

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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One of the Best Hymns.

BY CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT.

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not,
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each
spot,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about,
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am! thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.

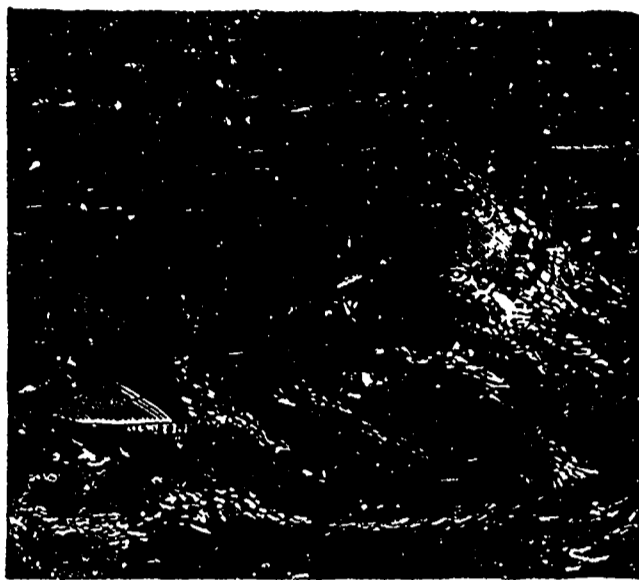
Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

THE LIFE-BOAT.

If you will observe the boat in this picture, you will see that a covering has been placed over either end. These are the air-chambers, which are so closely sealed that it is impossible for the water to find entrance into them. They are so large that they will keep the boat from sinking, not only when it is filled with passengers, but also with water; indeed, while the air-chambers remain uninjured, the life-boat will float under almost all circumstances. In the midst of storms that wreck the stoutest vessels the life-boat moves securely. For this reason it is used as a type of Christ, through whom the sinner escapes impending judgment, and through whom he passes on through life, secure from all the temptations and perils that beset his path.

SUCCESS AND SOUND BODIES.

When will men learn, and, learning, act on the knowledge, that health, bodily and mental, is one of the most vital elements of worldly success? In mercantile callings competition is now so intense, and business is transacted on so colossal a scale, that the drain on a man's vitality is greater and more exhausting than ever before in the world's history. In the learned professions, too, the efforts required, especially for leadership, are such as to make great constitutional strength and extraordinary power of endurance absolutely indispensable. The demand on the vitality of a successful clergyman, lawyer, doctor, statesman or engineer is continuous and exhausting. Talents alone, however fine, will not insure success. The axe may be sharp and may be driven home with herculean force; but not less careful is the power of dealing reiterated and cumulative blows. The mind may be keen as Saladin's cimeter; it may be carefully cultured, and full of knowledge and resources; but to achieve great and lasting results, it must be capable of long stretches of sustained energy, of intense and protracted labour, so as to be fresh, elastic and alert after many hours, and even days and nights of effort, whether at the desk, in the court-room, in the senate, or



THE LIFE-BOAT.

in the chamber of disease. It is true there have been men who in spite of ill-health have done great and heroic things. Wolfe capturing Quebec in spite of painful rheumatism; the gouty Torstenson in a litter leading armies and astonishing Europe by the rapidity of his movements; Richelieu, with one foot in the grave, signing death warrants and baffling conspirators; Robert Hall preaching immortal discourses while tortured by an excruciating spinal disease; all these are illustrious examples of mind triumphing over bodily weakness. But even these heroic men would have achieved still greater things if not hindered by wretched health.

On the other hand, see Swift dying in moody mania, "like a poisoned rat in a hole," after nine years of brain disease; see the great Isaac Newton, with intellect temporarily shattered by excessive study, or rather study without exercise; Alexander Nicoll, Hebrew professor at Oxford—who was said to be able to walk to the wall of China without an interpreter—dying of intense study at the same age; Scott, excited to such a pitch of activity that "he could not leave off thinking;" Southey, struck down from the height of fame into mere imbecility.

It is true that it is a working constitution which the business or professional man needs, not that of an athlete—the capacity of prolonged effort without

harm, nor the physique of the gymnast or the stroke oar, or the brawn of the gladiator. It is true, also, that physical vigour is needed more in some professions than in others. But in all it is indispensable to leadership, and he who lacks it must not think to command.

OUR CHINA MISSION.

BY REV. O. L. KILBORN, M. D.

SLAVERY.

There are no boys or men slaves in China, but in our province alone there are thousands and tens of thousands of girls and women slaves. There seems to be no public conscience against slave-owning, as there undoubtedly is against such a practice as infanticide. Girls are bought and sold every day in Chentu for from three to fifteen or twenty dollars each, and almost every family that can afford it has from one to five or six slave girls. Slavery in China is just as cruel and abusive as in any other country. Slaves are beaten and maltreated—may be beaten to death, even, without question. Parents take to themselves power of life and death over their own children, and we have seen how they exercise it in the case of their daughters, much more so they claim such power over their purchased property, the slaves.

Occasionally a case of slave murder of peculiar cruelty comes to light, and punishment may be inflicted; but such exceptions only emphasize the rule.

A slave girl, so weakened and emaciated by disease that she could not work, was cruelly beaten by her inhuman mistress, and then turned upon the street. She crawled to the W. M. S. hospital, at that time in Dr. Rotta Kilborn's charge. The poor girl was taken in and tenderly cared for, until, in a few weeks' time, death came to her release.

