

ing was much worn. He wished it back in three days, but Gu-Hia said he could not possibly finish it under five days, and that time was agreed upon. Gu-hia at once took the pages of the book all apart and divided them among his workmen and told them to place sheets of paper over them and make exact copies of the original. So in a short time he had a complete copy of the book. However, he did not consider the new book powerful to work charms, and so made his plans to keep the original and return in its place the copied book. The difficulty was to make the new paper look like old so as to deceive the diviner, but by some process he contrived to do this, and the wise diviner never discovered the difference!

Gu-Hia's friends often came in to consult the book, to find out what special charms were needed for special occasions. His purpose was, after he had fully unravelled the mysteries of the book, to give up his business and make much money as a diviner. The book was one of his most valuable treasures.

On a Sabbath lately he heard the pastor read and explain Acts xix: 19, how many who used curious arts brought their books and burned them. He thought of his book and decided at once that he must give it up. Many of his friends begged for the book and some offered for it any price that he might name, but he said, "What is harmful for me to use I will not give away to harm others." On that Saturday night he secretly took the book out of his trunk and hid it in his clothes, and the next day brought it to the pastor, telling him its history, and saying that if his friends had known that he was carrying it away they would have snatched it from him."

Many of his friends have visited Gu-Hia to try to dissuade him from his purpose of worshipping God, but he in return preaches the Gospel saying, "I am not stupidly giving up my old faith, I know what I am doing, come and hear the gospel for yourself and see if it is not good." He has been the means of bringing some of these to church to "listen to the doctrine."

AN ORIENTAL STORY.

An Eastern king was once in need of a faithful servant and friend. He gave notice that he wanted a man to do a day's work, and two men came and asked to be employed. He engaged them both for certain fixed wages, and set them to work to fill a basket with water from a neighboring well, saying he would come in the evening and see their work. He then left them to themselves and went away.

After putting in one or two basketfuls, one of the men said, "What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water in on one side, it runs out on the other."

The other man answered, "But we have our day's wages, haven't we? The use of the work is the master's business, not ours."

"I am not going to do such fool's work," replied the other, and throwing down his bucket he went away.

The other man continued his work till, about sunset, he exhausted the well. Looking down into it, he saw something shining at the bottom. He let down his bucket once more, and drew up a precious diamond ring.

"Now I see the use of pouring the water into a basket," he exclaimed to himself. "If the water had brought up the ring before the well was dry, it would have been found in the basket. The labor was not useless after all."

But he had yet to learn why the king had ordered this apparently useless task. It was to test their capacity for perfect obedience, without which no servant is reliable.

At this moment the king came up to him, and as he bade the man keep the ring, he said, "Thou hast been faithful in a little thing; now I see I can trust thee in great things. Henceforward thou shalt stand at my right hand."

Is not this a good lesson to teach us to be faithful in the small duties of each day as well as the large ones; to do everything, no matter how small, as unto our heavenly Master? Little acts of duty or kindness go a great way when done for Jesus' sake.—*Sel.*