

NEWEST COUNTRY OF ASIA.

The Yankoes of Asia and How They Are Adopting Civilization.

SIZE OF JAPAN—ITS BIG CITIES.

A Look at the Ainos and the Alaska of Japan—Japanese Earthquakes and Volcanoes—Modern Japan.

Corps Letter. Tokyo, Japan, Oct. 17.—[Special Correspondent of THE BEE.]—I write this letter in Tokio, the capital of the new Japan. No better place could be chosen for the study of this, the newest country of Asia. The age of Japan is less than the life of a man. Thirty-three years ago the Japan of to-day did not exist. Twenty years ago it was a land governed by customs much like those of Europe during the middle ages. Feudal Japan had just died, and the Japanese of modern times, with its wonderful adoption of the christian civilization, was born with its efforts. As a civilized nation the people are still in their swaddling clothes, but the almond-eyed babies are tugging hard at the breasts of their adopted mother, and they grow at telegraphic speed. How much they have grown only those who have lived under the two civilizations can tell. Let me give you a few facts about this country as it is to-day.

AREA AND POPULATION. Japan is of Asia and still not Asia. Five thousand miles and fourteen days from San Francisco. It is 12,000 miles by ship from Liverpool through the Suez canal. It is five days from Yokohama to Hong Kong and yet some parts of Japan are so near the Asiatic continent that you can cross in a few hours in a canoe. Two days' sail will bring you into Korea and Kamschatka is within a few hours' journey of the northern borders of Japan. It is a land of islands and the chain which constitutes it extends, says one authority, a distance of 2,000 miles. Most of these islands are small, but the country all told has enough territory for a big nation and several of its islands are larger than many of our American states. The island of Honshu, which is the main part of the country, and the one in which the big cities are located, has 25,000,000 population, and the area of Japan, all told, is bigger than Italy, and you could lose Prussia inside of it. All the territory of Great Britain and Ireland is not equal to Japan, and the state of New York is only one-tenth the size of the island of Honshu, which is the main part of the country, and its population is about equal to that of Great Britain and Ireland.

JAPANESE ESQUIMAUX. These islands run like a crescent, the horns of which are pointed towards Asia. There are 8,800 of them and the topmost horn is formed by the island of Yezo, which is the Alaska of Japan. It contains one-fifth of the whole territory and it is peopled by savages who are hardly more advanced in civilization than the Esquimaux. These are the Ainos, who are supposed by some to be the primitive Japanese. There are only 17,000 of them. They live in huts, wear long hair and have an entirely different civilization from the rest of the country. They are small like the Japanese, but broader-shouldered, and they are as dirty as the Japanese are clean. The ugliest sex of the Ainos is the women who tattoo their upper lips and think that frowny hair is a sign of beauty. With the modern Japan Yezo and the Ainos has little to do. They are governed by the mikado and he appoints a ruler for their island. They furnish much of the lumber for Japan and their rocky island is said to be full of minerals. As a political factor, however, they are nothing.

THE BIG CITIES. Of Japan are in the island of Honshu, which lies south of the Yezo and which is several hundred miles long and at places 200 miles wide. Here are the chief agricultural regions, the manufacturing districts, and in short Japan. Tokio itself has a million inhabitants and it lies in the center of the empire. Its distances are more magnificent than Washington and its size is about that of Philadelphia. Three hundred miles west of Tokio is Osaka, which has about as many inhabitants as Chicago, and a very large city from this is Kiota, which was formerly the capital of the empire and which boasts of as many people as Washington, Kansas City or Cleveland. Osaka is now the New York of Japan, and Kiota, with its temples may be called the Mecca of the empire. Nagoya and Kanazawa are cities each having over one hundred thousand population, and a dozen other cities in Japan each of which contain from 40,000 to 80,000 people. There are countless villages and many small cities, and the land of Japan has been a semi-civilized country for centuries. Japan is a land of mountains and valleys and it has as many

