

Youths' Department.

GOD WILL UNDERSTAND.

They brought their flowers to the altar,
 Blossoms of white and red,
 Lillies and violets and roses
 The sweetest of perfumes shed ;
 While none of the rich and mighty
 Who lavished their gifts that day,
 Took heed to a child among them
 That timidly pressed her way.

She crept up close to the altar
 And there, 'neath a lily's crown,
 With tender, reverent fingers
 She laid her offering down,
 And said to a curious question,
 As the flowers dropped from her hand,
 "It is only a little daisy,
 But God will understand."

Sweet childish faith ! Oh, teach us
 Our little best to give,
 Though the works of others are greater
 Than the humble life we live.
 To offer our grateful service
 Forever with loving hand,
 Safe in the blest assurance
 That God will understand.

—Elizabeth Watson.

MORE ABOUT JAPAN.

BESIDES the gods I told you of in the January LINK, the people of Japan almost worship a very high mountain named Fuji-san. Groups of pilgrims every year climb up its sides saying their prayers as they go. Each carries a staff on which more prayers are written. Then they chant words that mean "a pure heart ! a pure heart !" and wash themselves at every pool or stream to make them clean. They do not know about the precious blood of Jesus, God's Son, that cleanseth from all sin. They stay all night on this mountain watching for the rising sun to appear that they may greet it with bowed heads and clasped hands.

Prayer-wheels turned by wind-mills are on the road-side, atoning for the sins committed in some former life. A shelf may be seen in every heathen home whether the people are rich or poor. On this is put a small box formed of paper slips. These contain the words, "Ten thousand prayers." This is the family altar where prayers are daily recited for the benefit of dead relations whose photographs are the objects of worship. In former times tablets inscribed with the names of departed loved ones were used instead of their photographs. The Japanese

people believe that souls on leaving the dead bodies pass into some animal, so they eat only fruit and vegetables, for if they were to kill an animal to get meat, it might disturb the soul of some loved one.

People get drunk in Japan, the same as in Canada, with a drink called *sake* made from rice, but it does not make those who drink it quite as savage as our strong drinks do. Cats in Japan have no tails, and dogs are fierce as wolves. No sheep can live in Japan as the grass is too rough and coarse for their food. The farmers yoke oxen to their ploughs which are made of wood. The servants have their bodies tattooed with faces and figures of men and birds or of the great mountain Fuji-san. The boys and girls wear white socks with a place for the great toe like the thumb on your mitten. Over these they wear clogs or wooden shoes held on by a strap over the great toe. The boys do not count the day they were born as their birthday but all celebrate the fifth day of the fifth month, when a rod or pole containing a big fish, made of paper, flutters over each doorway. The girls keep the third day of the third month as their "feast of dolls." The baby of a home is always strapped on the back of an older brother or sister who plays in the streets while the baby's head bobs up and down in a way that would shock our careful mothers. Babies in heathen lands do not get the tender care our babies do. You know in China girl-babies are often thrown out in the streets at night and an old cart drives around each morning and takes them off. The women take a great deal of trouble in doing up their hair, but then leave it alone for a week, resting at night on a wooden pillow covered with a small cushion so their hair will not get tossed. Do you see that man with two pails of water on the ends of a bamboo pole which he carries on his shoulders ? He takes the place of a water-cart for the dusty streets of a city in Japan. A little crack half way around the bottom of each pail lets out a stream of water on each side of the path as he trots along with a swinging motion. Many other strange sights, some sad and some amusing, I could tell you if we had room for a longer article. God grant that the day may soon come when the story of Jesus Christ our Saviour may be told all over Japan and save the children.

SISTER BELLE.

Ottawa, February, 1904.