth to take up the cross when that means change of business, with pecuniary loss.'

"The believers in Goma, Funaida and Kameoka held a praise meeting a week or two since. In the latter place there are eight or ten church members (of the Third church, Kioto), who have been the means of converting more than thirty, in the two former places, who wish baptism. Their hope now is that a church, embracing the believers in the three places, may be organized at an early day. But where will they find a pastor? If our class of twelve, to graduate next month, were twice as large, there would be places for them all without taking up any new work.

"Our work is everywhere encouraging. There never were so many ready and eager to hear. Our Christians, too, are filled with enthusiasm for work and with hope and expectations of great and near success."—*Missionary Herald*

ONE cent a day for missions from each member of our United Methodist Church, would enable the Society—1. To reach every new settlement in the Dominion; 2. To quadruple the number of missionaries among the French in Quebec; 3. To double the force among the Indian tribes; 4. To employ 25 foreign and 100 native missionaries in Japan; and leave a surplus nearly as large as our present income, wherewith to enter new doors!

A JAPANESE DOCTOR.

JAPANESE physicians generally follow the Chinese practice. They rely in serious complaints upon the application of severe external remedies, giving internally the powder of tigers-liver and rhinoceros-horn!

In China, Miss Bird heard a great deal from native physicians of the virtue of these strange remedies; and while at Malacca she witnessed a curious scene after the death of a tiger. A number of the neighbouring Chinese flew upon the body, cut out the liver, eyes and spleen, and carefully drained every drop of the blood, fighting with each other for the possession of things so precious. The centre of a tiger's eyeball is supposed to possess nearly miraculous virtues. The blood, dried at a temperature of 110°, is the strongest of all tonics, and gives strength and courage; and the powdered liver and spleen are good for many diseases. The governor of the province claimed the liver, but the other parts were all sold at a high price to the Chinese doctors. A little later she saw rhinoceros-horns sold at a high rate for the Chinese drug-market—a single horn fetching fifty dollars.—*Outlook*.

A LAY member of the Church Congress recently held in this city, pays a high compliment to Methodist Sunday-school methods. He said he had gone into a store to buy a magazine to show to the Congress. Here it was. (He held it up.) It was a magazine published under Methodist auspices. They kept a Doctor of Divinity specially for this work, and the magazine contained many pages of instruction upon the lessons to be taught, and (according to a good Methodist principle) enough advertisements to pay for the paper. The Church of England had two religious papers, one having no Sunday-school column, and the other a column, but no instruction in the lesson.

BE a lamp in the chamber if you cannot be a star in the sky.