DIFFERENT CLIMATES as the United States. You may find your Minnesota in Yezo, your Florida about Nagasaki, and over all you will find the green of Ireland. Surrounded by the sea the air is ever full of moisture, and even in winter the land is green. It is a land of flowers. I saw Camellia hedges like trees over Yokohama. There are acres and quarter sections of water about Tokio covered with lotus flowers as big as a round 5-cent loaf of American bread, and surrounded by green discs, each of which is as big as a palm leaf fan. The wisteria here grows wild, and Japan is the land of the chrysanthemum. This flower forms the crest of the Mikado and the poetic nature of the Japanese people is shown in their love for flowers. They have their flower shows three times a month, and when the trees blossom the whole nation goes wild. Flower peddlers are everywhere, and Tokio is a city of gardens.

THE BIGGEST MOUNTAIN in Japan is Fujiyama, an extinct volcano, whose summit is over 12,000 feet above the sea. Its snowy peak looks down upon me as I write this letter, and the story of the volcano at Bandai is still new. There are over twenty active volcanoes, and hundreds of dormant volcanoes in Japan, and the land is one of earthquakes. Some persons state that Tokio has an earthquake every day of the year, but if so, they are imprecipitous, for I have been here a month and have noticed but one which was only a slight shiver of the earth which passed away in a minute. The Japanese of olden times believed that the earthquakes came from a gigantic fish, living in the sea, which struck its tail against the coast in its anger. This shook the earth and caused it to crack and tremble. One hundred and eighty-five years ago an earthquake destroyed the whole of this city, and it is said that in 2,000 years it will lose its lives. Tokio had

AN EARTHQUAKE as far back as 1855, which cost the capital the lives of 104,000, and within five years of scientific observation between 1872 and 1877 fifty-six earthquakes were noticed at Tokio. Still the Japanese country in this part of the island looks anything but volcanic. It is made of beautiful patches of hill and hollow, out into fields like a crazy quilt, and

with the various crops covering areas, each of which is not much larger than the floor of a good-sized room. Agriculturally, the people seem to work their ground as though it was all garden, and I doubt whether there is more thorough cultivation anywhere. Still I am told that only two-tenths of the area of the empire is cultivated and that much of the remainder contains valuable land. Colonization is now going on in Yezo and the experimental farms which the government has instituted will show that some lands which are not good for rice or tea can be planted in other crops.

THE OLD AND THE NEW. The Japan of the past was made up of farmers and warriors and in the Japan of the present the farmer has materially changed. The advances have all been made by the warrior class and Japan is governed by the former soldiers. The merchants who formerly ranked below the farmer are rising in rank and the almighty dollar is beginning to have the same power here that it has in America. The old Japan divided the population into five classes. At the top was the mikado who was supposed to be descended from the gods and who ruled supreme. Under him came the shogun or commander-in-chief of the imperial army, who for generations before the revolution had usurped the power of the mikado and who held his court here in Tokio while he kept the mikado, as a figurehead 300 miles away at Kioto. Under the shogun served the army which was made up of Daimios and Samurai.

THE DAIMIOS AND SAMURAI. The Daimios were dukes and the Samurai their retainers. They lived in fine style here at Tokio and in every country, and had low, one-story palaces with black and white checker board walled houses, with heavy roofs running around them in which lived their soldiers. Under them were 80,000 families of Samurai, and the Samurai were, as a rule, as dictatorial as the bad man from Bitter creek. Each of them carried two big swords whenever he went out to walk, and they were not at all backward in using them. The common people were afraid of them, and the farmers, tradesmen and mechanics trembled before them. When the revolution came the shogun was put down, the Mikado was made the real ruler of the country, and the dukes and soldiers were forced to give up their swords and their habitations. Many of them were taken into the new government and many of them are now engaged in trade. Most of the Daimios were paid pensions in lieu of their lands, and some of them having sold their rights are among the poorest of the poor in Japan to-day. The new Japan aims to establish itself on the basis of our and the European civilization. It is rapidly advancing, and it is now a land of postoffices, telegraphs and schools.

