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JAPAN'S GREAT EMPEROR

Era of the Meiji Ends with the Death of Mutsuhito.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RULER  
Regarded as a Divinity and Worshiped as Such, Though Rarely Seen in Public—The Palace and the Harem.

"The empire of Japan shall be reigned over and governed by a line of emperors unbroken for ages eternal."  
This sentence, the first article in the constitution of Japan, contains in its brevity and simplicity the keynote of the government of Japan, apart from which no consideration of the late Emperor Mutsuhito is possible. It is the simplest expression of the Japanese belief in the mythical divinity of the imperial family and the eternal continuity of the sovereign power.

The man in whom this power was centered held it from 1868, throughout the period of awakening of new Japan. He was the 123rd emperor of his line and his ancestry is traced unbroken to the year 660 B. C. At that remote date even the emperor was regarded as divine, immortal origin.

The figure of the man who brought his empire through one of the most remarkable developments the world has ever seen has almost obscured. The world knows little and has seen less of this great and diminutive ruler whose people it has learned to respect. Florid of countenance and somber of mien, with the great, drooping mustache of a mandarin concealing his mouth, Mutsuhito bore little outward mark of the mighty sovereign.

His grasp in a handshake was lifeless and flabby, seemingly confirming other characteristics of his appearance which concealed the real man. Only his eye revealed the alertness of the mind and the fire that burned within. Though habitually dressed in later years in the uniform of a generalissimo, his figure and his posture were ever anything but military, while in conversation his face has remained almost as immobile as in silence.

Such was the man whose ancestry is so ancient that neither history nor tradition goes back far enough to say: "Here the line of emperors began."

Through the recorded centuries the emperor has been the one unchanging figure in Japan. Enveloped in a limitless past he has remained the fixed point of Japanese national life, so that his sanctity and inviolability of person are now no more questioned than the rising of the sun. So far above the plane of the European doctrine of "divine right of kings" do the Japanese hold their emperor that his sanctity is almost independent of his personality. He is invested with such high attributes that no emperor could hope further to elevate his position in the national mind by his own acts. There is no adding to or subtracting from the emperor's powers. He combines within himself all the rights to sovereignty and never was he forced to contend for the preservation of those rights. The powers of government now possessed by the people of Japan were freely given them by Emperor Mutsuhito; not one was wrested from him.

This very exaltation of the emperor's position is largely responsible for the hasty conclusion of western observers that Mutsuhito was but an automaton form about which all the outer vestments of sanctity and sovereignty were draped by the ruling classes.

Devotion of His Subjects.  
Just how much credit for national achievements must of necessity be given to Mutsuhito cannot be appreciated until one recalls that during those decades of transition the emperor held undiminished the authority transmitted to him through the ages. He possessed throughout his reign the perfect devotion of his subjects to a degree equaling a religious worship. He has been identified with all that is their own, with their beautiful island, their religion and their language.

He has represented no conquering race, no alien caste, no compulsory creed. He has been Japanese, of Japan and the Japanese. The metamorphosis of the nation and its people could not have taken place without the leadership of the man who held such a place as Mutsuhito held as emperor. Opposition from him would have stemmed that inflow from the Occident and cut off short at any time the national career of which he was unquestionably the guide and the inspiration.

Emperor Mutsuhito left it to his ministers to conceive, to plan and to execute. For himself he reserved the office of arbiter when questions of policy arose and of leader when he had made his decisions. Perhaps his most distinguishing characteristic as a sovereign was his soundness of judgment and his ability to consider opposing views in his councils without prejudice.

Possessing the genius for selecting capable and wise men to advise and to execute, he has been willing to accept their counsels and sanction their deeds, bringing to his task a remarkable fund of common sense and practicality. It is said by authority the more reliable because not Japanese that Emperor Mutsuhito was never influenced in his actions by small men and small motives. Those whose counsels he accepted have proved to be the great men of modern Japan. Once accepted by the emperor, these counsellers had his unwavering support. They were not obliged to maneuver for a place at the throne.

Life of the New Japan.

The life of Mutsuhito was the life of the new Japan. It was fortunate for Japan that he succeeded to the sovereign power not only as a young man but in the very dawn of the new era. This happy combination of circumstances made it possible for Mutsuhito to take at once the position of leader and to hold it to the end.

It would be incorrect to say that Mutsuhito was a popular ruler in the sense in which the term is understood in the Occident. The veneration in which the institution of emperor is held by all Japanese places it far above such a thing as popularity. In fact, to the Japanese mind questions as to the "popularity" of the sovereign are beyond comprehension.  
During the war with Russia passages coming into Tokyo prostrated themselves in homage to the emperor as they passed the gate of his palace. Such acts were not compulsory; they were the voluntary expressions of a feeling akin to worship

PRESIDENT UPPER DES MOINES EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION.



