

hybrid town, half Russian, half Oriental.

Its palace, museums, barracks, and boulevards vie with those of Moscow. But you go down into narrow streets and you find yourself in the Orient. Each trade has its streets. Streets of jewellers, setting precious stones in dainty filigree; streets of gunsmiths; streets of silk dealers; streets of carpet dealers, squatting in their open-air shops, smilingly inviting passers-by to become purchasers. Speaking of carpets, one is surprised to find in this old Caucasian town the principal market for Oriental carpets. You can buy here better carpets at lower prices than in the bazaars of Constantinople.

"The population of Tiflis," says

one writer, "helps one to understand that the Caucasus is the meeting-point of all the races of the Old World, if it is not even the starting-point of many of them."

Looking down from the hills that surround Tiflis, as shown in our engraving, one sees the Greek cross, the octagonal spire of the Byzantine church, the square belfry of the Armenian cathedral, the Roman cross, and the humble minaret of the Tartar. To the student of the world and of races, there is much that is interesting in the lives of these Caucasian mountaineers, and not the least interesting of them are her wandering tribes of Cossacks, to whom Russia is looking just now to defend her frontiers.



JAPAN.

BY ARCHIBALD HOPKINS.

Roused from the slumber of an age-long night,
 She dropped the lacquered armour she had borne,
 Nor thought herself a recreant, forsworn,
 Fronting with steadfast eyes the growing light,
 Her nightmare dreams all put to instant flight.
 Hers not the part unfruitful years to mourn,
 Hers not to cling to what she saw outworn.
 She planned anew, based on her ancient right,
 A fabric, strong Time's wasting to defy,
 Then turned her thought to choose from out the West
 Whate'er her wisdom taught would serve her best;
 And now she stands queen of the rising East,
 To lead its peoples higher paths to try,
 Till nations clash no more and wars have ceased.

—*Harper's Weekly.*