

NOTES ON THE TREES AND SHRUBS
OF
NORTHERN JAPAN.

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In presenting these brief notes on the flora of Northern Japan, a part of the country as yet but imperfectly known, it seems quite desirable to enter upon a few general considerations relative to climate and geographical position, which will facilitate our comparisons of the flora with that of other parts of the world.*

Japan, as a whole, covers a fairly wide range of latitude, extending from 31° to 52° N. Lat., but the range in longitude is limited, the country being nowhere over 250 miles in width. The chief natural divisions are Kiushiu, Shikoku, Honshiu, Yezo, and the Kuriles.

Both Kiushiu and Shikoku lie south of the Inland Sea between latitudes 31° and $34^{\circ} 15'$ N., the former island being the more southern. In both, the vegetation is sub-tropical, and in many respects distinct from that of the island of Honshiu next north.

Honshiu—erroneously called Nippon—lies north of the Inland Sea, and extends from latitude $33^{\circ} 30'$ to $41^{\circ} 40'$ N., and thus not only includes a portion of sub-tropical vegetation, but even embraces north temperate, and in some of the more elevated portions, a sub-arctic flora.

Yezo, or that portion which we will specially designate as Northern Japan, is well separated from Honshiu by the Straits of Tsugaru, and

* When this paper was first suggested, it was thought that a mere enumeration of trees and shrubs, with some of their prominent characteristics, would not present the subject in a sufficiently satisfactory form, and there has therefore been introduced such extra matter, embracing brief comparisons, considerations of distribution, partial synonyms, &c., as it is believed will materially aid in a more comprehensive and intelligent grasp of the subject. To keep within the limits of the Report, a number of trees and shrubs have been omitted, but in most cases they are of the least importance.

2. Excluding the Liu Kiu Islands, which carry the limits of the Empire down to 24° .