Japan and Reform.

The origin of the Japanese is still involved in mystery, and it has not been determined whence the invaders came who dispossessed the aborlgines. The blood is doubtless a mixture of Mongolian, Chinese, and Corean; possibly with traces of Malay and Polynesian tribes. The Amo are the aborigines, seen now only in one of the Northern Islands. They are a hairy race, living in rude buts and speaking a language of their own.

The real history of Japan hegins (B. C. 667) with Jimmoo, the bith ruler in descent from the Sua-goddess; but the first mortal ruler. The int-faced peacants and lower classes are supposed to be an admixture of the invaders and aborigines. Through a series of intestine broils between the Second series of intestine broils between the Second and Seventh Conturies, the suprems power gradually slipped out of the hands of the Emperors. It subsequently fell into the hands of the military commanders and their descendents. The real power passed to the military (Shogur). The emperor (often but a shild) dispensed rank and owned the soil, being the heaven-descended mander of the netton. master of the nation.

The greatest of all the military rulers (Shoguns or Tycoons) died in 1016; all but two ports were closed to foreign commerce; in 1621 Japanese were prohibited visiting foreign lands; in 1624 all foreigners excepting Dutch and English, were banished from Japan. After 1041 Japan remained closed to all foreigners but Dutch. The tomb of this greatest of Tycoons (Iyeyasu) is eight miles from Yedo, is of bronze, and is reached through gorgeous courts. The two ruling classes were Damios and Shomics. There was no class from whom the country suffered more than from (Samurai) the two-sworded military retainers who acknowledged no obedience but to their masters, and were ready for any work, defending them by their death on the field or from assassination, and ready for suicide to save themselves from dichonor. were a non-producing class, not twenty per cent. of whom were even good

The common people were farmers, artizans and merchants, and below these were outcasts and paupers; the outcasts pre-pared skins and converted them into leather; the handling of raw hides being polluting. The paupers begged, carried dead bodies from the execution grounds, and squatted on waste lands and built buts for themselves.

What changes have transpired. In a short time the most conservative aristocracy in the world has been changed into selfsacrificing patriots, and abandoned a policy of exclusiveness and entered the comity of nations, and instead of a Dutch factory, nations, and instead of a Dutch factory, six treaty posts were established and the vessels of all nations allowed entrance. The civil government and military regime were all changed. Public works and education came under foreigness, handsomely salaried from \$500 to \$18,000 per year. Ruglishmen, Frenchmen and Americans competing for situations so remnnerative and so influential. Beor-brewers and boot-makers followed. The coinage was revolutionized, the inconvenient old coins being withdrawn and a new coin, on the basis of the American (United States) dollar and cent currency put in circulation. Govern ment examined its gold mines at Sado and introduced Australian machinery to crush quartz and separate the gold. It is now

was inaugurated in Japan. Such was 1871!
In 1872 embassies were sent to the treaty
powers in Europe and America. The monarch of Japan was then twenty years old and his spouse twenty-three. They both agreed to the sending of young ladies agreed to the sending of young ladies (girls) as well as young men abroad for education. Five young ladies of good family were selected of the ages of eight, ten, twelve, (two of) fifteen years. The young menarch said: "During youth time it is positively necessary to view foreign countries so as to become enlightened as to the ideas of the world, and boys at well as girls who will themselves become men and women, should be allowed to go abroad, and my country will be benefited by their knowledge so acquired. Females heretoknowledge so acquired. Females heretofore have had no position socially, because it was considered that they were without understanding; but if educated and intelli-gent they should have due respect."

The educational system at home was re-nodeled, a medical and a literary college being established; the inland postal system was extended from the government to com-mon use, a daily post, at rate of two cents for a half-ounce, established between important points, and in this same year (1878)

Japan had her first railway, eighty miles, from Yokohama to the capital.

Her foreign trade in 1872 amounted to \$50,500,000, having prown from \$87,000,000 the year before (1871), her year of transition and danger.

In 1878 Japan substituted the European calendar for the Japanese Chronological System of calculation by cycle. Boodhists and Sintoo priests were ordered to respect Christianity, and all Christian converts in captivity were set at liberty and a treaty arranged with China. The obnoxious law legalizing the sale of young women for immoral purposes was abolished, the markets broken up, loose laws relating to marriage and divorce were corrected, and an order passed permitting foreigners to legally es-

pouse Japanese women.

