

Chinese Reformer, Kong-foo-tsee, who taught the golden rule to the Celestials five hundred years before their western brethren, the "outside barbarians," had ceased to demand "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Had Japan tea been an article of consumption in England when Mr. Cowley was engaged in translating our geography out of High Dutch, it would be easy to imagine him chuckling heartily as he got off this sentence, "In Osacko is a Temple of a magnificent structure, wherein they worship the Devil." His opinion of the "Japs" at large is a very poor one. He says, "They are gross Idolaters, and have several Idols, but among the Rest at *Meaco*, in a stately Temple, is one of gilt Copper, whose Chair is seventy foot high, and eighty broad; his Head is big enough to hold fifteen Men, and his Thumb is forty Inches round; the Rest of the Body is proportionable. The Bonzes or Priests are the greatest Cheats and Villains in the World. They will borrow Money of People and give them for it promissory Notes payable in the other World. They foretell Fire when they themselves are the Incendiaries, to have an opportunity for Plunder."

The system of long credit alluded to here, does not seem to have become naturalized anywhere else out of Japan, although the foretelling of fire is now quite fashionable over pretty much all the world, and with the same object in view.

If we now direct our attention to Africa for a short time, our readings from the remarkable volume before us will speedily come to a conclusion. As only within the last twenty-five or thirty years has much information of a really reliable kind been furnished to us relating to "the Dark Continent," it need be no matter of surprise if we meet with a few statements that recent exploration has done nothing at all to verify. A glance at the map

introduces us to a number of countries whose names are not familiar to us of to-day, and it is more than doubtful whether some of the names referred to ever existed elsewhere than in European geographies. Take for example, Biledulgerid, which is located between the Barbary States and the "Desart of Zaara," Monocmugi, in that region traversed by the Zambesi and Monomotapa, occupying the district which all who have read Livingstone's travels will recognize as the Bechuana and Makololo region.

Speaking of Zaara, or the "Desart," we cannot help feeling something like astonishment when Mr. Cowley tells us that "it contains ten Kingdoms," the names of which are all given, and no doubt correctly spelt, but we are fairly puzzled when we read what he says of the "People who inhabit this Desart." "The Natives are undaunted, and will not only face but engage with a Lion whenever they meet one, which they frequently do." Now, in case the reader should suppose that the natives made a business of facing lions and engaging with them, it is explained that "their chief Occupation is looking after Camels." The way the lions and camels enjoyed themselves in these ten desert kingdoms may be gathered from the description of the country itself. "The Southern Part of this Country is full of Sand, the Middle full of Stones, and Eastwards it is full of Morasses." Happy lions, happy camels! To avoid any appearance of rudeness to the Zaaarites, let us just quote a sentence to make their religious condition perfectly understandable. "*Mahometanism* is introduced and practised in all parts of this Country, but the Inhabitants for the generality live without any Religion at all."(!) This might perhaps be called a *metaphysical* proposition.

Should the ghost of the Geographer