

FIELD STUDY FOR MARCH.

JAPAN AND COREA.

LYING off the eastern shore of Asia are four large islands and several small ones grouped together in the form of a new moon. These islands comprise the Empire of Japan, and for twenty-five hundred years no other nation has subdued this resolute people who have succeeded in keeping all foreign powers excluded from their country which they call Nippon or Source of Light.

It was the ancient belief of this people that Japan was made by the gods who made it their residence, they also believed that the Emperor, or Mikado, was descended from the gods.

The present Emperor claims direct descent from the first Mikado, a royal line which has never been broken for centuries.

To these loyal people their sea-girt islands represented 'The World' and their Mikado was the embodiment of all power—They never dreamed of anything superior to Japan. The population is estimated to be over 40,000,000. The natives, as a rule, are small in stature—with black hair and eyes. Their natural disposition is gentle and kind.

The climate is damp and foreigners find it very debilitating. As Japan is surrounded by the Ocean the summer heat is tempered, while the warmer currents from the Indian Ocean washing the Eastern shore moderate the severity of the winter. In many parts of the Island the scenery is very beautiful, varied by mountains and valleys which are everywhere covered with luxuriant growth of flowers and fruit. The humidity of the atmosphere accounts for this wonderful fertility.

But in 1549 a power above the Mikado gained an entrance into Japan. Francis Xavier, a zealous Jesuit priest, went in the name of Christ his Master, to claim this fair land and to Christianize its people. For a time this mission was successful and at least one Mikado became a convert to Christianity. But on account of the political intrigues of the foreign priests the Japanese determined to expel every Romanist from their land, saying "Romanism is but another name for rebellion—it must go." The Japanese knew no distinctions of Christianity, and to them the Cross became a symbol of all that is evil. For four hundred years every foreigner landing in Japan was compelled to place his foot upon a Cross, (kept upon the shore for the purpose), in token that he would not attempt to make converts to Christianity.

When in 1864 Commodore Perry forced an entrance into Japan he found a flourishing nation, whose people were self-complacent, and patriotic, and who showed a decided preference for being left alone.

The Japanese are a progressive people, and finding that other nations were more advanced than themselves, they lost no time in securing such advantages as would

place them on a footing with any foreigners. The railroad, telegraph and telephone have all been utilized, and modern scholarship of all countries has been pressed in to their system of higher education.

Why does this advanced civilization need Christianity? Because Japanese hearts are sinful, and they know nothing of a Savior, nor of a Heaven. Above all, our King Immanuel claims this favored land with its millions of redeemed souls for His own possession, and this is why His message must be sent to Japan.

A missionary is a messenger. From our loyal Methodist Church of Canada, many missionaries have gone to this distant field, and there are now in Japan fifteen devoted Christian ladies, representatives of our Woman's Missionary Society. They have gone to carry the message entrusted to every disciple. *Matt. 28-18-20.*

COREA.

Corea is a peninsula of Asia, west of Japan. A chain of mountains extend through the entire length of the peninsula. The population is estimated to be over 13,000,000. Vegetable products are varied and abundant.

The social condition of the people has been of a low grade, education and religion being matters of supreme indifference to the masses. Ancient superstitions are losing their hold upon the people and Christianity is being favorably received. Medical missions have been particularly successful, and evangelistic work has been blessed by God to the conversion of many.

Lauenburg.

C. A. H.

QUESTIONS FOR MARCH.

Will you give us the Geographical situation and form of Japan?

What have the Japanese done for twenty-five hundred years?

What do they call their country, and what does it mean?

What was their ancient belief?

What is said of the present Emperor?

How loyal to their country and Emperor were these people?

What is the population of Japan? Will you describe the natives?

What is said of the climate? Of the scenery?

In what year was an entrance gained into Japan?

Who was the man and what was his object? What success had he?

What set the Japanese against the Romanists?

What is said of the Cross? What were foreigners compelled to do?

What did Commodore Perry find in 1854?

What is the character of the people of Japan?

How do they stand in regard to modern improvements and scholarship?

Why does this advanced civilization need Christianity?

What is another name for missionary?

What has our Methodist Church done for Japan?

How many of our W. M. S. ladies are there now?

To whom was the message in Matt. 28-18-20 given? What is the message?

COREA.

Please give the Geographical outlines of Corea?

What is said of the population? Products?

What has been the social condition of the people?

How is it now?

What two Branches of Missionary work have been specially successful?