

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE PREYING MANTIS.

While reading Dr. Laufer's interesting sketch as to the significance of the praying mantis in the folklore of China, the thought that the praying mantis might as well be spelled the "preying" mantis suggested to the editor the following lines:

When the praying mantis prays  
In the pleasant summer days  
Then beware,  
Good Cicada!  
For his pray'r  
Is not true.  
Flee Cicada,  
Good Cicada,  
He will prey on you!

Stop your singing  
And cease swinging  
In the balmy air  
On your blade of grass.  
Good Cicada, oh beware!  
Firm's the grip of his paws  
And his jaws  
Are like brass.

Small he is but strong,  
Minds not right nor wrong.  
While you sing  
He on you will spring.  
He will seize you,  
He will squeeze you,  
Will in battle meet you,  
Kill you then and eat you.

In his stomach surely  
You will prematurely  
Find your grave.  
Good Cicada,  
No armada  
Comes to save.  
Numbered are your days  
When the praying mantis prays.  
Trust him not! Without ado  
He will prey on you.

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### THE CHASM AT DELPHI.

• BY A. KAMPMEIER.

It may be of interest to Mr. F. C. Evans and the readers of "Pagan Prophecy" in the November *Open Court* to learn that the intoxication of the Pythia by exhalations from a subterranean cavity at Delphi is doubted by the American scholar Oppé (*Journal of Hellenic Studies*, 24) and by Von Willamovitz (*Hermes*, 38). They assert that Plutarch (*De def. orac.*, 42 and 48) only speaks of the vapors of the air surrounding Delphi as having an effect on the priestess, and of no cleft exhaling them; that Strabo (c. 419) tells the story of the cleft with the introductory words: "They say that, etc."; that no such chasm was possible geologically, Delphi standing on a natural terrace of clay-slate, but only in the limestone region of Castalia where the older