GEORGE C. TUCKER.

George C. Tucker, editor of the Webster City (Ia.) Journal, who has just been elected president of the Upper Des Moines and Corn Belt Editorial Association, is one of the best known young editors of Iowa. Mr. Tucker is an Iowa man, born and bred, and his individuality has stamped the Journal through and through so that it has become one of the best-quoted papers in the state. In lodge affiliations Mr. Tucker has been an Elk for many years and has served his local lodge faithfully as secretary for many terms. In addition to his work on his own paper, Mr. Tucker finds time to ably serve a number of the daily papers of the northwest as local representative.

which permeates the Japanese patriotism and every Japanese is a patriot. Believed to be of divine origin, the emperor is addressed in the devotions of the people as Tenshi, "The Son of Heaven;" or Tinnu, "Heavenly Emperor;" or Shuju, "Supreme Master."

Name Rarely Mentioned.

Mutsuhito's name was scarcely ever mentioned in Japan, and it is doubtful, according to some authorities, if it was even known to half the populace. Neither was he ever spoken of as the mikado, except in poetry; only foreigners habitually give the Japanese emperor that title. No emperor has ever been the subject of idle converse or disputation among Japanese. The fact that Mutsuhito, in the face of this heritage of supposedly divine origin, could put aside his Orientalism to the extent of becoming the leader in introducing in Japan the less romantic western civilization is a manifest of his character as a king among men.

Neither was his personality familiar to the Japanese, for reasons obvious from the above. Mutsuhito appeared before popular assemblies but seldom. As a matter of policy, he attended with his court such occasions as the opening of a new railway or the launching of a new battleship. Received with tremendous enthusiasm and devotion, which only of late years took on the noisy manifestations familiar to the Occident, it was his inviolable habit never to acknowledge or pay the slightest attention to the tributes of the people.

The Palace and the Harem.

The imperial palace in Tokio is in an enclosure of twenty-six acres. Within it are extensive gardens, with every sort of convenience for comfort and every facility for amusement. The emperor's apartments, as well as those of the empress, are furnished in European style. There are a dozen imperial palaces in various parts of Japan, but Mutsuhito has never seen most of them. There are also extensive game preserves, but he never has cared for hunting. Neither did he ever embark upon the imperial yacht reserved for his use. Occasionally he took short rides on horseback, but he was a poor equestrian. In late years he has had to be lifted to the saddle. Hints of scandal in the private life of

Mutsuhito have appeared in the press since his illness became a matter of talk. As to that question, a delicate one in the western world, the standards of the Orient must be kept in mind. While the princess, Haruko, was his lifelong wife and the empress, it is a fact that Mutsuhito had eight women as concubines. They were chosen from families of the best blood in Japan, as a sort of guaranty that there should be a male heir to the throne. In fact there never have been any children by the empress Haruko and all the sons of the family but one were born of the Princess Yanigawara Yoshiko, the lawfully acknowledged successor to the throne, soon after birth. Yoshiko was born August 21, 1859, and nominated heir apparent August 21, 1887. By the law of the imperial family the

succession to the throne must be through the male line exclusively, though he may not of necessity be the son of the emperor preceding.—New York Sun.

ORKIN BROTHERS

Successors to the Bennett Company

All Remnants and Odd Lots from the great Bennett Sale Will be Closed Out at Fractions of the Real Value this Week

There Are a Few Odd Lots of Women's Garments to Close

Rare bargains, every one of them, and well worth the extra effort of being here early in the morning. They are mentioned in a brief way, because some of the lots will not last out a brisk day's selling.

French Linen Dresses

One lot of strictly new French linen dresses with lace trimming and hand embroidery work; made to sell at \$19.50, Monday only, while they last, \$8.95.

Fine Lingerie Waists

Elegant hand embroidered and lace trimmed lingerie waists that were selling at \$4.50 to \$13.50, Monday, choice at \$2.25 to \$6.75.

Divided Skirts

Divided skirts of extra quality khaki cloth, for riding, tramping, camping and mountain climbing; specially priced at \$4.75.

Cravenetted Coats

Cravenetted coats in plain and mixed colors that are

worth \$15.00 each Monday, half price, or \$7.50.

Norfolk Middy Blouses

Women's and misses' Norfolk middie blouses with red or blue trimmings, actual \$1.50 values at 98c.

Percale House Dresses

The famous double-service house dresses of the best quality Sea Island percales, in various striped and checked patterns, will be on sale Monday at \$1.95.

Combination Suits

One lot of combination suits—either corset cover and drawers or corset cover and skirt—nicely trimmed with embroideries, 89c values for Monday's selling only, 49c.

