

718. **Eastern Turkestan, Mongolia, and Manchuria**, comprise vast deserts and pasture lands. For many centuries they have been occupied by wandering shepherds. An extensive trade is carried on between China and Russia, and also between China and Persia, across these deserts.

719. China has many large cities. **Pekin**, the capital, is the largest city in Asia. It is surrounded by a high wall. **Canton** is one of the greatest commercial cities of Asia.

JAPAN.

720. Japan comprises the four large islands, *Nippon*, *Shikoku*, *Kiushiu*, and *Yezo*, and many small islands on the east coast of Asia. *Nippon*, the largest island of the group, is about nine hundred miles in length.

721. The **climate** is varied according to the position, being cold in the north and almost tropical in the south. The soil is generally fertile, yielding tea, rice, the mulberry, and various kinds of grain and vegetables. The bamboo grows in Japan, and is used for many purposes.

722. Japan has great mineral wealth, including gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, and coal.

723. Japan has some of the most remarkable volcanoes in the world. It is also subject to earthquakes.

724. There are more **people** in these islands than in the British Isles. The **Japanese** are intelligent and industrious. They carry on agriculture, mining, and manufactures with much success. They make beautiful silks, shawls, lacquer ware, and porcelain, and they have great skill in carving ivory.



724 JAPANESE AT HOME.

725. Formerly the Japanese shut themselves out from the rest of the world, neither going abroad themselves nor allowing foreigners to enter their country. But lately they have taken great pains to become acquainted with civilized countries. They have introduced many improvements, such as railroads, telegraphs, schools, colleges, and newspapers. Many of their young men have been educated in the colleges of Great Britain, the United States, and Germany.

726. Japan carries on a large trade with Great Britain and the United States. Their chief exports are silk, tea, porcelain, and lacquered ware; and their imports are cotton and woollen goods.

727. **Tokio**, the capital of Japan, is a very large city on the island of *Nippon*. **Yokohama**, seventeen miles from Tokio, is noted for its foreign trade. **Osaka**, **Kagosima**, and **Koumamoto**, are very large cities.