

## JAPAN AND CHRISTIANITY.

Converts Include Among Its Classes Japan's Best Element.

Accessions to Christian churches in Japan are estimated by Dr. Scherer at about 3,000 annually, but they embrace mainly the "influential classes"—legislators, judges, army and navy officers, lawyers, bankers and physicians.

The masses seem as yet almost as immune to Christianity as are Mohammedan masses. Count Okuma is represented by Dr. Scherer as among the Japanese of light and leading who feel concerned at the moral condition of Japan today. It is a question, says the count, "whether as a people we have not lost fiber as a result of the many new influences to which we have been subjected. Development has been intellectual and not moral."

Count Okuma, although not a Christian himself, is represented as welcoming the endeavors which "Christians are making to supply to the country a high standard of conduct."

There is, in a word, ample evidence that the action of church-burning mobs in Tokio reflects no sentiment prevalent in the government circles of Japan. Prime Minister Katsura seems to think the American mind may be in the dark on this point, for he has kept the cables warm with assurances of official Japanese esteem for Christians and for Americans.—Current Literature.

## British Crown £175,000 Richer.

As the late Capt. George Lindsay Anthony Wilson, the Falkstone recluse, died without making a will, the whole of his fortune goes to the British crown. Several persons in his service had expected handsome legacies. Capt. Wilson, who was the illegitimate son of Sir John Wilson, Bart., at one time commander of the forces in Ceylon, was a bachelor, and left no legal heirs. The estate reverting to the crown under this intestacy has been valued by the authorities at £150,209. To this has to be added £25,663 left by Capt. Wilson's father. Sir John Wilson died in 1856, but Capt. Wilson refused to touch a penny of it, with the result that the estate has remained for 49 years unadministered. Now the crown inherits both fortunes.

Says the London Chronicle: "It has very rarely happened that so large an estate as Capt. Wilson's falls to the crown. Queen Victoria, during her long life, had only one or two as large. Although the aggregate amount which annually reverts to the crown in the case of persons dying intestate, without known heirs, is considerable, it is chiefly made up of a number of very small estates, and there are usually many claimants. Persons entitled to money are seldom far to seek when wanted, but the number of claimants of money who cannot show any title to it is very large indeed."

## Tapeworms Make Pearls.

Prof. Herdman's recent investigations on the subject of pearl formation have yielded some interesting conclusions. In the great majority of cases it appears that the pearl is due to the presence in the oyster of a marbled tapeworm. When the spherical larva of the worm dies nacreous matter is deposited round it, and the resulting mass is known as a pearl. The life history of the tapeworm is continued in the bodies of certain species of fish which prey on the oysters. These fish, again, are devoured by fish-eating rays or sharks. In these latter the tapeworm becomes mature, and sets free numerous embryos into the sea. These finally enter the oysters, and so complete the life cycle.

The small so-called "seed" pearls are caused by the deposition of nacreous matter round small crystals formed in certain muscles of the oyster. Perhaps the most important result of Prof. Herdman's work from the scientific standpoint is the establishment of a marine biological station at Galle for further research.—London Globe.

## Lessening Fires at Sea.

Carbonic acid has been suggested by an Italian inventor as means for lessening the danger of fires on ship-board. The gas could be stored in the hold, either in the solid form or in steel cylinders in liquid condition. It is argued that in either form it would be innocuous to cargo and, as its density is very high, it would permeate all the interstices between bales and cases and sink to the bottom of the hold. Wherever it reaches nothing can burn, so that perfect immunity from fire would be obtained up to the level of the gas. The gas itself is a waste product of breweries and the only cost is the expense of the condensing plant. Before discharging the cargo ventilation would be necessary.

## India's Water Supply.

A British Government engineer living in Bombay asserts that India has the largest artificial fresh-water reservoir in the world. He says that in the native state of Uralpur in Rajputana, some thirty miles south of the city of Udaipur, is the great Jalsamand, the Dhebar lake. The dam of this lake was built some 200 years ago by the Maharaja Jai Singh. It covers an area of between twenty-one and twenty-five square miles. Its depth at the dam is ninety feet and its capacity is estimated at 153,000,000 gallons.

Canada now possesses twelve wire- and gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic coast. Of the twelve stations, which are under the direction of the department of marine and fisheries, nine are high power and three low power. The former can communicate with vessels up to a distance of 250 miles, while the radius of the latter is about 180 miles.

