THE DOLLS' FESTIVAL.

On the third of March the little girls of Japan celebrate a festival which might very well be imitated in our own country. It is the feast of the dolls.

The children visit one another and bring their dolls, displaying them in a kind of exhibition and letting these little playthings pay visits to their neighbors. Our frontispiece represents such a party in which five little Japanese girls have come together and put their dolls on a stand while they themselves have their refreshments before them in Japanese fashion on tiny little tables.

A little Japanese poem reads in an English translation thus:

"Once a year to low and high,
Rich and poor, by all held dear,
Come the dolls that never die,
Once a year.

"Minstrel, warrior, peasant, peer,
Humbly hail his Majesty,
Regnant on the topmost tier.

"Children's hands that nursed them, lie
Out of reach of hope or fear;
Only dolls may Death defy—
Once a year."

"A RETROSPECT AND A PROSPECT."

The editor of The Open Court has received many appreciative comments upon his "Retrospect and Prospect" in the January number which, in restating the views and purposes for which The Open Court stands, is both a review of the work accomplished in the past twenty years, and a promise for the future. He was very glad to receive the following encouraging words from Father Hyacinthe:

"I am so pleased with your double survey, looking both backward and forward, in a recent number of The Open Court that I wish to thank you for it. The majority of men see but poorly because they look only in one direction. Behind is reverent conservatism and in front a confident radicalism. Let us practice this art of arts, and let us understand this truth of truths, that we must seek our future in our past.

"PARIS, FRANCE.

HYACINTHE LOYSON."