Extra Specials in Table Linens

72-in. all linen table damask in a variety of pretty patterns and of a fine satin finish, \$1.39 value, 85c value, at the yard. 85c

22x22-in. all linen napkins to match the cloths; formerly priced \$3.75 the doz., for Monday's \$2.50 selling, doz. \$2.50

500 Pieces of China & Porcelain Ware

have been grouped into two big lots for Monday's selling. Lot one consists of plates, cups, saucers, sauce dishes, oat-meals, soups, etc., worth up to 35c each. 10c

Lot two consists of covered dishes, sugars, covered butter dishes, gravy boats, platters, etc., worth up to \$1.25 each, at 19c

Candle Shades

500 paper and silk candle shades, worth from 10c to 25c each, while they last, 5c. About 150 silk fringed shades, worth \$1.00 each at 25c

Sale of Razors

Our entire line of razors, with the exception of safety razors, values up to \$3.00, at 98c for your choice, Monday. Six different makes of safety razors, to close, Monday, 1/2 off.

Capitol Coal

Summer prices are still in effect on the famous Capitol Coal from the Zeigler mines. Per ton,

\$6.50

which is a saving of 50c per ton to you. Choice of either lump or nut. Anthracite coal, in all sizes, \$11 per ton if you order now.

Sale of Pictures

There are about 250 in the lot including heads, landscapes, marines, various etchings, etc., in harmonious frames of black, brown, imitation veneer, gold, etc.; many sizes that have always sold at \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. Monday, choice, \$1.00

Batistes and Organdies

These goods sold earlier in the season at 19c the yard and were among our very best sellers. The designs belong to this season alone and the colorings are the most exquisite ever seen in goods of this character. Monday, they cost you but 5c the yard. Some other attractive wash goods bargains are arranged on three bargain tables and priced as follows:

Table No. One--25c values at 12 1/2c

Table No. Two--50c values at 15c

Table No. Three--59c values at 29c

White Goods and Domestic

Best imported, 85c and \$1.00 swisses in dotted, figured and striped patterns, full 30 inches wide, Monday, 39c

85c, 81x90 bed sheets, torn, drawn and hemmed all ready for use; full up and stay soft when laundered Monday, each, 68c

36-inch percales in light and dark colorings and a good range of patterns for choosing, 12 1/2c yard, 8 1/2c

Best quality dress calicoes in only reliable and standard makes, several patterns and colorings, sale price, the yard, 4 1/2c

Canned Goods Specials for Monday

No. 2 can Bennett's Capitol sliced pineapples, 15c  
No. 2 can Bennett's Capitol plums for 15c  
No. 2 1/2 can Bennett's Capitol grapes, 15c  
No. 2 3/4 can Bennett's Capitol apricots, 18c  
No. 2 1/2 can Bennett's Capitol sauer kraut for 8c  
No. 2 can Bennett's Capitol lima beans, 8c  
No. 2 can Bennett's Capitol wax beans, 8c  
No. 2 can Bennett's Capitol kidney beans, 8c  
12 lb. granulated sugar for \$1.00  
Teas, assorted, lb., 40c

1-lb. can Bennett's Capitol baking powder, 90c  
1-pint bottle Blue Label catsup, 10c  
Full cream cheese, lb., 30c  
Bennett's "Excelsior" flour, per sack, \$1.50  
2-lb. pkg. Bennett's Capitol wheat, 8c  
Shrimps, 10c  
Cracker Jack brand salmon, can, 12c  
Four cans Eagle eye, 25c  
Plant can Galliard's pure olive oil reduced to 25c  
Quart jar pickles, assorted, 20c  
10 bars Bennett's Bargain soap, 25c  
6 bars York Rose or Violet toilet soap for 25c  
Three cans Spiders' tomato soup, 85c  
2-cm. can Batavia asparagus, 15c  
Bennett's Capitol creamery butter, per 1-lb. brick, 28c

Sympathy

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

Is the way hard and thorny, oh, my brother,  
Do tempests beat and adverse wild winds blow?  
And are you spent and broken at each nightfall?  
Yet with each morn you rise and on grow?

Brother, I know, I know!  
I, too, have journeyed so.  
Is your heart mad with longing, oh, my sister?  
Are all great passions in your breast glowing?  
Does the white wonder of your own soul blind you,  
And are you torn with rapture and with woe?

Sister, I know, I know!  
I, too, have suffered so.  
Is the road filled with snare and quicksand, pilgrim?  
Do pitfalls lie where roses seem to grow?  
And have you sometimes stumbled in the darkness,  
And are you bruised and seared by many a blow?

Pilgrim, I know, I know!  
I, too, have stumbled so.  
Do you send out rebellious cry and question,  
As mocking hours pass silently and slow?  
Does your insistent "wherefore" bring no answer,  
While stars pale with watching, and drop low?

I, too, have questioned so,  
But now, I know, I know!  
To toil, to strive, to cry, to grow, to love through, all—this is the way to know.  
"Why do people in comfortable circumstances and people of wealth," asks a reader, "have so little sympathy with the struggling masses?" The question suggests a condition which does not exist.

