

# Wonderful Formosa

The Island of Which Everybody Is Talking—Dr. Mackay's Captivating Book—Facts Never Before Printed—The Canadian Missionary's Shocking Revelations.

The island to which the Portuguese by reason of its luxuriant and all-permeating vegetation gave the name Formosa, lies off the east coast of China, opposite the Fukien province. It is separated from the mainland by the Formosa Channel, which varies in breadth from 80 to 200 miles; on the northeast, east and southeast, it is washed by the Pacific Ocean. It is about 20 miles from north to south, the average breadth being about 50 miles. It comprehends an area of some 15,000 square miles, being about half the size of Ireland. Forest clad mountain ranges attaining the height of from 7,000 to 15,000 feet run through the center from north to south, and from their western bases stretches a broad expanse of lowlands, plateaus and ravines. This western plain is drained by several large streams, some of which run into the Tamsui river, and some directly into the Channel. The eastern side of Formosa is for the most part bordered by precipitous cliffs from 5,000 to 6,000 feet high and clothed with vegetation, except on the sea face; in the gaps of these cliffs, however, are two large and many small plains, which are fertile inlets. The climatological conditions are tropical or sub-tropical. The island is between 21 degrees 55 minutes and 25 degrees 15 minutes north latitude and 120 degrees and 122 degrees east longitude. The Tropic of Cancer runs through it not far from the center, so that only the south is really within the tropics. On account of its position, the island has its mountains, there is a considerable variety of climate, not only in that part which lies within the tropics, but also in the north. In North Formosa, where Dr. Mackay has spent nearly a quarter of a century, the climate is temperate, trying to foreigners. There is no frost or snow, and those accustomed to an invigorating atmosphere cannot understand how fervently at times in Formosa men long for a winter's morning. About once a year, indeed, a glimpse of snow is forthcoming, but it is only a glimpse, for around the port of Tamsui the snow remains only a few days, and lies for any length of time only on the top of the highest mountains. March, April and May constitute the spring season; the next three months and a half are very hot, and are much dreaded, because the weight of moisture carried by the atmosphere renders the heat much more enervating and oppressive than it is in the drier regions of South China. In August and September come the tropical storms and typhoons which eventually clear the air. October and November generally bring delightful weather in the north part of the island. About the end of December the rainy season sets in and continues through January and February. Not only during the rainy season, but at almost any time throughout the year heavy floating clouds are arrested by the mountains, and empty themselves into the plain. Especially is this the case during the northeast monsoon. As the warm waters of the Japanese "Black Stream" sweep northward along the eastern coast of Formosa, vapors ascend and are driven toward the island, there to become dense clouds, from which, when they touch the mountain tops, torrents of rain are poured. Naturally, therefore, the rain is heavier on the eastern than on the western side. If we keep in view the general dampness of Formosa and the powerful influence of a brooding tropical sun, we can easily understand that the growth of vegetation is exceptionally rapid. Scarcely a barren spot is to be seen. The rocks themselves are clothed in mosses and ferns and vines. The very trees, in their wild state are covered with creepers. But if growth is rapid, so is decay, whence the deadly malarial fever, which constitutes the blackest cloud that hangs over the island. Terrible havoc is wrought by it among the inhabitants, and almost every prevalent form of disease is traced to this source. Even in the case of the natives, who might be presumed to be acclimated, seldom do three months elapse without one or more of every household being laid low. In many instances they succumb in a few hours. Personal experience has convinced Dr. Mackay that few, indeed, are the foreigners who can resist the malarial influence of the climate of Formosa.

