



THREE POEMS.

BY MUTSUHITO—EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

I.

MY heart's at peace with all, and fain would I
Live, as I love, in life-long amity ;
And yet the storm-clouds lower, the rising wind
Stirs up the waves ; the elemental strife
Rages around. I do not understand
Why this should be.

II.

'Tis surely not our fault,
We've sought to be sincere in deed and word ;
We have exhausted every means to press
A clear and truthful case, but all in vain.
Now may the God that sees the hearts of men
Approve of what we do !

III.

They're at the front,
Our brave young men ; and now the middle-aged
Are shouldering their arms ; and in the fields
The old men gather in the abundant rice,
Low stooping o'er the sheaves : all ages vie
In cheerful self-devotion to the Land.
Kyoto, Japan.

[The above translations of poems by His Majesty, the originals of which appeared in the Kokumin Shinbun for November 7th, 1904, seem to have been composed at different periods. No. I. evidently was written before the war, when the Emperor saw himself surrounded by ominous signs of a coming conflict. No. II. dates from the actual commencement of the war, when all peaceable means had been exhausted and the declaration of war had become inevitable. No. III. is what we see in Japan to-day. Only this afternoon I passed a gang of women taking their husbands' and brothers' places in the building of a bridge. His Majesty has every reason to be proud of the ready self-sacrificing spirit of his people.—Arthur Lloyd, in the New York Independent.]