



REV. J. COOPER ROBINSON AND WIFE (As seen shortly after their arrival in Japan).

equality. In the past the women of Japan have wielded extensive practical influence. Nine women have sat upon the throne; and one of these, the Empress Yingu, who lived in the third century of the Christian era, headed the expedition that invaded Corea. Through that expedition the literature, philosophy, the jurisprudence, and the civilization of China entered Japan. Mr. Aston, one of the best Japanese scholars connected with the American legation in Japan, remarked: "I believe that no parallel is to be found in the history of European letters equal to the remarkable fact that a very large portion of the best writing of the very best age of Japanese literature was the work of women."

Japanese women are not, and have not been, uneducated. The wave of western civilization that has reached the Island Empire has influenced women in every part of the land. Of the Christians in Japan, forty per cent. are females. In the primary schools that have been everywhere established, there are to-day a million of girls under instruction. Of late years there has been a remarkable movement in the direction of the higher education of women. In both foreign and native papers it has been discussed in all its aspects, and it is a

question to the front in social life. Owing to the introduction of the English language into many schools throughout the country, there is a great demand for English teachers. These teachers—ladies—have an opportunity to move among the people, influencing them on the side of Christian truth. Missionary work is not merely to educate in the material sense of the word; it is to train women for eternity, to bring them to God, to Christ, to salvation, to lead them to that reality that issues in all the purity and all the glory of the everlasting kingdom. In this connection, women can help women by making tongues and pens a redeeming factor in human progress; by kindling the fire of enthusiasm with the fuel of facts; by gathering information and communicating to others interesting incidents and particulars. Recently a young girl, a graduate of Vassar College, went out to Japan as a missionary. Her methods were so successful that a Japanese superintendent of education offered her a large salary if she would consent to teach in one of his schools. She replied: "I came here to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, not merely to teach secular learning." A second time he returned, pleading: "I cannot authorize you to teach the Gospel; but if you will enter