

astonished very much on account of the sun, the moon, the flowers, and the many beautiful things in the world; and I was pleased that many of my friends, the metals, had come out to have influence in the world. I felt very happy that I came, and I wanted I may be made into a useful thing. After a while somebody forged and made me into something called Scissors, which have two edges. After that I have had a great work to do, cutting pieces or other things; and if I were not in the world people could not make things shorter and smaller. When I am angry I hurt the people's fingers, and make little girls or boys cry; and also, sometimes I cut the piece too short and give trouble to the people; but if the people take care with me, I never close—this is my nature. After I was sent to some store, a girl bought me, and brought me to her home, and put me in a box. After that I was brought to her school with a needle-box; then I knew my mistress' name, Iku Matsui, because when she was at her sewing in the school, and I was beside her, her friend said to her, "Iku Matsui, please lend me your Scissors." Now, except when I am at my work, I live always in the box; and so I cannot see other things, nor I can play freely. But last week mistress left me in some place, and she sought for me very much, and I wanted to tell her where I was, because I ought to be at work; but I have no mouth and legs, and so I could not speak nor walk to her—I have only two hands—and being free just now, I took the paper and a pencil which were left beside me by some girl, and I wrote an autobiography of myself. It is very incomplete autobiography, because it is not my duty; it is only a secret deed, and my hands are very tired.

I. M.

YOKOHAMA, October 28, 1886.

MRS. LEAVITT, of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, has been making a deep impression at Kyoto and Osaka. Her lectures have been translated and published in some of the daily papers, and societies have been formed to prosecute and extend this work. The Japanese are very quick to see the need of reform, and, as in all other progressive movements, take hold of it with readiness and zeal. From present appearances this seems to give promise of important results. Since the introduction of foreign liquors the drinking habits have increased, and real drunkenness is seen here as almost never before. The native liquor was mild and stupefying, resembling beer in its effects, but the powerful stimulants of other lands set the people crazy, and speedily effect their ruin.

TEMPERANCE IN MISSION SCHOOLS.—The Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Board of another Church writes in a private letter, Nov. 1st: I am deeply interested in this matter of temperance, having been until the last three years an active member of the W. C. T. U. Especially am I interested in the subject of temperance teaching in all our mission schools. Certainly our effort to christianize the ignorant will be thwarted unless they are kept from the temptation of the saloon by earnest temperance teaching. Our Board meeting occurs this week and I will bring the request of the W. C. T. U. before them relative to sending to Washington a request for temperance teaching in Indian Government schools.

Missionary Readings.

THE LAST PRAYER.

[Written by Helen Jackson ("H. H.") four days before her death.]

FATHER, I scarcely dare to pray,
So clear I see, now it is done,
That I have wasted half my day,
And left my work but just begun;

So clear I see that things I thought
Were right or harmless were a sin;
So clear I see that I have sought,
Unconscious, selfish aims to win;

So clear I see that I have hurt
The souls I might have helped to save,
That I have slothful been, inert,
Deaf to the calls Thy leaders gave.

In outskirts of Thy kingdoms vast,
Father, the humblest spot give me;
Set me the lowliest task Thou hast,
Let me, repentant, work for Thee!

—December Century.

INDIA AND DRINK.

A RECENT number of the *Pall Mall Gazette* quotes some strong statements of Rev. J. G. Gregson with regard to the growth of the drink-trade in India. He says:—

"It is appalling to witness the extent to which we have corrupted the people of India. They had vices of their own, no doubt, but alike by religion, by custom, and by nature, they were temperate. Even to this day in Kolaba if a man of high caste drinks intoxicants he is fined 100 rupees before he can take his place among his own caste. I know a Mahratta gentleman who is at this moment supporting out of his own purse lecturers who are going from village to village urging the natives to band themselves together against the introduction of this shameful vice. Scores of millions of Hindus formerly never tasted alcohol in any shape or form. Now all is changed. The good which should be the outcome of missions and education is being neutralized by the evil effects of our drinking habits and social customs among the Christianized and civilized natives. Everywhere I found the same contagious leprosy of intemperance. We found India sober. We shall leave her drunken."

AFTER MANY DAYS.

IN 1835, Dr. Meadows, in making a journey along the coast of China, called for a few hours at an island, where he distributed some tracts and small religious books. The island remained unvisited by any European for thirty-three years, when a missionary went thither and began to preach the Gospel. To his astonishment, one of his hearers said, 'We know that doctrine;' and on being asked whence they had ob-