THE POSTAL SYSTEM. Japan has to-day as good a postal system as any country of Europe, and the originator of its system was an American. His name was Bryan. He was in the postoffice department at Washington, and if I am informed correctly, lost his position there through a change in administration. He concluded to come to Japan. He offered the government his services in the organization of the postal system. They accepted, and after much trouble he succeeded in 1853. The JAPANESE POSTAL SYSTEM. There are now over 40,000,000 postal cards and over 18,000,000 newspapers. Its revenue during this time was nearly equal to its expenses, and it is now a land of postoffices and postulates in the empire of Japan. At the bureau of engraving and printing I saw Japanese medals, medals of honor, medals and postulates which were engraved on the stamps which are used throughout the empire and in another department of the same building I saw 99 medals of honor, white night gowns who were bundling up Japanese postal cards for distribution to the various offices as fast as they were printed. I saw stamps which were being printed for the use of the scholars of the high schools, and there are those who believe the stamps of the empire are the Japanese language of the far future.

400 MILES OF RAILWAY. Japan has now over four hundred miles of railway, and 400 more miles are being constructed. All of the important cities and towns are connected with each other by lines of telegraph, and in 1875 more than 2,500,000 dispatches were sent. The telegraph system here is under the control of the government and its receipts very nearly meet its expenses. The telegraphing is done in Japanese, and an extra charge is made when telegrams are sent in a foreign language.

THE AMERICAN IDEA. The Japanese call themselves the Americans of Asia and they are to a certain extent right. They are like the Americans in their ready adoption of new things and in their being ready to risk the present for the future. They are quick witted, they want to be up to the times. They lack, however, an impulse to believe, the American desire of accumulation, his industry and perseverance, and they are slow to accept of new things. You will find a patent office at Tokio, but you cannot find the noted Japanese inventions upon your fingers. Up to this stage in their career the Japanese have been an imitative rather than a creative nation. What they have had in the past has been adopted from other nations. Their clothing, their models of army discipline from Germany, but their general culture will be like their language, English.

"FOR TRICKS THAT ARE VAL'N." Speaking of the Japanese as copyist, they learn so easily that manufacturers coming to Japan are careful that the secrets of their arts are not given to the people. I asked yesterday, a man who has established a large factory for the making of photographic machinery, and he said that he had been in Japan for many years and he had never seen a Japanese man to work at important parts of the business. As for the women they are more steady than the men, and they never look beyond their work. We have a good photographer here as you will find anywhere and there is a Japanese who is manufacturing dry plates.

AMERICAN INVENTIONS. I have visited during the past few days many of the government departments of the empire and I find they are using many American inventions. In visiting the army I saw troops dressed exactly like the soldiers of Germany, going through the military maneuvers as they are laid down in the tactics of our military schools and in the arsenal where Japan makes her rifles, her cartridges and her gunpowder, the machinery was altogether like ours. The factories, barring the brown faces, the crack eyes and the bare soles of the employees, might as well have been in Pittsburgh as well as in Tokio, and this is much the same with all the government institutions. The work, however, and the management is all under the control of the Japanese, and the number of foreigners employed by the government decreases every year. The Japanese hire their laborers as they would hire a man to work under them, and when they have learned their specialties they are very ready to desert them.

