

One night we had a very heavy thunderstorm and found that she had shut herself in her room. Later, we asked her if she had done this because she was afraid. She said yes, that she was afraid, as the babies who had died without baptism came back and walked in the river during thunderstorms. (The house in which we lived then had the La Paz River flowing along the back wall.) She also told me that God would judge me for not having the children baptized. I tried to explain the meaning of baptism to her, but she only pitied me.

The favorite saint among the La Paz women is St. Antonia. When a young woman wishes to get a lover, she prays to Antonio, and of course the desired answer is due to the saint, whether she has obtained it by fair means or otherwise. This saint is also the recourse of the childless women, and they will go to all kinds of trouble and do many things that seem foolish to us in order to get his favor. When anything is lost, he is invoked to discover the thief or the lost property. The priests have discovered many ways of explaining the failure of the saint to accomplish the desired end without the poor, deluded people realizing that they are being deceived. Yet it works to our advantage sometimes. The servant we have now is quite an admirer of St. Antonio, and in order to gain his favor at the end of the year she cleaned up everything, so that she might go to confession and declare that she had done her duty.

Some time ago, along with Mrs. Wilkinson and Miss Morton, we were invited to dinner at the American Legation. After dinner, our hostess asked us if we would like to see her cook's room. The cook, with very evident delight, showed us her treasures, including many toys that she had bought for the Nino, as they call the child Jesus. On a little shrine she had a most elaborately dressed doll to represent the child Jesus. Around this were grouped expensive toys and the pictures of many saints. Our hostess informed us that the two trunks that we could see in the room were filled with just such toys and images. Near by was an image of the Virgin, before which the cook stood in adoration while we were examining the various things. Mrs. Wilkinson tried to explain to her that Jesus was no longer an infant, but that he became a man and died, and rose again that we might be saved, and that Jesus and not the Virgin was the Saviour. The cook listened and then said, "I know that, but then the blessed Virgin is the second person in the Trinity." Who could have taught her that? Jesus Christ means very little to these people, and the Virgin has completely taken his place, whatever the priests in Canada may say.

These are examples of beliefs among those who live in the towns. In the country we find some customs that are not practised in the towns. On the shore of Lake Titicaca the courtship and marriage customs are rather curious. The Indian girls wear a large darning-needle in their shawls. When a young man takes a fancy to a girl and finally makes up his mind to marry her, if possible, he steals this needle. If she is not willing to have him, she sends some of her relatives—father or brother—to ask for the needle. If she does not send for it, he knows she is willing, and the parents make the necessary arrangements re date, etc. It is the custom for both bride and bridegroom to borrow as many clothes as possible for the wedding, together with any jewelry that may be available. The parties who are invited to the wedding send in supplies of eatables, and also unfortunately of drink, chiefly alcohol. The amount of the supplies thus provided