

the Emperor's Court and Palace are vividly pictured—the mystery that surrounds him, the vast power he wields, the princes and nobles that attend upon him, the curious ceremonies of his marriage, the awe with which his subjects prostrate themselves before him, the palatial magnificence, the life of the Empress and the disdain for foreign sovereigns.

BOOK II contains a complete account of JAPAN AND THE JAPANESE. Japan is the rising star among the nations of the Orient. The rapid strides she has made in the last thirty years have surprised the civilized world. Almost at a single bound she has taken rank among the enlightened nations of the earth.

The reader discovers the charm of her ancient history and the halo of renown that surrounds her Valiant Heroes and Famous Rulers. He reads the account of her old Feudal System; the grand achievements of her powerful Tycoons and Daimios; the might and majesty of her Emperors, and the heroic deeds of her brave armies.

Japan is the "Land of the Rising Sun;" she is set like a gem in the sea. Her harbors invite the commerce of the world. Her soil is rich; her natural scenery delights the eye of the traveller; she is wonderfully endowed by nature for the products of agriculture and the beauty of flower, field and forest. The vivid descriptions of her coasts and harbors, her headlands and landscapes, and likewise of her myriad Temples, her Palatial Residences, her old Castles and fragrant Gardens, present such a picture as only the far-famed Orient can furnish. This volume is especially rich and entertaining in its descriptions of Life among the Japanese.

The reader obtains a delightful view of the ancient city of Kioto, the former Capital. He wanders through the crowded streets of the great city of Tokio; he is taken into the homes of the people and is made acquainted with their peculiar characteristics; their habits of daily life; their modes of dress; their social customs, including marriages and funerals; their endless amusements, and charming festivals.

The curtain is lifted from the Court of the Mikado and he is made acquainted with the grand State Ceremonies, the singular rules of Royal Etiquette, the gorgeous Dress of Officials, the brilliant Maids of Honor, and the loyal respect shown to the Emperor and Empress. The story of the Tycoons is fully told, with that of the Revolution of 1868, by which they were swept from power. Tremendous changes since this memorable period mark the History of Japan.

BOOK III contains a full description of COREA, THE "HERMIT KINGDOM," and furnishes a concise account of the war between China and Japan. The causes of the Great Conflict are stated, and an accurate estimate of the two armies is given—their numbers, discipline, equipments and the ability of their Commanders. The rapid movements of the Japanese Army, its brilliant achievements at Ping-Yang, and the Great Naval Battles are fully described. The whole course of stirring events is traced, and the reader sees the rolling battle-clouds and hears the shock of contending legions.

This account of China, Japan and Corea is a most captivating story. It is tinged with the golden colors of the Orient. The subjects which it treats are of great interest, as forces are at work in Asia which cannot fail to affect the destiny of the whole world.