As regards the history of the island, the annals are pronounced untrustworthy, being both inaccurate and fanciful. Dr. Mackay regards as probably well founded, however, the claim put forth by the Chinese that they sent an envoy to the island under the Ming dynasty, which was overthrown in 620 A. D. It is indeed incredible that with junks such as the Chinese have possessed for many centuries, they could have sailed through the Formosa Channel year after year without seeing the island and touching it at one point or another. The first Europeans to visit Formosa were Portuguese, who settled there in 1559. The Dutch arrived in 1624, and, two years later, were followed by the Spaniards. The Dutch, however, repelled the Spaniards in 1642, but were themselves within a generation driven out by Koxinga, the famous Chinese pirate. Koxinga was loyal to the Ming dynasty, and when the Manchus came down from the northeast and proclaimed their prince, Sun-Ti, as the usurper, he persistently molested the coast of China to such a degree, that in 1665, the Emperor ordered all the riparian population to retire nine miles inland to escape Koxinga's grasp. Being thus cut off from each other, the island to escape Koxinga's grasp, the Dutch crossed the channel, drove the Dutch out of Formosa, and proclaimed himself first king of the island. His reign was brief and stormy, and his successors were destroyed by the Chinese Emperor, and Formosa was made a dependency of the Fukien province. In 1874 the Japanese invaded the eastern part of the island, and immediately after the Peking Government had made reparation for the loss sustained by the Japanese junks that had been attacked by the savages. In 1887 Formosa first became a separate province of the Chinese empire, and considerable was thereupon expended on the development of mines and upon public works. It is well known that last year war broke out between China and Japan, and it is close the island was ceded to the latter power, and is now under the flag of the "Rising Sun."

The natural history of Formosa is as yet an unworked book. The Chinese authorities being untrustworthy, and foreign scientists having done as yet but little personal investigation on the

by Dr. Mackay, from which we must confine ourselves to a few extracts. There are no fewer than fourteen mammals which are peculiar to Formosa, including a pouch monkey, while among the mammals not peculiar to the island, but found there, may be named as especially ferocious the spotted cat, the leopard, and the Chinese tiger cat. The domestic animals include a black goat, which is smaller than the brown goat of western lands, a dog which is wolfish in appearance and habits, and a cat similar in appearance and nature to our house cat. The horses on the island were brought from the Chinese mainland; they are small, and used only for riding. The Formosan cattle are small, and are not milked, so that there is no butter or cheese made. The bison family is not found in Formosa, but the buffalo takes the place of the horse, and is by far the most valuable animal reared in the island. The birds peculiar to Formosa include, among others, two species of pheasants, three of partridges, three of pigeons and two of skylarks. For domestic purposes the most common bird, and large Muscovy duck are reared; there are no turkeys on the island, but the universal custom is to castrate male chickens of the hen family, and thus to produce a castron, which is much inferior to the gobler, seeing that it sometimes attains a weight of fifteen pounds. There are in Formosa many dangerous and several deadly species of serpents, some of which attain enormous size. Of the turtles, the green species especially abounds. They are from three to five feet in length, and vary in weight from 300 to 400 pounds. Among the fishes the most prized are the sole, the trout, the mullet, the shad, the mackerel, the blackfish and the flounder. There is a long list of mollusks, including lobsters, shrimps, oysters, mussels and hermit crabs.

## Around the World.

Dr. Clark's Journey Round the Habitable Globe.

Wonderful Sights Portrayed in an Interesting Planner.