At present nearly all the employees of the government wear European clothes and this is required in many cases. The clothes, however, are well made and as a rule, of good cut, but they make the little Japanese forms look smaller than ever, and the people are more handsome in their loose flowing gowns belted in with a girdle at the hips. The departments of the government are built on the same plan as the state department is not much different in its interior appointments from our department at Washington. It has a messenger in livery at the door, the bows low as you enter and motions you into a papered reception room which has a Brussels carpet upon the floor and an electric chandelier hanging from the ceiling. The thing here new for the Japanese noblemen to live in a European house, and there are many houses here which would not look out

of place in Washington city. Some of the young men who like Europeans ways keep up their hands and their fathers and mothers, who do not like kindly to the new ways, are housed in a Japanese. The number of Japanese traveling abroad steadily increases, and there were in 1885, 11,580 Japanese living outside of Japan. Of these more than a thousand were in the United States, and the purpose for which most of them went was for study. These men come back filled with the new civilization. They learn English, and they advocate the changes. There are also a number of foreigners in Japan. This number all told is about two thousand. The most of these are merchants, and not a few are missionaries. The missionaries claim to have 40,000 Japanese christians in their churches, and this aids greatly in the work of civilization.

As to Japanese education the missionaries largely teach through the aid of the government, and English is taught in many of the schools. Education is now compulsory in Japan, but statistics show that only about half of the children go to school. The school age is from six to twelve years, and the Japanese boys and girls go over their lessons in sing song tones in bare footed shoes. There are three million in the regular schools, and the technical schools have 8,800 pupils. Japan has 25,000 common schools, presided over by 20,000 men teachers, and there are a thousand high school teachers, and the professors in the Imperial university of Tokio number 194. This university is kept up by the government. It has 1,880 students, and it is turning out scores of almond-eyed doctors, lawyers and government officials every year. It is better than the average American college. Its preparatory course includes English, mathematics, geography, physics, history, political economy, philosophy, and it covers three years. It takes five years to graduate, and the Japanese have here an opportunity to get a good education without going away from home.

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EDUCATION. It is expected that a portion of the Stanford university, which is being built in California, will be ready for occupancy in less than six months.

Kuma Oshi, of Tokio, Japan, has been elected orator for class day next June by the seniors of Rutgers college. Kuma is said to be a remarkably clever Jap.

Eight text books have been published by the state of California for use in her public schools and it is desired in a few years to supplant all the books published by private concerns.

The M. E. church of Washington Territory has located its university at Tacoma. Grounds have been secured and quite a liberal building fund is also available, the gift largely of Tacoma public spirit. The cost is to be \$20,000.

About 100 men participate in Yale's musical organizations, which number six: The Yale Glee club, the Apollo Glee club, the university and the Amateur Glee club, the Freshmen Glee club, the University orchestra and the College choir.

Arthur A. Brigham of Marlboro, master of the state college, is to become professor of an agricultural college in Japan. He has done as much as any man in the state to push the patrons of husbandry, and the farmers of New England will be glad to hear of his success.

The proposition of the university of southern California to erect a monster telescope on Wilson's Peak or some other place in the Los Angeles mountains has been approved. Referring to the difficulty which favors the site of the contemplated observatory, Dr. Howard, president of the university, says: "It is at a point so clear that from the top of Wilson's Peak I have distinctly seen the Pacific and distinguished differences in the topography between the two points is about sixty miles."

The Milan Institute of Sciences, Arts and Letters offers the prizes for the best contributions to medical and physiological sciences, which are open to foreign as well as native competitors. A prize of 1,500 lire (besides a medal of the value of 500 lire) for the best critical dissertation on hypnosis; a prize of 2,500 lire (with a medal of the value of 500 lire) for the discovery of a cure for puerperal disease endemic in the rural districts of northern Italy; or for the determination of the nature of miasms and contagion; a prize of 1,000 lire for the best essay on the embryology of the mammalian nervous system.

CONJUGALITIES. A Yuma squaw and a Chinaman have been married in San Bernardino, Cal.

A German officer may not marry an American woman without his superior's consent. Miss Daisy Zell figures in the sensational columns of the St. Louis papers. Taking her unfortunate name into account, she will not be likely to consider marriage a failure.

A Georgia lover, who refused by his adored, whipped out a razor and sliced off one of her ears. After this little episode of affection she concluded she would have him.

