## THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.



BY ROSA GRAHAM.

ed;

Was wet as it could be;

And dearest wife in town .""

Were white as foam of sea;

And golden as it could be.

As happy a home as we."

and grasshoppers jumped jubilantly over the lawn; pliment with presents of precisely equal value. tle face. surrounded by rare statuary, fountains, and vases the couple have been betrothed, in which cere-

of exquisite workmanship; the choicest gems from mony both families partake, they are allowed and Will our friends be kind enough to tell their

trousseau is taken to her future home, and care-

wedding presents are in our own country, except

that, in the latter case, the display, as well as the

'In the chief room a domestic altar is erected,

The binding or vital part of the marriage cere-

metal filings, saki, and gall-nuts; and the custom

their teeth a proper color. Japanese wives, too,

need behave themselves with the utmost discretion,

The festivities, etc., attendant upon marriage in

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flower-world sparkled on the terrace, and vied even encouraged to meet, and thus become ac- friends that new subscribers receive the INTELLI with each other in rich perfume; but though Wit. | quainted with each other's character. The Japathe occasionally turned her blue eyes on the scene, nese customs coincide with the Chinese in another respect besides those mentioned before, in that it it seemed only to deepen her odd discontent. "Such stupid old flowers !" she burst forth, finally is not usual for a wife to bring a dowry with her;

"I'm sick of lookin' at 'em ! Why couldn't these but she is generally furnished with an exceedingly grow plum-cakes and chocolates, so I could pick good trousseau. Early marriages being the rule in the East, the and nobody know? And twenty-five cent pieces under the leaves, where only little girls could find | marriage between the bethrothed pair in Japan, is 'em ? Oh, dear ! It's a shame !- so there !" usually solemnized when the bride and bridegroom And Wittie, with a desperate scowl, kicked a are respectively about sixteen and twenty years old On the morning of the nuptial day, the bride's

hole in her tiny bronze slipper. Just at this moment there came skipping down the roadway another little girl; a pretty child, but | tully set out for the inspection of the guests at the robed in a patched, ill fitting frock, shoes two sizes approaching festivities, much in the same way as

too large, and an old faded sunbonnet pushed back from her curly head. At the first view of Wittie's charming home she stopped short, and a smile, bright, as if cut from the glistening sunbeams, cir- preparations for the ceremony are next commenced. cled her lips.

adorned with flowers and laden with offerings; and Wittie regarded the new comer with wondering eyes, but she seemed blind to aught save the beau- in front of this altar, images of the gods and patron tiful scene before her. Softly with hushed foot- saints of the two families are hung.

steps, she crept up to the fence, so close to our Towards noon the bridal procession arrives a dainty-robed maiden that she could almost hear the apartments which have been prepared as above the little heart throbbing with its weight of won- described. The bride is veiled and attired in a der. But neither to the right nor to the left look- white silken robe, the veil being also of white silk, ed she, only straight up over the velvety terrace, and sometimes used as a sort of mantle. She is led with the same glistening smile. Suddenly the lips by her two bridesmaids, and attended by a numerparted ; eagerly the little brown hands were stretch- ous retinue of relatives and friends, all dressed as gorgeous attire as they can afford. ed within the railing.

"I wonder-I wonder if this is heaven !"

Wittie, bursting with curiosity, had started for- mony in Japan seems to be very similar to that ward, and was just ready to exclaim aloud, when which obtains among the Chinese, and consists in these words fell upon her ear. Such a look as the bride and bridegroom bringing, according to crept into the blue eyes I cannot describe, but the a set form, nine tiny cups of wine, or, rather, saki httle one, all unconscious of the scrunity, still gazed It is thus that, husband and wife must drink from up over the velvety terrace, and continued softly : the cup of conjugal life-he on his side, she on hers :

"I'm sure it must be heaven! There are the but they must both taste the same ambrosia or the fountains, and the angels Tim sings about, and same gall. They must share equally the pains and there stands the 'King's palace'-and, oh, the sorrows, as well as the joys, of this new existence. beautiful, beautiful flowers! Oh; if Tim could only | One very strange custom, connected with marsee it, he wouldn't be lame any more !" and two riage in Japan, is that a wife in that country tears, born of the most exquisite delight, coursed blackens her teeth, and plucks out or shaves off her eyebrows, in evidence of her fidelity to her down little Laura's cheek.

