

**THE HARVEST OF JAPAN, A BOOK
OF TRAVEL WITH SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE TREES, GARDENS,
AGRICULTURE, PEASANTRY, AND
RURAL REQUIREMENTS OF JAPAN**

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The harvest of Japan, a book of travel with some account of the trees, gardens, agriculture, peasantry, and rural requirements of Japan by C. Bogue Luffmann

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*A Book of Travel with some Account of the
Trees, Gardens, Agriculture, Peasantry, and
Rural Requirements of Japan*

BY

C. BOGUE LUFFMANN

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"Quiet Days in Spain," etc.*

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1920

TO
EDEN PHILLPOTTS

A rare gardener, a lover of the wild, a faithful chronicler
of the lives of simple serving men and home-bred women.
In grateful recognition of his good friendship I offer
this sheaf of gleanings from Eastern Woods and Fields.

C. B. L.

TORQUAY.

PREFACE

To travel with ease and gain esteem interfere with no man's private opinions or affairs ; offer no resistance to any one till you are actually assailed ; be kind, simple, smile where you can ; be interested, but not over curious ; dignified, but by no means proud ; accept hospitality according to local custom ; and, without showing signs of wealth, pay your way. Any one who will observe these few rules may go where he likes, and stay as long as he likes in any country. _

The foregoing was written some years ago ; but in Eastern Asia I found I might not be frank and open and at the same time accepted at my own value. I did not go to Japan with the object of writing a book with any high purpose, but I had not been long in the country before I saw that the truth was not liked any more than it is liked in other countries ; also, I saw that some truths did not appear to have been discerned or examined at all, and as these involved subjects to which I have some claim to speak with authority, I

felt I should take upon myself the task of telling Japan, her friends, and her rivals, a little of their own business.

The reader may discover that I have made an impartial statement of the visible fortune, needs, and duties of Japan ; also I have dealt with the Japanese as Nature worshippers, gardeners, artists, and handicraftsmen, as I see them superior and worthy to be studied and followed by Europeans. My humours—good, bad, and indifferent—find a place here, for I believe in nothing so much as self-expression. In Japan I was alone, but employed, and my labours and the opinions they imposed form the substance of this volume.

Without any axe to grind, I maintain that this little book holds some facts of interest and value for Japanese statesmen, students, and publicists at home and abroad. Incidentally it should have value for tree lovers, gardeners, artists in landscape, students of design, and naturalists in various fields, not so much for what it describes as for what it suggests and offers to them ; also it may inform and amuse the general reader ; but, above all, it is a book for the Japanese, and for those who are qualified and desirous of serving Japan.

The differences, barriers, prejudices of which the Japanese make such loud complaint are natural, and not to be removed by mere juggling with conceits.

Nor will treaties, school fellowships, and universal hobnobbing change blood, dimensions, or ideals, and make for the desired oneness of Asia and Europe. Race improvement is a slow, natural process, and it were well for the Japanese to recognize and act upon the fact. The Japanese claim for equality is emphatically a vanity based on his own misconceptions, the false praise which has been bestowed upon him, and the dishonourable treatment he has received from the United States of America. The latter repudiated their treaty giving Japanese equality of rights and interests with Europeans. Further, the British oversea dominions refuse the unrestricted immigration of the Japanese.

The purpose of this note is to express the conviction that unless the subject is debated in the most vulnerable and effective quarters, the Japanese will go to war over racial equality alone. They do not want more territory or more of anything half as much as they want to avenge what they consider an insult, and to have the world know and not forget that they are as good as other people. For all good may mean to us and the Japanese, I have the frankness to write that they are making an egregious mistake.

One can appreciate the United States and some of our self-governing dominions for indicating their feel-

ings and intentions towards the Japanese ; but the whole truth has not been said in any quarter, nor has there been reasoned and unprejudiced effort put forward to examine the nature of the barriers and the origin of the prejudices (if any) which provide the mental and physical conflict between Asia and Europe—or Europe and Asia, for the words need to be transposed at times. In strictest truth it is not East and West that Japan finds barriers and prejudices, it is East and South—America and Australasia. The necessity exists for those people who refuse citizenship to Japanese to make a joint statement, and give their reasons for exclusion. The Americas, Australasia, the African Union, these are the territories against which Japan is mentally, and may soon be physically and materially, at war.

The Japanese is convinced that we dislike him for his smallness of stature ; his Mongolian, Esquimaux, or Malayan features ; his love of nakedness ; his license in love and his bartering of women, where, as a matter of fact, we do not as a race know of these things, or where we do, are we concerned to fear these things. We are experienced enough to know that in our social and domestic life we include all the sins and shortcomings of the race. So near as I can find words to express my inmost feelings, the antipathy, prejudice—