

MISCELLANEOUS.

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."