A moment longer she stood entranced, motion- husband. Brides in the upper ranks of life usually less, gazing at her fancied paradise, when suddenly go through the former operation before they leave a brisk little toad turned a somersault in the grass their ancestral homes, the latter being performed before her. A funny look crossed the young en. shortly after the nuptial ceremony. The mixture thusiast's face, and ripples of uncontrollable mer- for blackening the teeth is said to be composed of riment played round her lips.

"It can't be heaven, after all," she said, "for must be a very unpleasant and troublesome one to there ain't any toads there;" and yet she turned Japanese ladies, for the operation has to be gone away slowly, reluctantly, with a wistful glaace at through nearly every day, if they wish to keep the flowers, and murmuring

"If I might only have one for Tim !"

A moment Wittie stood staring at the odd little for their spouses are said to have the power of killfigure picking its way down to the road, and then | ing them on the slightest suspicion as to their acwith a bound she reached the terrace, loaded her | tions.

muslin overskirt with the fairest and sweetest of all the flower gems, and tore at a galloping speed down out of the gate.

as an impediment to it, for it not uncommonly "Little girl-little girl?" she cried; "come back; I want you." The child turned just as Wittie, flushed and year by the lavish expenditure to which the nation-

breathless, dropped with her sweet burden beside al custom has driven him, on the occasion of his off 111 acres. Last year the average of wheat was entering into the bonds of hymen. The Japanese,

The patched frock contrasted ugly enough with however, are gifted with a good deal of hard com-Wittie's soft, fleecy robes, and at first the child mon sense, and not caring to be burdened for half shrank blushingly from their white embrace; but their lives with the consequences of indulging, bushel. One farmer raised 350 bushels of potatoes Wittie leaned forward and looked up into her face against their will, in the extravagant festivities from seven bushels of seed, while another raised with such a sweet, loving smile that she soon for- necessary for getting married in the orthodex man-12 bushels of onions upon a patch of land 20 feet TO GENTLEMEN, FARMERS and OTHERS. got all about it, and poured forth her sorry little ner, they sometimes resort to a species of elope-got all about it, and poured forth her sorry little ner, they sometimes resort to a species of elope-square. These are facts, and speak for themselves. THE Subscriber having imported from England

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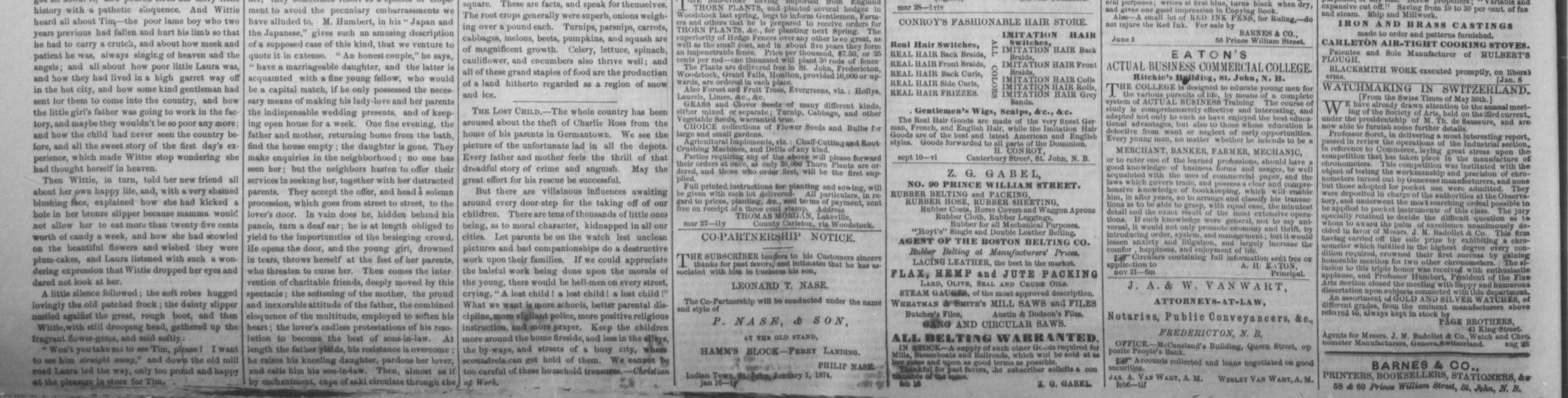
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