

# Northern Messenger

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## The Hairy Ainu.

(By Claude M. Severance, in 'Union Gospel News.')

The illustration pictures graphically the Hairy Ainu, or, in other words, one of the aborigines of Japan. He can raise a beard. The Japanese are not noted for their whiskers; the Ainu are. Because this particular man has a moustache and because he is fond of his drinks, he has a higeage or moustache-lifter. This is often a twig curved crudely. Sometimes it is whittled out of pine and figures of characteristic pattern are inwrought. It lies across the top of his drinking-bowl. His lacquer dishes are before him and he is evidently sober enough yet to pose while his photograph is taken. Sometimes the utensils are cut out of cherry and the writer has in his possession rice-bowls or millet-bowls worn very smooth through more than one generation of use.

He has become so warm that he has thrown off his single garment from one shoulder. His limbs are bared to view, and, indeed, he is a Hairy Ainu. You would hardly suspect that this man's voice



AN AINU TYPE.

could be rich and melodious and that when sober his manners could be engaging. The effects of intoxicating liquors show that the sparkling wine of all countries is no respecter of persons, reducing the gifted John B. Gough to a level with this maniacal-looking product of northern Japan.

There are about 15,000 Ainu in Hokkaido, Japan, a despised and dying race, driven from the sunny and warm climate of the southern islands to the northern region, where snow lies twenty feet deep sometimes in their villages. Many of them depend on fishing and hunting for a living. It is related that some years a village will turn out all available hands for three weeks at the right season and catch fish enough to give them a living for the entire year. They dry tons of them and export even to China. Seaweed is gathered also, and a revenue therefrom secured.

They are a lazy-looking people. Their voices are mellow, musical and rich and as they stroke their beards in salutation and bow their heads one feels almost as if worship were being performed toward one.

In 1876 the Rev. J. Batchelor went to Japan and by a Divine Providence was led to work for this neglected race. He has put their language into print, giving them a dictionary and a New Testament and other



CHRISTIAN AINU AT PIRATORI.

helps. He has had the pleasure of seeing three hundred embrace the Gospel of Christ and own him as their Saviour. He has taken a Christian AINU and journeyed over Japan, lecturing on the AINU to Japanese audiences, and secured 200 silver dollars, or yen, thereby, with which he has had erected what is called an 'Ainu Hospital Rest,' in Sapporo.

Christians at Piratori:—This illustration shows the refining influence that Christian faith has had upon the AINU. This is a reed hut. There are forty-two in the village and all the women and all the children in the village are Christians now. The designs made upon their garments, which are made of hemp, with velvet braid often, remind you of the work of our Alaskan Indian neighbors. I assure you one of the most impressive small gatherings of Christians whose worship I have observed, was among the sweet-voiced Christian AINU.

Tattooed Women:—This picture shows that in this cold province foreign style houses are also built, and even chairs of

rough workmanship. The clothes about their heads are quickly removed when on the street they recognize a friend, and wish to give courteous salutation.

That women should submit to such bold figuring as the tattoo work about their mouths designates, is astonishing, but, like the sailor with a heart or an anchor pricked upon his arm, these women go through life defaced.

Hulling Wheat:—This illustration brings before you the working garb of plainer material and the straw sandals on one. A Jog has been hollowed out and wheat or millet is being hulled. No cereal used in America equals the millet, when, boiled for hours, it is covered with fresh cream from the full-bred Jersey and Holstein cows on the government farm near Sapporo.

The following is a description of my trip to see the AINU, made in 1894:

Arrived at Ajaraisachi-mura, an AINU fishing village, we went first to see the bear they had been feeding for two years. It was to die in December the same frightful



HULLING WHEAT.



TATTOOED GIRLS.

AMONG THE AINU.