

III.—FIELD OF MONTHLY SURVEY.

BY D. L. PIERSON.

Japan,* Korea,† Medical Missions,‡ Chinese and Japanese in the United States.§

JAPAN.

The Sunrise Kingdom has passed through the period of dawning greatness, and to-day shines forth brilliantly as the foremost nation of the Orient, and one of the great nations of the world. The Mikado, claiming direct descent through 122 Mikado ancestors—nine of whom have been women; the first emperor, Jimmu, having founded the empire 660 B.C.—has forsaken the traditions and customs of his ancestors in all things save religion, and now seeks by every means in his power to make Dai Nippon a thoroughly civilized country. It is devoutly hoped and confidently believed that he will soon find that this is impossible without making it at the same time a thoroughly Christianized country.

Although there are over 3000 islands belonging to the empire, only five of them (including Formosa) have any considerable size or support a large population. The area of the empire is now about 170,000 square miles, and the population nearly 42,000,000. The Japanese have never been conquered by an outside nation, and have had but one civil war, which occurred in the last century.

* See pp. 18 (January), 127 (February), 221 (March), 399 (April), 342 (May), 445 (June), 582 (August), 648, 653 (present issue). "The Mikado's Empire," W. E. Griffie; "Japan," David Murray, Ph.D.; "The Religions of Japan," W. E. Griffie; "Life and Letters of J. H. Nocsima," A. S. Hardy; "Story of Nocsima," J. D. Davis; "Japanese Girls and Women," Alice M. Bacon; "An American Missionary in Japan," M. I. Gordon; "Prince Siddarttha, the Japanese Buddha," J. L. Atkinson; "The Ainu of Japan," John Batchelor.

† See pp. 15, 62 (January), 290 (April), 450, 458 (June), 661 (present issue). "Korea, the Hermit Nation," and "Korea, Without and Within," W. E. Griffie; "Korea, from its Capital," George W. Gilmore.

‡ See pp. 208 (March), 666, 678, 696 (present issue). "Medical Missions," John Lowe; "Murdered Millions," George Dowkontt.

§ "The Chinese in America," Bishop Hurt.

The aborigines of Japan, the Ainu, live in the island of Yezo, or Hokkaido, and number about 17,000 against 850,000 Japanese on the same island. The Church Missionary Society started work among the Ainu in 1878; the first convert was baptized in 1895, and there is now a church membership of nearly 200. The language has been reduced to writing, and parts of the Bible and other books have been translated. The Ainu are small in stature and much given to drunkenness and attendant vices; they live in wretched little huts, and the women are much oppressed. Three schools and a hospital are doing much to elevate them mentally and morally, and relieve them physically.

The *Eta* is another ancient but degraded race of Japan, who live in many small villages on the main island. They are ignorant and immoral, and difficult of access; but efforts are being made to reach them by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and others. Japan has no State religion; but Shintoism, having 10 sects, is considered the most patriotic, and had, in 1887, 192,359 temples. Buddhism is largely followed, and has 12 sects and 40 creeds, with 71,991 temples. Many of the priests are ignorant and immoral, and the Government has recently passed a resolution that they should be better educated.

The common people of Japan are full of superstitions, and have peopled the earth, air, and water with imps who cause the thunder, wind, earthquakes, and storms. As a nation the Japanese are very ceremonious and polite, though not always acting in accord with Western ideas. Mrs. F. S. Curtis, of Yamaguchi, writes an interesting account of a Japanese dinner party, of which we give extracts as illustrating some of the social customs:

"The Japanese Christians make their annual social an all-day affair, lasting