There was never so much practical sympathy in the world in any previous era, as we find in the hearts and works of humanity today.  
We cannot judge the world by a few selfish and insolent beings who are satisfied to eat, drink, wear new clothes and ride in motor cars, giving no thought to others who are deprived of the comforts of life. Such people amount to little in the scheme of the universe. They are like the pests of flies and mosquitoes and other insects which render us uncomfortable. They will be eliminated in time by wise and sensible methods of altruistic science.

There are tens of thousands, and still thousands more, unselfish men and women working continually to think of ways and means to improve the condition of toiling, striving humanity.  
There has always been poverty in the world. It will exist until the mother earth is turned over to use of all her children. But in the days which many unthinking people call the "Good Old Times" there was tenfold the cruelty, selfishness and indifference to the suffering of the poor which exists now. A hundred years ago men and women were thrown into prison for debt and poisons were infernos. No society existed then for improving prison conditions. No one dreamed of organizing an association to aid ex-prisoners. The Salvation Army was not formed. Science had not made

its way toward discoveries which mean better surroundings and better food and better habits for the race.

Children worked in the mines of England fourteen hours a day, and there was no humane society to step forward and forbid it. It was the prevailing belief in that time that parents had the right to work their children like slaves if they chose to do so, or to beat them unmercifully and starve them as punishment for disobedience, and a man might kill his horse or dog with cruelty and there was no law to prevent or punish.

In one century tremendous strides have been made by the whole world and by America in particular, toward altruistic and sympathetic ideals. Each year more people join the ranks of those who are thinking, planning, working and giving money to bring better surroundings, shorter hours of labor and increased opportunities for pleasure and education to the toilers of earth.

Never on earth before were so many good people working toward such noble ends for their fellows, and in all the unrest and dissatisfaction of the present day we must not lose sight of this great fact. Never were there so many people of great wealth devoting time and effort to helpfulness as now.

One good woman gives a fortune every year to capable and honest and industrious men and women who are working under her directions to find the causes and the remedy for poverty and sickness in the ranks of labor. Another has devoted a fortune to helping seafaring men and their families, besides giving unstintedly to other worthy causes.

Another has spent \$1,000,000 on efforts to teach the world to be kinder to children and animals. And this means awakening new brain cells of sympathy and brotherhood in new generations.

A multi-millionaire has spent \$50,000 already in finding work for the unemployed on vacant land, and is still busily toiling to increase the supply of land and laborers.

Besides these there are armies of others giving money, time and effort to bring happiness to less fortunate fellows. Let us be glad that we live in an age—the best and greatest the world has ever known.

In Chicago there is a great circle of noble men and women called the Central Howard association. Its object is:  
1. Employment finding for released prisoners.  
2. Legislation for the improvement of prisons and the prevention of crime.  
3. Probation and parole, serving as "First Friends" to men under surveillance.  
4. Correspondence with prisoners for their encouragement and with the public in their behalf.  
5. Publicity, through platform and press, of prison abuses and the best scientific methods of treatment.  
6. Prison evangelism, by personal appeal and annual Christmas message to a higher life.

There are many such organizations in the land.

Perfume Lamps for Mikado.

"Perfume lamps," according to one of the papers, "are being added to the furniture of the boudoir. The lamps please those who like scent and are not obtrusively fragrant. Those, however, who are obtrusively fragrant would find the lamps superfluous and even trying.—London Bystander.

First Class of the Omaha High School



Sanberg & Eltner Photo. GROUP OF OLD SCHOOL DAY COMRADES GATHERED FOR SOCIAL REUNION AT THE HOME OF MRS. SAMUEL REESE, INCLUDED AMONG THEM ARE MEN AND WOMEN NOW PROMINENT IN VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE.

A number of the members of the first graduating class of the High School—that of 1876—gathered at the home of Mrs. Samuel Reese Friday evening and had an enjoyable time recalling their school days and comparing experiences which they have had since then. Most of them had

gone to school to Mrs. Reese when, as Miss Hettie McKoon, she taught the Eighth grade in Pacific school. Two members of the school board of that day—A. J. Simpson and B. E. B. Kennedy—were present.

A list of the class was read and it was learned that a number of them have

passed away. Letters were read from those living at a distance.

Those present were: Misses Elizabeth McCartney, Stacia Crowley of Chicago and Ida Goodman; Mesdames Fannie Wilson Woodbridge, Mary McCague Gordon

Rich Gates, Lizzie Rich Tamsett, Mary Van Kuren McCague, Lucy Hoel Nye of Shomonda, Ia., and Mary Manning McCormick; Messrs. Charles Saunders, Charles Emery, George Stetler, Philip Hall of Lincoln, Lucius W. Wakeley, Charles Huntington, Arthur Wakeley and Arthur Huntington.