A highly-instructive and splendidly illustrated volume has just been issued by the American Press, under the title of "A Journey Around the World," by Rev. Francis E. Clark, D.D., president of the United States of Christian Endeavor, and his wife. Throughout the long journey, which occupied more than a year, and covered nearly fifty thousand miles by sea and land, they enjoyed rare opportunities for observation and study. It is one of the most valuable books ever issued by the American Press, and is personally conducted through Australia, India, China, Japan, Egypt, Palestine, Turkey and many other lands. We see these countries through American eyes, and obtain a perfectly clear view of them and their people, supplemented by two hundred and twenty splendid illustrations from photographs, most of which were taken by Dr. Clark himself; the book is a complete photographic outfit with him. Dr. Clark was one of the last Americans to travel through China and Japan before the war between these countries was begun. In this rare volume he gives us the latest and best view of the daily life of a Chinaman in his own country; his favorite food and odd dishes; opium dens and their ways; the singular rites witnessed in the temple of the public execution; the burning ghats of India where the bodies of the dead are consumed on huge piles of wood (a ceremony Dr. Clark witnessed); the Towers of Silence, where the dead are exposed to be devoured by the vultures; the constant vulgarity of the native jugglers, fearless snake charmers and fakirs—these are but a few of hundreds of interesting topics presented. Their route led across the land that Moses led across to his father and brethren; past the very fields where the Israelites made bricks without straw, and along the highways where once rolled the chariots of the Pharaohs. The story of the discovery of the mummy of the Pharaoh who oppressed the children of Israel is wonderfully interesting. It was found among those of 40 others mummies of kings, queens, and princes in the royal tombs, and in the pyramids of Giza, and the identification of Pharaoh is complete. Illustrations from photographs show where the mummy was found, and others give full length, profile, and front views of this ancient king who was contemporary with Moses and reigned in Bible times, thus enabling all to see "just how Pharaoh looked." A journey was made of hundreds of miles in an old spring wagon across Turkey and Armenia, through an unknown country, infested by robbers and hostile natives, the scene of the late horrible massacres of Armenians by Turks and Kurds. Dr. Clark was the last Christian to travel across these countries before these terrible massacres were perpetrated. The story of this perilous trip is full of thrilling interest and exciting adventures. Mrs. Clark accompanied her husband everywhere. She is a vivid picture of life in far-off lands. "As Seen Through a Woman's Eyes." Her narrative is packed with anecdotes, incidents, and personal experiences. Her story of the long journey in the wagon is highly interesting, and her privations and perils, especially to a woman, being many. She was the only woman in the party, which consisted of herself and seven men. Dr. Clark's name is a familiar household word, and he is known as President of the United States of Christian Endeavor, with its two and one-half million members, has extended to every corner of the world. Many distinguished persons urged him to write this book. They knew that he had acquired in this remarkable journey, a wealth of material which, with his unique collection of photographs, would make one of the most valuable books of the world. Among the valuable plate portraits of Dr. Clark and of his wife, from recent photographs; a large map, exhibiting the whole world at a single glance, showing the author's journey from the beginning to the end, and 220 fine illustrations, from photographs from life. These must be seen to be appreciated. The book contains 640 pages, is sold only by agents, and is meeting with an enormous sale. It should be in every home, as it can be read over and over again with pleasure by old and young. The work is published by the old and well-known firm of A. D. Worthington & Co., Hartford, Conn., whose imprint is sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the volume.

Scrofula lurks in the blood of nearly every one, but Hood's Sarsaparilla drives it from the system and makes pure blood.

## PHENOMENAL MEMORIES.

They Are Found in Japan, Where They Are Much Needed.

A traveler returned from Japan writes: Centuries of training have made the Japanese memory a wonderful one. It is the custom to number the houses on a street on what you might call their chronological order, instead of their sequence; that is, in the order of their erection, so that No. 11 may adjoin 999 on one side, and 70 on the other. No. 1 may be three miles from No. 2, and No. 10 may be fifty miles from No. 11. In the city of Tokio there are nearly 1,400 streets. When a street passes through more than one ward the houses are numbered independently, so that there may be five or six numbered 20 and eight or ten numbered 2—perhaps miles apart. Therefore, when a stranger starts out to find a certain number on a street his task is a formidable one. After hunting three or four hours and finding seven or eight houses with the same number he will sit down in the nearest tea house and cry or curse, as the case may be, until he gets cooled off. Then he will hire a jinrikisha man, write the address on a piece of paper and go in whirling up streets and alleys until he is landed at the proper place, without the slightest physical, mental or moral damage. The jinrikisha men are coolies without education or mental training. Most of them can read and write the names of streets and men and merchants and factories. They know the location and number of every one of the three hundred and eighteen thousand and some odd houses in Tokio, and the name of almost every one of the one million five hundred thousand inhabitants. Even when an address is given incorrectly they are at no loss to find it, and if you will tell them accurately where you want to go, they will take you without the slightest delay or error. The same phenomenal memory appears in other classes of the people, and you have to be careful about telling a Japanese gentleman the same story twice.

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Bumping in my right ear!  
Thumbing in my head!  
Aching in my stomach,  
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Dizzy so I can't see,  
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