Cupid has been making captures on the baseball field. Among professional who have recently shown that they do not believe that marriage is a crime are a clubman, Cleveland, Thompson, Krook and Van Halten.

Arminia Miles, who was married in Winfield, Kan., on the 1st of October, on the day of being ten years old. The knot was tied by Judge Tansy, and, according to the local papers, he issued the license without the usual consent of the bride and groom. The bride was an orphan and without a home.

Colorado papers announce that the husband of Helen Hunt Jackson has married again. The great old noble lady at Colorado Springs, is visited by hundreds of tourists and literally covered by the visiting cards they drop at the last resting place of the lamented "H. H."

Down in Maryland the other day when Dr. Fulton married Miss White, the ring used was made of a gold and silver. At the wedding of the bridegroom's mother, and a marvelously tattered shoe was sent by an old dandy along with the information that it was one of the shoes of the bride's father, bought for him in slavery times, and so he wanted it flung after the young mistress to insure her good luck.

Hans Bjorne Graesse, the supposed rich young Saxon who was wedded with such éclat to Miss Verries, of Philadelphia, and whose bridal tour misadventure, and whose advertisement, has just disappeared from Philadelphia under decidedly cloudy conditions, and the friends of the young wife are beginning to fear that notwithstanding his fascinating presence, his title and the fact that his father is chamberlain to the king of Saxony, the young woman has, in homely parlance, "driven her ducks to a bad market."

SINGULARITIES. A dairyman at Clayton, Mo., has a dog that can milk cows.

A brindle dog of Dedham, Mass., has a brindle dog that can climb a tree. He can get a piece of paper pinned on the trunk of a large tree at the height of twenty feet.

The Aita of San Francisco mentions that a watermelon weighing eighty pounds was among a consignment of fruit received in that city from San Diego for exhibition purposes. An onion sent from San Diego weighed almost four and one-half pounds.

An old negro at Dalton, Ga., is said to own a "half chicken half duck." The curiosity is that the old man's head and breast of a hen, while its back, tail and legs are formed like those of a duck. It is not web-footed, cackles like a hen, and walking waddles like a duck.

Mrs. Schreiber, who keeps the light-house at Point Isabel, near Brownsville, Tex., is in a "state of mind." Her residence was for several nights bombarded with a hail of shingle nails, oyster shells, clods of dirt and chunks of copper. Neighbors gathered and tried to solve the mystery, but failed to do so. Old sailors have narrated a story of a wrecked schooner, and they declare that the ghosts of drowned tars are making the disturbance to express their disapproval of the absence of a desired mascot.

Some weeks ago Mrs. Warren Sears, of Battie Creek, Mich., had occasion to rise earlier in the morning than her husband. As she did so in a hurry she stepped on one of his legs. He screamed, and jokingly protested that his wife might as well have given him warning if she had intended to maim him for life. But nothing more was thought of the matter until recently, when a sore broke out on the spot where Mrs. Sears' foot had pressed with her whole weight. From this blood-poisoning set in, and it was decided that amputation was necessary. The operation was performed and Mr. Sears will probably get well.

One day last week an old mare mule belonging to Mr. N. P. Watt, of Cool Spring township, North Carolina, was taken sick unto death. Her owner doctored her, but without beneficial results. She was turned out and wandered in pain from one house to another in the neighborhood. Nobly helped her, and at night she strayed down to Dr. J. R. H. Adams' and stood around the gate and bellowed as if for treatment. She got no treatment, however, and finally in despair old Sal sought the creek below Turner's mill, threw herself into it and was drowned. Mules are not supposed to have any more sense than turkeys, but it looks like this one deliberately committed suicide to get out of her misery.

RELIGIOUS. Mr. Moody will spend the winter in evangelistic work on the Pacific coast.