## SURVIVORS OF TSUSHIMA.

Tell of the Awful Hardship and Rough Treatment by Officers.

A writer in the Slovo draws a painful picture of the attitude of the naval authorities toward the survivors of the Baltic fleet, which was destroyed in the battle of Tsushima.

"You cannot imagine the treatment to which we were subjected," said a young officer of one of the Baltic cruisers to the writer. "It made one feel ashamed of wearing our uniform. For more than a year we did work equal to penal servitude. Our crews worked 18 hours a day carrying coal, transporting it in small boats in the ocean, languishing under a tropical sun, feeding on salt meat and tinned food."

"During eight months we lived in dirt and slept in rubbish. During eight long months not a single night passed without alarm or without expectation of the enemy's attack. And before us we had still greater labor and privations in blockading Vladivostok in case we succeeded in reaching it. And reproaches and insults were our only reward. You know the rough nature of our sailors. Well, our chiefs have succeeded in touching them to the quick by their humiliating invectives, and I have seen them cry, broken down by this new kind of welcome from their mother country after the labors they have undergone. Truly, we envy those who perished."—St. Petersburg Dispatch.

## Thieves' Shoes.

"Shoes have played an important part in the capture of criminals," said Detective William Barrett of Buffalo. "Had it not been for the footwear of certain thieves they would never have been caught. It is not so long ago that I and two others were detailed on a case, and before we caught our man another shop had been burglarized. We looked at the marks about the windows and noticed they were scraped by nails. We went back to the other place and found the same conditions. Later we went into well-known resort and found a man sitting in a chair. He had his feet encased in a neat-fitting pair of shoes, but for some reason he had nails put in the heels. We 'jumped' him at once, and, searching his rooms, we discovered enough loot to start a store. He later explained that the nails were put in his shoes to aid in roof-climbing. Squeaky shoes have caused the arrest of several thieves right in this precinct. The other night a thief bought a pair of cheap shoes and they were very musical. The man got into a place, and before he got anything his noisy shoes gave him away and he was caught. All clever criminals have a penchant for buying good soft shoes. They pay a good price for them and they are repaid sometimes by getting off with the swag to pay up for what they spent."—Shoe Retailer.

## Tea, Three Cents a Pound.

There is a description of tea sold in Japan at the average price the country over of 3½d. per pound. This is "branca," which consists of a mixture of the former year's leaves, withered stalks, etc., and is mainly consumed by the poorest classes, though the price varies considerably in different prefectures, being as high as 9d. in Kagoshima and only about ½d. per pound in Kyoto.

In 1903, according to a consular report by Student Interpreter Philipps of Tokio, no less than 55,588,030 pounds of tea of all qualities was produced, valued at £1,120,800. During the same year 48,239,484 pounds valued at £1,422,535, were exported.—From the London Chronicle.

## Mikado's Large Income.

The yearly allowance of the Mikado, which is at the same time that of the whole imperial family, is now \$1,500,000. Beside, he has the yearly income of \$500,000 from the interest on the \$10,000,000 which was given to him from the war indemnity received from China ten years ago; of \$250,000 from his private estates, which amount to \$5,000,000 or more; of \$500,000 from the forests, covering an area of 5,124,873 acres and valued at \$12,487,300, at \$10 an acre; in all, \$1,250,000. Thus his yearly net income amounts to \$2,750,000. There are in all sixty members of the imperial family, inclusive of eleven married and four widowed princesses, who are members of the royal family by marriage.

## Orientalism in Commerce.

Even in its commerce Smyrna is Oriental. Few Westerners care a fig for Smyrna, but that famous old city regards the fig as the mainstay of its prosperity. The most popular merry-making of Smyrna's year is the fig festival. That takes place when the export of the fig harvest from the interior gets in. The first train load enters the station with the engine beflagged, the wagons covered with branches and garlands, and there are artillery salutes and flourishes of trumpets. These, however, are as nothing compared with the noisy rejoicings of the populace, who follow loaded camels through the city to the grand bazaar singing and dancing with all the unrestrained fervor of the Orient.—London Globe.

## Has Its Own Laws.

An English island free from English law is an anomaly, yet such is the situation of the Isle of Man, which has a code of laws entirely its own. It has never been ruled by the laws of England.

## One Early Ambition.

Lord Kitchener had an ambition to become an actor when a young man. A well known actor, whom the great soldier consulted, offered him a part as "walking gentleman," but advised the army, and the engineers in particular.

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