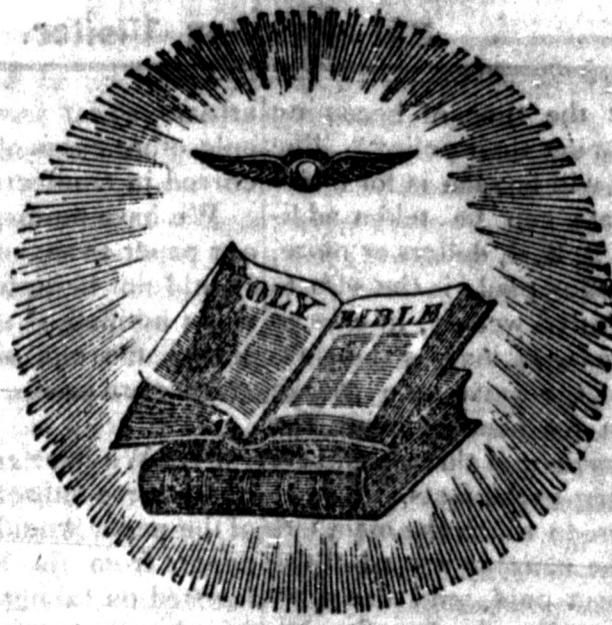


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REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

EDITOR.

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THE USES OF THE OCEAN.

BY GEORGE MEREDITH.

Come, read the meaning of the deep!
The use of winds and waters learn!
'Tis not to make the mother weep
For sons that never will return;

'Tis not to make the nations show
Contempt for all whom seas divide;
'Tis not to pamper war and wo,
Nor feed traditionary pride;

'Tis not to make the floating bulk
Mask death upon its slippery deck,
Itself in turn a shattered bulk,
A ghastly raft, a bleeding wreck.

It is to knit with loving lip
The interests of land to land;
To join in far seen fellowship
The Tropic and the Polar strand.

It is to make that foaming Strength,
Whose rebel forces wrestle still
Through all his boundaried breadth
Become a vassal to our will.

It is to make the various skies,
And all the various fruits they vaunt,
And all the dowers of earth we prize,
Subservient to our household want.

From the London Watchman and Wesleyan Advertiser.

A PROSPECTIVE MISSIONARY GLANCE TOWARDS JAPAN.

As Japan may probably soon be opened to European commerce and Christian missions, the following observations respecting that remarkable nation may not be unacceptable to some of our readers:—

The empire of Japan is composed of an archipelago of numerous islands, lying between the 30th and 42d degrees of north latitude, and 129th and 143d degrees of east longitude, the principal of which are Nippon, Kewsew, and Sikok. Japan is mountainous and hilly, and its coasts rocky and precipitous. Nippon, the largest island of the group, is traversed in its whole length by a chain of uniform elevation, the peaks of which are covered with perpetual snow. Very many of the mountains are volcanic, and contain a vast number of warm springs. The climate is healthy, and conducive to longevity. The range of thermometer throughout the year is between 35 degrees and 98 degrees. The most abundant rains are in June and July, and hence they are designated the "water months." In winter, snow often falls, and sometimes lies several days, even in the southern part of the empire. Storms, hurricanes, and earthquakes are of frequent occurrence.

Siebold, referring to the appearance of the country, as viewed from the bay of Nagasaki, exclaims:—"What fruitful hills, what majestic temple-groves! How picturesque those green mountain-tops, with their volcanic formation! How luxuriantly do these evergreen oaks, cedars, and laurels clothe the declivity! What activity, what industry does nature, thus tamed, as it were, by the hand of man, proclaim! As witness those precipitous walls of rock, at whose feet corn fields and gardens are won in terraces from the steep; witness the coast, where cyclopean bulwarks set bound to the arbitrary caprice of a hostile element."

The population is estimated at between 30,000,000 and 35,000,000. At first sight, the Japanese seem to resemble the Chinese. On a careful examination of their respective characteristics, however, the difference is obvious. The eye of the Japanese, although

placed almost as obliquely as that of the Chinese, is wider towards the nose, and the centre of the lid appears drawn up when opened. Their hair is not uniformly black, but of a deep brown hue. In children under the age of twelve, it may be found of all shades, even to flaxen. The complexion of the lower orders is of a deep copper color; among the higher classes, however, may be seen complexions as fair, and cheeks as ruddy, as those of European females. The peculiar character of their language also clearly proves that the Japanese are not, as was formerly imagined, a Chinese colony. In bodily and mental powers they are much more assimilated to Europeans than to Asiatics.