The king of Siam recently donated \$25,000 to Baptist missions in the United States. About \$2,000,000 has been contributed to the American board in the last seventy-eight years.

The bitter fight of the Southern Presbyterians over the evolution question has been renewed. In South Africa there are said to be 223 Presbyterian congregations and 54,000 church members.

The Rev. Mr. Spurgeon is again reported seriously ill. One of his hands and both feet are useless, and he suffers great pain. Gardiner Howard, the insane uncle of the duke of Norfolk, is growing better, and there are hopes of his return to reason.

Last Sunday the first Sunday lecture in a Jewish temple in New York was delivered by Rabbi Solomon Schindler, in the temple Adath Israel.

Mrs. Ruthford B. Hayes will preside at the annual meeting of the Women's Episcopal church at Boston early this month.

Twenty-nine years ago the Presbyterian mission in Brazil was begun. There is now a presbytery of fifty churches and thirty-two ministers. Twelve of the latter are natives.

Colonel Joseph M. Bennett, owner of the Central Opera house in Philadelphia, has given \$25,000 to the Methodist Episcopal Orphanage. He had previously donated \$100,000 to the same institution valued at \$100,000.

A Story of Nilsson. Nilsson's Memoirs in an American Musician: Mr. Mapleson's operatic season of 1873 opened at Drury Lane, and in the course of it he was delighted to learn that the Shah of Persia would visit the theater. A special performance was at once organized. It was to consist of the third act of "La Favorita," which was one of the most magnificent acts of "La Traviata," and after a short ballet, the first act of "Mignon," with Mme. Nilsson in the title role of the two latter operas.

Mme. Nilsson had ordered at considerable expense one of the most sumptuous dresses I have ever seen from Worth in Paris in order to portray Violetta in the most appropriate style. On the evening of the performance his royal conditions, and the Prince of Wales arrived punctually at half past eight to assist in receiving the shah, who did not put in an appearance; and it was ten minutes to nine when Sir Michael Costa led off the opera. I shall never forget the look the fair swede cast upon the empty royal box, and it was not until half-past nine, when the act of "La Favorita" had commenced, that his majesty arrived. He was particularly pleased with the Violetta I had introduced in the "Favorita." The Prince of Wales with his usual consideration and foresight, suggested to me that it might smooth over the difficulty in which he saw clearly I should be placed on the morrow in connection with Mme. Nilsson if she were presented to the shah prior to his departure. I thereupon crossed the stage and went to Mme. Nilsson's room, informing her of this. She at once objected to my having readily removed her magnificent "Traviata" toilet, and attired herself for the character of Mignon, which consists of a torn old dress almost in rags, with her hair hanging disheveled down the back and naked feet. After explaining that it was a command with which she must comply, I persuaded her to put a bold face on the matter and follow me. I accompanied her to the ante-room of the royal box, and before I could notify her arrival to his royal highness, to the astonishment of all had walked straight to the further end of the room, where His Majesty was then busily employed eating peaches out of the palms of his hands. The look of astonish-



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ment on every eastern face was worthy of the well-known picture on the Nabob pickles. Without a moment's delay Mme. Nilsson made straight for His Majesty, saying: "Vous etes in tres mauvais Shah, gesticulating with her right hand. "Tout a l'heure j'etais tres riche, avec des costumes superbes, exprès pour votre Majesté; a present je me trouve tres pauvre et sans soutiens;" at the same time raising her right foot within half an inch of His Majesty's nose, who, with his spectacles, was looking to see what she was pointing to. He was so struck with the originality of the fair prima donna that he at once notified his attendants that he would not go to the Goldsmiths for the present, but would remain to see this extraordinary woman. His Majesty did not consequently reach the Goldsmiths hall until past midnight. The Lord Mayor, the Prince Warden, the authorities and guards of honor had all been waiting since half-past nine.

A printers' union was formed at Beaver Falls, Pa., last week, and hereafter the falls in the valley will be run on strict union principles.

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