In few things has the medification been more marked than in the Oriminal Code. Under the old Shogunate of 1869 there were degrees of punishment which stand in strong contrast with those of the Amend-Criminal Law of 1878. Kidnapping children or selling in o slavery any human being was formerly punishable by decapitation, but is now punishable by seven to ten years of penal servitude. The murder of a householder, or even seriously wound ing his head by a hired servant, as also false coining were punishable by crucifixion. It searcely seems as much modified as we would like for the criminal may be strangled or decapitated. Stealing and receiving stolen goods was punishable by death, now by penal servitude for ten years or for life. Infanticide is now punishable by penal servitude for three years, but this is too great a relaxation perhaps from that which formerly obtained, which was hanish-

gain, then the punishment was death. The adulterer now gets a year's hard labor, for-merly it was a capital crime.—Northern Christian Advocate.

#### A Third Moon of Mars.

The discovery of still a third room of Mars, who seems to be taking up in the skies the place just vacated by Brigham Young on earth, gives additional interest to the calculations of Professor James C. Watson in regard to this whole subject. The outer satelite revolves around the planet in thirty hours and twolve munutes, at a mean distance of 14,480 miles from its centre. The inner one revolves in seven hours and thirty eight minutes, at a mean distance of only 5,770 miles. The only way in which to form an estimate of their size is to compare their light with that of the planet itself, or with that of some other body whose dimensions are known. Comparing thus, Professor Watson concludes the probable diameter of the other satelite is four and a half miles, and that of the inner is two and three quarter miles. The distance of the former from the surface of the planet is 12,870 miles, and of the latter, 8,710 miles. Mr. Jacob Ennis says that the inner moon every night rives in the west and sets in the east. All night long, while the other stars are moving slowly westward, as do ours, that inner moon hastons rapidly past them all in a contrary direction—so rapidly that from rising to acting it occupies less than four hours. Standing under a tall tree a per on could see its motion plainly over the top. When it rises in the west soon after twi-light it appears as a very thin curved crescent, like our own when only a few days old. But it will grow rapidly and become full moon, and set in the east before midnight. Before morning it will rise in the west again. There may be two new moons or two full moons visible to the same people in one night, all made by the inner satelite, without saying anything of the outer. must make around the entire planet three full moons every day. The inner moon must be totally eclipsed three times a day. The outer satelite performs its revolutions around Mars once in thirty hours and fourteen minutes; therefore it will go around nearly as fast as the planet rotates, and in the same direction. If it appears in the west, just after twilight, as a thin crescent, it will be full moon some time during the middle hours of the night and become totally eclipsed. Before daybreak it will be far in the east, a thin crescent again, but with this difference; now its rounded side is turned eastwardly towards the sun, whereas in the account its rounded side. whereas in the evening its rounded side is turned westwardly towards the sun. The inner moon passes the outer one very rapidly in their ceaseless play. The inner may then be called the swift moon, or it may be called the lower moon and the outer the higher moon, for when they are near the one will always appear above the other. To the inhabitants on the equator the upper will sometimes be hidden by the lower if the lower be large enough.

#### **Alissionary Aotes.**

THE mail from Zanzibar brings full accounts of the progress of the late expeditions sent out to open communications between the east coast and the interior. In the Nyassa district the loss of Dr. Black is much felt. His untimely death, just when he showed very considerable capacity for the work he headed, has caused a great blank. Encouraging reports, however, come from all sources; rapid progress is being made. Of late undertakings perhaps the most interesting and promising is that sent out by private enterprise, and headed, in the interest of the comparison of the compar ests of commerce, by the Mesers. Moir, cons of an eminent Edinburgh physician. The design of these gentlemen is to open up a road from Dar-es-Salem, a short distance from Zauzibar, on the east coast, to the head of Lake Nyassa, and thence communicate by steam with Livingstonia and other settlements which may be afterwards formed on the lake and surrounding district. The preliminary arrangements have been expeditiously completed, and Mr. Mayes, their engineer, reports that the five miles of good road now open are much appreciated and used by the natives.