They regard Simmoe as the founder of their empire; anterior to whose period—B. C. 660—they know nothing of their own history.—They have, however, mythological records, which trace their descent directly from the gods; according to which, the heavens and the earth originally were not separated; the perfect and the imperfect principles were not disjoined; chaos, under the form of an egg, containing the breath or vapour, which included the germs of all things. What was pure and perfect ascended and formed the heavens; what was dense and impure coagulated, was precipitated, and became the earth. A substance resembling a shoot of the plant assi, the *eryanthus Japonicus*, was produced between the heavens and the earth, which was metamorphosed and became the god who bears the title of *The venerable one*, who constantly supports the empire. Thus arose the first order of celestial beings, who were seven in number, and ruled during an incomprehensible series of centuries. The last of these seven, and his wife, are held in high veneration, as the progenitors of another order of superhuman beings, five in number, from whom descended a third race—the present inhabitants of Japan.

There are in Japan three prevalent religious systems—Sintooism, Buddhism, and the doctrines of Confucius. The Sintoo religion is the primitive faith of the empire, and consists in the worship of spirits, who are supposed to preside over all things. Buddhism was introduced into Japan about A. D. 553; and after encountering some opposition became firmly established. It was embraced by the great, and made considerable progress among the common people, who were captivated by the pomp of its ceremonies, which are much more imposing than those of Sintooism. Buddhist priests flocked into Japan, and a vast number of Japanese, who dedicated themselves to a religious life, proceeded to China in order to acquire a thorough knowledge of the doctrines of Buddhism. Many of the princes whose reputed descent was from the gods of the country, shaved their heads and became priests of the new religion. At a somewhat later period, the emperor caused images of the Buddhist divinities to be placed in the imperial palaces, and the sacred books, procured from India, to be read and explained in the temples. The Sintoo worship, though differing essentially from Buddhism, became almost completely identified with it, especially among the common people. This amalgamation of the two systems is, at the present time, carried so far that the Sintoo divinities are often worshipped in the temple of Buddha.—The religious system of Confucius, the only object of which is to inculcate a virtuous life without troubling its followers with aught that may occur after death, prevails chiefly among the higher and better educated classes.

Meylan mentions a fourth religion as co-existing with these three, prior to the arrival of the first Roman missionaries. He says, that, about A. D. 50, a Brahmanical sect was

introduced into Japan, the doctrines of which were the redemption of the world by the son of a virgin, who died to expiate the sins of men, and to insure them a happy resurrection; and a trinity of immaterial persons, constituting one eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent God, the Creator, to be adored as the source of all good, and goodness." Japanese history relates that in the reign of the 11th emperor, who died A. D. 70, a celebrated personage arrived from India, riding on a white horse, and bearing in his hand a sacred book, which may, perhaps, be an allusion to the same event—the early introduction of Christianity into Japan.

The Japanese language is said to be the most polished and perfect language spoken in Eastern Asia. The alphabet consists of 48 characters, which are written in two different ways, analogous to the printed and written forms in our own language. The one designated the *katagana*, is chiefly used in dictionaries and works of science; the other, termed the *hiragana*, is more like a running hand, and is employed in all kinds of light reading and in the transactions of the common business of life. It is also called the female character, from its being generally used by the fair sex. The Japanese, like the Chinese, write in columns from top to bottom of the page, and begin at the right hand. Those of our readers who may desire further information regarding the language of this remarkable people, may consult Rodriguez's "Elements of the Japanese Grammar," and Medhurst's "English and Japanese and Japanese and English Vocabulary."

The Japanese have long possessed the art of printing, and have works on sciences, history, biography, geography, travels, moral philosophy, natural history, poetry, the drama, and encyclopedias. Kampler brought from Japan a number of native works, in 1693, some of which are in the Library of the British Museum.

An appreciation of the superiority of European knowledge strikingly distinguishes the Japanese from the self-sufficient Chinese.—The most acceptable present which can be offered them is a new scientific work in the Dutch language. Many of those which have been given them they have translated into their own tongue. Siebold informs us that their physicians and astronomers discover a proficiency in their respective sciences, which, considering their imperfect means of acquiring information, is astonishing. They are well versed in trigonometry and civil engineering; and prefer London made mathematical instruments before all others. Their maps—several of which lie before us—are very superior to those of the Chinese.

