

MISCELLANEOUS.

LAO-TZE IN HIS DESOLATION.

All great thinkers have moods in life in which they feel isolated and oppressed by the gravity of their thought. Lao-tze understood the corruption of his age and foresaw the doom that would overtake his country. He felt that he was different from others, and his consolation was that he was grounded in the *Tao*, that mysterious source of existence which is at once the father and mother of all things.

His book contains a passage which gives pathetic expression to this feeling, and a Japanese artist has sketched this bitter moment of the great philosopher's life with great skill and with deep sympathy. He shows the lonely thinker wrapped in clouds while the multitude of men in the outer world are enjoying themselves in frivolous pleasures.

The passage which the brush of the artist has illustrated in our frontispiece reads in Lao-tze's remarkable book as follows:

"The multitude of men are happy, so happy, as though celebrating a great feast. They are as though in springtime ascending a tower. I alone remain quiet, alas! like one that has not yet received an encouraging omen. I am like unto a babe that does not yet smile.

"Forlorn am I, O, so forlorn! It appears that I have no place whither I may return home.

"The multitude of men all have plenty and I alone appear empty. Alas! I am a man whose heart is foolish!

"Ignorant am I, O, so ignorant! Common people are bright, so bright, I alone am dull.

"Common people are smart, so smart; I alone am confused, so confused.

"Desolate am I, alas! like the sea. Adrift, alas! like one who has no place where to stay.

"The multitude of men all possess usefulness. I alone am awkward and a rustic too. I alone differ from others, but I prize seeking sustenance from our mother."

THE DERIVATION OF "CHRIST."

The May number of *The Open Court* contained two articles on the word "Christ." Mr. Kampmeier calls attention to its use in the Septuagint and stands up for the traditional derivation, while the Honorable Willis Brewer derives it from the Egyptian *kHeru*, the divine messenger, the herald of the gods, who comes to the assistance of the soul in its migration to Allalu.