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Entre Nous.

A God of Action.

The God of Jesus is a God of action. That, in brief, is the message of Toyohiko Kagawa in *The Religion of Jesus* (S.C.M. Press; 4s. net). 'The religion Jesus taught is a religion of life. People who are fully alive, people who are living strongly, can understand it; but those who deny life, who do not want to live, cannot get its meaning. The God of Jesus is a God of Action' (p. 19).

Again, 'The religion of Jesus is the religion of crucifixion, that is, of redemption. It is the religion of action which unites meditation and prayer. To walk in prayer, continually asking and receiving power from God, and again to transform this power into new actions of love, this was the religion of Jesus' (p. 84). It seems only a short time since we drew attention to Kagawa's previous work, 'Love, the Law of Life.' The present volume is prefaced by a useful biographical sketch by the Reverend W. H. Murray Walton, the U.S.A. missionary whose Bible-class Kagawa attended when a boy. It was to Mr. Walton that he turned when he had a vision of the crucified Christ so haunting that he could not escape it. All that Kagawa writes is simple, but much, very much, is suggestive and profound, and commending it all to us is our knowledge of the consistent Christian life of this leader of young Japan. 'For thirteen years I have lived among human wastage. I have been three times convicted of having so-called dangerous ideas. It is not a happy experience.' Kagawa's thought is not equally adequate. 'The true deep meaning of redemption,' he writes, 'is that Jesus apologized to God for all the failures and sins of mankind, taking responsibility for them upon Himself.'

A Text.

'Once I visited the home of a shipping millionaire with the chief editor of the *Osaka Nichi Nichi* newspaper. This house, a villa at Suma, was larger than a palace. It was said that the owner spent £600,000 to build this house in the style of Momoyama. It was a grand mansion, built of ancient cryptomeria wood. When I went to that house, I asked the editor, "What will the owner do with this house?" He replied, "He will confine himself in it." At that time I was living in a house six feet square and found it quite comfortable. When Kropotkin was in prison, he walked five miles a day in his cell. This was because, in St. Petersburg, the air is damp, and he would run the risk of

rheumatism if he took no exercise. When I was put in the Tachibana prison in Kobe, I followed Kropotkin's example. My cell was about six feet square, and I could walk about six steps. I walked in the cell for about two miles every day. Thus I could think of my residence as being two miles wide. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews could say, "Be content with such things as ye have; for He hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"; while St. Paul from prison wrote, "I have learned in whatever state I am therewith to be content."¹

Two Good Marks.

The Girls' Guildry Gazette does not appear very often, but when it does come, it is always attractive. The editor has been fortunate enough to get a short address by Professor Moffatt for the present number. Professor Moffatt tells the story given in Bishop Creighton's biography of a child who had to write an essay on a cat and described it as follows: 'The cat is a square quadruped, and as is customary with square quadrupeds, has its legs at the four corners. If you want to please this animal, you must stroke it on the back. If it is much pleased, it sets up its tail quite stiff, like a ruler, so that your hand cannot go any farther. The cat is said to have nine lives, but in this country it seldom needs them all because of Christianity.' Though it was not a particularly good essay, the child had learned two things for which two good marks should be awarded. The first is attention to details. He had noticed exactly how the cat moved its tail. But the second is that the child recognized what the essence of Christianity was. We may laugh at the amusing argument, but it reflects the truth that kindness is the first principle of our religion, kindness to animals and also to one another.

We have received not only the *Gazette*, but also the *Twenty-Ninth Annual Report* of the work of the Girls' Guildry. It is a most encouraging record, and those who are not well informed about the Guildry should send for this Report and for the magazine. They may be had from 41 Burnbank Gardens, Glasgow.

¹ Toyohiko Kagawa, *The Religion of Jesus*, 45.