Colleges, which the Dutch writers compare to their own high schools, exist in the principal cities, the most distinguished of which are those of Yedo and Miac. They pay particular regard to general education. Children of both sexes, and of all classes, attend common schools, where they learn to read and write and acquire some knowledge of the history of their country: of which advantages, according to Meylan, no day-labourer in Japan is destitute.

The position of women in Japan is unlike that in all other nations of the East. Japanese women occupy a fair place in society, and share in all the innocent recreations of their fathers and husbands. The fidelity of the wife, and the purity of the maiden are committed wholly to their own sense of honour. And so well is this confidence repaid, that a faithless wife, it is said, is a phenomenon unknown in Japan. The Japanese ladies are described as lively and agreeable companions, and the elegance with which they do the honours of their houses is highly eulogized.—

Their minds are as carefully cultivated as those of the men; and among the most admired native authors—historians, moralists, and poets—occur several names of females.

The Japanese are shrewd observers and imitators of whatever they consider as excellent among foreigners. Some years ago the Government consulted with a Dutch chief as to the feasibility of sending young men to Holland that they might be instructed in the European manner of ship-building. And a native writer, in a preface to a Dutch Japanese dictionary, has told his countrymen that "Asiatics, in general, are to be compared to wood, whilst Europeans resemble iron, and as the former will remain a shapeless block, unless it is fashioned by iron, so also the Asiatics, without intercourse with western nations, will continue rude and uncivilized."

The only part of the Sacred Volume in the Japanese language is "the Gospel according to St. John," translated by that excellent Missionary the late Dr. Gutzlaff, and recently printed in China. Dr. Gutzlaff visited Japan in the year 1837, and attempted to introduce into the country the Scriptures and other Christian books in the Chinese language, which is well understood and extensively used by the Japanese.

THE BONAPARTES.

Louis Napoleon may be said to be, in one sense, the legal successor of the Emperor Napoleon. His election, at this time, is doubtless intended by him to be the restoration of the Empire under the Bonaparte dynasty. By the decree, on Senatus-consultum, which constituted Napoleon Emperor in 1801, the imperial succession was thus prescribed:

- 1st. To the lineal heirs, male, of Napoleon, in the order of primogeniture.
- 2d. Failing these, to such son, or grandson of his brothers as Napoleon might designate, and the heirs male of such son or grandson.
- 3d. To Joseph Bonaparte and his heirs male.
- 4th. Failing these, to Louis Bonaparte, his heirs male, each in the order of primogeniture.

The only son of Napoleon, the Duke of Reichstadt, died in 1832. Joseph, ex-King of Spain, the eldest brother of Napoleon, known as Count de Surville, and who resided for many years in New Jersey, died in 1845, leaving two daughters, but no son. Louis, ex-King of Holland, the father of the present Louis Napoleon, died in 1846, shortly after the escape of the son from the fortress of Ham. Two elder sons of Louis and Hortense died, one in infancy, the other at the age of 27, leaving Louis Napoleon the only survivor and the last in the prescribed succession.

To this claim of quasi legitimacy it is probable Louis Napoleon alludes in his Proclamation to the people of France. "If you believe in the cause of which my name is the symbol, that is, France regenerated by the revolution of '89, and organized by the Emperor, proclaim it," &c.

Jerome, the youngest brother of Napoleon, sometime King of Westphalia, has addressed a letter to his nephew "in the name of the memory of my brother, and partaking his horror of civil war," urging a republican and conciliatory policy. Napoleon, a son of Jerome, is or was a member of the French General Assembly.

Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Canino, died at Rome, leaving a numerous family; one of them, the ornithologist, now or lately prominent in the affairs of Rome, and Italy. Pierre, another son, figured in the French National Assembly; as also Murat, a son of the Marshal and Caroline, the sister of Napoleon. One of the daughters of Lucien is the wife of Lord Dudley Stuart, an English nobleman.—[Cincinnati Gazette.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR.—The following is an extract from a review of the year lately closed, in the Commercial article of the London Times of the 1st inst:

Throughout the whole period the extreme range of Consols, which was ten per cent. in 1848, eight per cent. in 1849, and 3 3/8 per cent. in 1850, has been again 3 3/8 per cent. and the closing price to-day is a little higher than on the 1st of January. In Railway Shares, the fluctuations have as usual been violent, but the quotations now show an improvement. The Bank bullion on the 1st of