

of the West, is in process of evolution, and science is making important progress. In short, Japan has adopted all the leading institutions of the West, and is modifying its native manners and customs with remarkable rapidity.

In this recent evolution of life in Japan we have one of the most extraordinary events in the history of the world, it having in about forty years emerged from the position of a nation almost unknown and quite unthought of as a power into that of one of the great powers of the world.

While little Japan has been thus forging swiftly ahead, great China has been stolidly holding back. It is not that the Chinese lack intelligence or the disposition to avail themselves of material advantages, but that their pride in their own civilization and belief in the barbarism of the outer world are so deeply ingrained as to make them hard to convince. Such progressive men as Li Hung Chang have had their influence. A navy of modern ships was bought abroad, and did the best service shown in the war, fighting with courage and resolution, while the army, organized on mediæval principles, went to pieces before the skill and intrepidity of the Japanese.

In other directions China has made little progress. The telegraph, it is true, is widely in use, but the effort to introduce the railroad has proved, so far, largely a failure, only some short lines being laid down. In this direction, however, the war has somewhat aroused the government, and there are signs of a more rapid future extension of the iron road. But