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"THE LAND OF THE GODS AND OF THE
RISING SUN."*

BY THE REV. SAMUEL P. ROSE.

INTEREST in the empire of Japan increases. Twenty years ago that beautiful country was largely an unknown land; but of late, in answer to the demand for fuller and more accurate information in regard to the "Flowery Kingdom" and its inhabitants, books have multiplied, until we are almost ready to cry, "Enough!"

Of the many books relating to Japan and the Japanese, few are more interesting than that by Mr. Maclay, whose "Budget of Letters" is the text of the present article. Mr. Maclay tells us that, during his sojourn in "the land of the gods and of the rising sun," he made it a practice "to carefully reduce to writing his observations and experiences." These he afterward re-wrote in the form of letters, and we have, in consequence, a racy, readable and instructive volume. The range of topics covered by these letters is large. We get a glimpse of old feudal times in Japan. We are treated to a vivid pen-picture of life in the interior. Some notion of school-teaching, its difficulties and characteristics, is imparted. Sketches are given of the principal cities and chief points of interest of the country. And, of greater moment than these, we learn of the social problems in Japan, and of the progress of missionary labour among this wonderful people. It will be sufficient to add, in connection with our outline of the general plan of the work, that the time covered by the letters extends from October, 1873, to January, 1878.

* *A Budget of Letters from Japan. Reminiscences of Work and Travel in Japan:* By ARTHUR COLLINS MACLAY, A.M., LL.B., formerly Instructor of English in the Ko-Gakko-Rio, Tokio. New York: A. C. Anastrong & Son. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. 391 pages. Illustrated.