Many will read with unfeigned regret the sad intelligence of the death of Dr. John Smith, at Lake Nyanza, whither he proceeded a little over a twelvementh ago, as medical missionary to the mission estab-lished there by the Church Missionary Society. Dr. Smith was the son of the Free Church Minister at Half Morton, near Gretna, Dumíriesshire. He qualified him-self as a medical missionary, and earnestly devoted himself in the medical mission work in Edinburgh, of which Dr. Low is still superintendent. He took a great interest also in the Drill Hall Sabbath Morning Meetings, being one of the most active members of that movement. When the Church Missionary Society were organizing the mission to Lake Nyanza, in Central Africa, Dr. Smith offered his services, which were accepted, and went forth filled with the most devoted missionary spirit, knowing the risks he undertook in abiding in a region so fatal to Europeans, and to the pestilential climate of which, although no particu-lars are yet to hand, he has no doubt thus all too soon succumbed. Although a volun-teer in the mission-field of a Church of England Society, Dr. Smith was a member of the Barclay Free Church (Rev. Mr. Wilson's). All who knew him could not fail to be impressed with his genuine Christian character, his sterling worth as well as zealous ardor in all he undertook, and his unfailing good sense and devotion. Dr. Smith was very well known by a large circle of friends in Edinburgh, to whom he had endeared himself by his public labors no less than by his private worth. It may be mentioned that Dr. Smith took part at Dr. Black's valedictory meeting held in the Free Barony Church on the 1st of May, 1976, in connection with the Sabbath Scholar's Missionary Association.

An extensive collection of postage-stamps consisting of 17,000 varieties, was recently sold in England for £800, and a Middlesex magistrate refused £900 for his collection. In France one of the most complete collecment, or if the crime were committed for tions ever made was lately sold for \$15,000. British and Koreign Jotes.

Westminister Address is said to be the oldest place of Christian worship in the

Iraly has sent out 19,783 emigrants this year, and more than two-thirds of them went to South America.

THE oil of roses, marufactured in the country south of the Balkaus, is worth half its weight in gold. It is said that Brigham Young's mother

is living, at the age of ninety-eight, and very poor, at Martinsville, Ind. Ir is reported that only 15,000 of the

100,000 Americans in San Francisco attend public worship on the Sabba h. THE Plymonth (Mass.) people propose to call their town brook the Plym, after the stream in England on whea old Plymenth

The London Lancet suggests the opening of "milk taveres," in good situations, on a liberal coals, as antidotes to the gin

palaces. The members of the recent exploring expedition to the Libyan desert carried along with them 500 iron-cased chests of

fresh water. THE University of Moscow, Russia, had 1,500 students last year. It is 122 years old, and has a library of nearly 175,000 volumes.

Ir was announced in the English Methodiet Conference in July that 830,000 copies of their new hymn book had been sold in a little over a year.

THREE Arabian sheep were recently landed in this city for the Zoological Gardens in Philadelphia. They are the first over imported to the United States. REV. JOSEPH COOK states that 20,000 popies of Tom Paine's "Age of Reason" are

distributed every two years among the fac-tory operatives of New England. MRS HARDING, the only woman doutist in London, will open this month a dental school in which women can learn the art of

making and fitting artificial teeth. A MILE LONG petition, containing 69,000 signatures, has been sent to Parliament

from Ireland, a king that the liquor-saloons be closed on Sunday in that country. THE Western Rural states that a field of wheat in the Alps, buried under an aval-anche for twenty-five years, proceeded on

its growth as soon as the snow had melted. The Chinese in San Francisco have petitioned the Board of Education for a school. They are taxed for school purposes, but are not admitted into any of the public

NINETEEN members were added to the church at the American Chapel in Paris, during the first six months of this year, and there is a balance in the treasury of the church.

VIRGINIA topers now pay two and one-half cents on each glass of spirits, and half a cent on each drink of beer for the liquidation of the state dobt, the liquor dealers being obliged to register each drink.

Means for easy and rapid communica-tion between different parts of India must be provided, urges the London Times, in order that the supply of food in one part of the country may be made available in the other.

THE late Cincinnati M. E. Conference resolved, "That we discountenance and condemn the holding of camp-meetings on the Sabbath-day, except with closed gates and the suspension of secular and financial business.'

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 Uanada Life
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 184n
 1,761

 Mutual
 not stated

 Citizone' 3i years
 687

 Confederation Life
 2.781

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No. of Policies Amount in Force. 2,781 4,604,089

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