

must be content with a view of the entrance gates which are massive, and flanked by loop-holed towers. The occupant of the palace is no longer the recluse of former years; the title of Mikado has become obsolete. Matsu Hito, the Emperor, lives here quietly with no desire for ostentatious display, he succeeded to the throne in 1868, and married Empress Haruko, in 1869.

The Emperor possesses great dignity and is very popular with his subjects. He is credited with the marvellous revolution that ushered in his reign, and turned Japan upside down. From the park we passed to a spacious boulevard lined with handsome public buildings each named by my charioteer, but alas! in an unknown tongue. Thence to the Shinbashi railway station, and in three-quarters of an hour, had returned to Yokohama, boarded the "Empress of Japan," slipped quietly out of the harbour and ere sundown we were out of sight of land. As to the return voyage it was in the main a repetition of the outward bound one—the same leaden features of sea and sky, cold damp atmosphere and frequent fogs. In taking leave of Japan I can say that the little I saw of the country interested me greatly, and but for the oppressive heat and vexations mosquitoes I should gladly have remained another week.

On August 4th we tied up at Vancouver where I remained till the end of the month, the old man in the black velvet coat returning to Montreal on September 4th, my 82nd birthday, just three months after leaving home.

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(NOTE.—Japan consists of four large islands and a multitude of smaller ones, in all 3850 it is said, having a total area of 156,604 square miles, to which must be added the island of Formosa, ceded by China in 1895 which has an area of 15,000 square miles and a population of three millions. Nippon, Nippon, or more properly Hondo, the island on which Yokohama and Tokio are built, is much the largest of the group being some 900 miles in length. The entire population is about 45,000,000. Taking into account that much of the country is mountainous and unfit for cultivation it is evident that the remainder is densely overpopulated, and consequently the peasantry are very poor, but to their credit be it said, they are very industrious. It is a beautiful country of hills and fertile valleys, with a perpetual display of luxuriant foliage from which it takes the name of "The Evergreen Land.")

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