

WHICH IS THE CIVILIZED POWER?*

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JAPAN, as a power, is civilized and modern, while Russia, as a power, is semi-barbarous and mediæval. It is my purpose in the present article to set forth some of the facts that seem to me to support and justify this conclusion.

1. Mental and moral culture. One of the first things that strike the attentive newcomer in Japan is the great number of external evidences of widely diffused education. In Tokio, for example, there is a bookstore on almost every block, not only in the parts of the city inhabited by the higher social classes, but in the quarters and districts tenanted almost exclusively by poor shopkeepers, artisans, and day laborers. Since I took up my residence in the capital, I have ridden hundreds of miles through its universally clean streets, from Ueno Park to Shinagawa, and from the Botanical Garden to the River, and I think I am well within the limit of moderation when I say that there are ten bookstores in Tokio for every one that can be found in St. Petersburg.

School-children, of both sexes, are quite as much in evidence as bookstores; and at certain hours of the day one cannot ride or walk three blocks in any part of the city without meeting boys in the visored caps and girls in the maroon-colored Occidental skirts of the Japanese student world; while on holidays long processions of

younger children from the primary schools march through the streets, singing as they go, on their way to some excursion suburb or picnic ground. If one had no other material for the formation of a judgment than that afforded by the bookstores and school-children of Tokio and St. Petersburg, one would naturally and inevitably conclude that, in educational facilities at least, Japan is far in advance of Russia.

But there is other and more conclusive material for a comparison of the two countries in the matter of culture. Official statistics show that Russia has at school only 4,484,594 pupils, or about 25 per cent. of her children of school age, while Japan has under instruction 5,351,502 pupils, or 92 per cent. of her children of school age. Russia, with a yearly national revenue of about \$1,000,000,000, spends for primary education something less than \$12,000,000, or 8 cents per capita of her whole population; while Japan, with only one-eighth of Russia's revenue, spends for the same purpose nearly \$16,000,000, or 34 cents per capita of her whole population. Russia's military expenditure bears to her primary school expenditure the ratio of nearly 18 to 1, while Japan's disbursements for military purposes bear to her primary school expenditure the ratio of less than 4 to 1.

In Russian schools the teaching is largely based on mediæval bigotry and superstition, while in Japan it is founded on reason, and is outlined in the Imperial rescript to students which says: "Be filial to your parents and affectionate to your brothers; be loving husbands and wives and true to your friends; conduct yourselves with

* The recent massacre, by brutal Cossacks, of unarmed men, women and children petitioning for mercy, but emphasizes Mr. Kennan's argument derived from intimate knowledge of both Russia and Japan.