

HOPE FOR JAPAN.

Stranger things have already happened than that Japan should, within a dozen years, be included among Christian nations. The movement toward Christianity there now is rapid almost beyond precedent, and it is not, as in South India, confined chiefly to the lower class of the population. The most intelligent and influential people are among the converts. Doubtless this comes, in large part, through the influence of those who have been in other countries, and have seen what Christianity has done for them. One of the latest indications is in the fact that one of the ablest and most prominent men in Japan, Mr. Ito Hirubui, has just returned from a visit to Germany; and it is reported that he has addressed the Mikado, urging the truth and importance of Christianity. He states that he formerly supposed that the Emperor William and Bismark professed to be Christians, as a matter of policy, while they had no regard for it at all in their hearts. But now he says that this was a mistaken idea. He found that both men were sincere Christians, and both urged him to seek their religion for his own welfare and happiness as well as that of his country. Such had been the influence of Mr. Ito's report that the chief officers in the cabinet are becoming interested in the study of Christianity, and the former court teacher of Confucianism is no long opposing the Gospel, but also carefully reading the Scriptures. In a course of study recently prescribed for all the Shinto priests the "Bible," and "Martin's Evidences of Christianity" are included.—*Eng. Pres.*

THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED BOOK.

The Rev. James Scott said at one of Mr. Moody's meetings in Scotland:— "There was not far from here a very eloquent minister who used to preach splendid sermons—what could be called philosophical and ethical sermons, but not much of Christ in them. One day when he was in the pulpit a little note was handed up to him. It contained these words:—"Sir, we would see Jesus." The minister thought over the message, and could not get it out of his mind. By-and-bye he looked into his sermons, and he found there was not much of Jesus in them, though there was a great deal about other things. He changed his preaching, and began telling his congregation all he knew about Christ. He

held him up day after day; and some time after he got another little note; it ran thus: "Them were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord."

PUTTING THE CHILDREN TO BED.

Send the little ones to bed in a happy frame of mind. It requires some discipline and self-denial on the part of a weary parent to answer all the foolish questions and attend to the many wants that multiply so fast as the hour of bedtime draws near, but it is a labour of love that will bring a large recompense. Children never forget. They will carry them through life's long and weary pilgrimage the remembrance of the face that bent over them at night, and that was ever associated in their immature minds with heaven and God. And the little tiresome last questions mean so much to them. What if we should not answer them and they never awaken here? Unanswered questions and unanswered problems have followed men and women through life with harrowing persistence. And never give a thoughtless answer to a child's question.

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