Another similar case was witnessed at the W. M. S. hospital. A slave girl about twelve years of age in some way excited the displeasure of her mistress, who, in a fit of passion, thrust a red-hot poker into the sole of the girl's foot. She was brought for treatment. But in spite of all that medical skill and careful nursing could do, this, together with other cruelties, was sufficient to cause the death of the child.

Chinese coffins are often very lightly covered with earth, or even laid upon the surface. People passing a pauper's burial ground on the outskirts of Chentu heard cries, apparently proceeding from one of these. The coffin was opened, and the slave girl, who had been buried alive, revived, and was conscious long enough to give an account of the horrible manner in which she had been tortured by the concubine of a high official. Hot needles had been thrust into her body, and other similar atrocities practised. A few hours later the girl succumbed to her injuries, and was reburied. The story spread, not through newspapers, for of these they have none, but through the tea-shops. Even Chinese public opinion could not stand this. People of every class were righteously indignant, and ultimately the woman thus accused was arrested, and was, I believe, punished in some way, whether by more than a fine was not known. Her rank and wealth probably saved her from anything more severe.

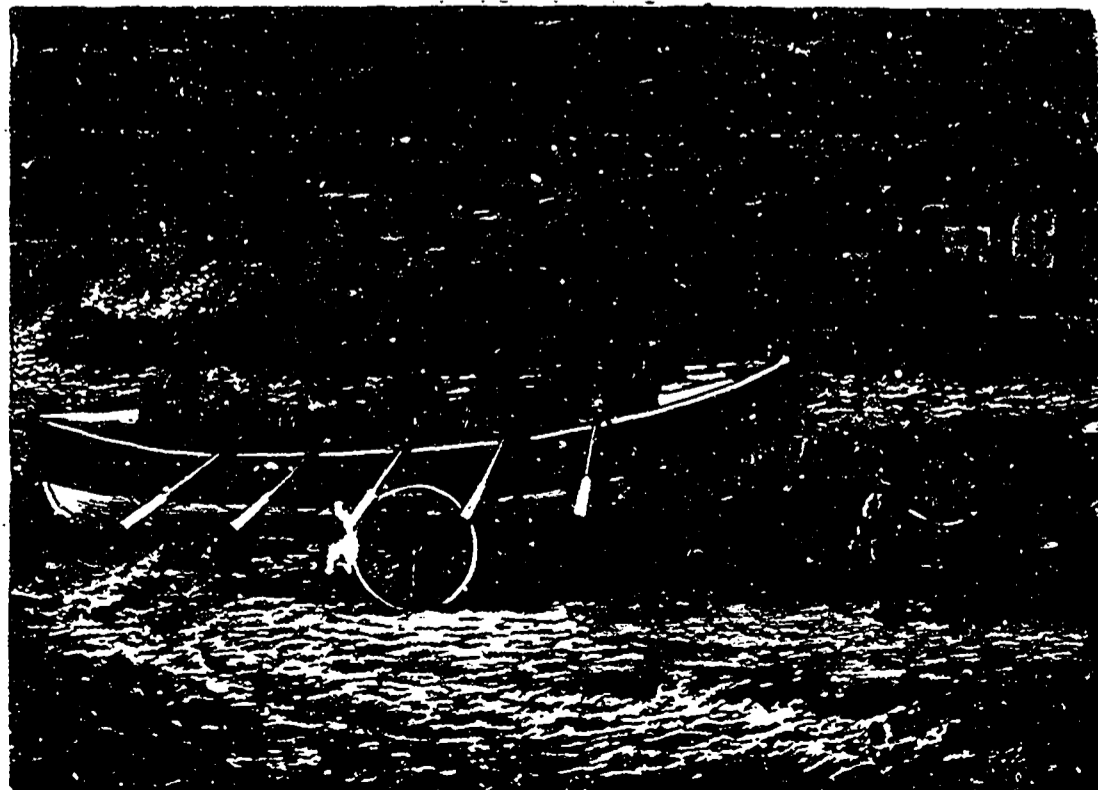
Another indication of the degraded position of woman in China is the all but universal custom of

FOOT-BINDING.

The feet of boys and men are never bound, only those of girls and women. There is one redeeming feature about slavery in China, and that is that slave girls do not have their feet bound. It would not be good policy on the part of their masters to bind the slaves' feet, because these girls must do a great deal of hard work, such as girls with bound feet cannot possibly do. But, with the one exception of the slave class, every Chinese girl and woman has her feet bound! That is, she is a cripple, from about five years of age, all through life. There are some parts of China, chiefly in the coast provinces, where a small percentage of the women do not bind their feet, possibly five or even ten per cent. But in West China the custom is practically universal. Women of every class bind their feet, even farmers' wives, who often help to do hard work in the field. I have seen women with little bound feet, hoeing corn on the mountain side; and on the other hand women amongst the official classes whose feet were bound so small that they could scarcely walk alone. These usually lean upon one or two slaves when they walk. Chinese women usually sit or kneel before the washtub, they cannot stand long enough to do a washing.

THE ORIGIN OF FOOT-BINDING

is involved in obscurity. The Chinese give several accounts, including the one which claims that men first bound their wives' feet to keep them from "gadding



LAUNCHING THE LIFE-BOAT.