

**THE HEART OF
JAPAN,
TEXT-BOOK NO. 3**

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The heart of Japan, Text-book No. 3 by Arthur P. Addison

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BY

ARTHUR P. ADDISON, B.A., B.D.

THE METHODIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S FORWARD MOVEMENT
FOR MISSIONS

Text-Book No. 3

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FOR MISSIONS

F. C. STEPHENSON - - - - - *Secretary*
METHODIST MISSION ROOMS, TORONTO

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TO
THE MEMORY
OF
TWO PIONEER MISSIONARIES

Rev. Davidson Macdonald, M.D.

AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATOR AND A
PHYSICIAN BELOVED

AND

Rev. George Cochran, D.D.

A LEADER IN EDUCATION

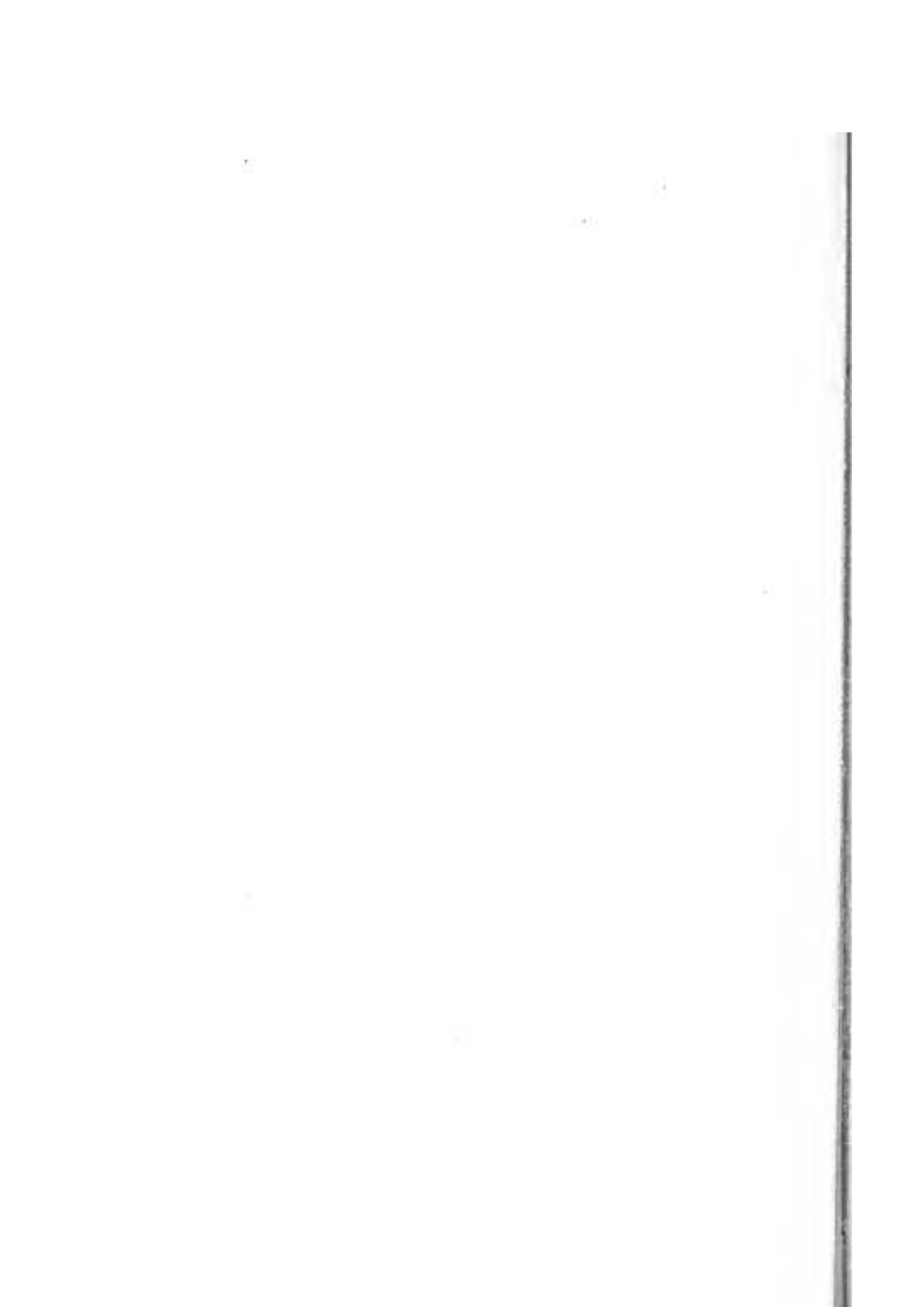
THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED.

FOREWORD.

This book does not pretend to be in any sense a book on Japanese customs or religions, or even on missionary methods. It is but a partial account of the mission work of the Methodist Church in that land. Even in this narrow field it has been found impossible to give an outline of each part of the work, or to do more than mention the names of those who have in later years carried on this work, the beginning of which has been briefly told.

Every picture must have a background. The first two chapters serve this purpose. It is hoped that they will not in any way detract from the scenes and characters which are in the forefront of the picture ; but that they may be sufficiently suggestive and sufficiently indistinct to provoke the reader to further study. The Library of nine volumes sold by the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions is invaluable for this purpose, and in these books will be found an answer to any questions that may be raised.

For the work since 1903, and for a fuller insight into the missionary conditions of to-day, the *Missionary Bulletin*, with its quarterly letters from each of the missionaries, will give most valuable information and will answer the questions which suggest themselves.



INTRODUCTION

LESS than fifty years ago Japan was practically unknown to the civilized world. It had no intercourse with other nations and it desired none. Its government was an absolute autocracy; its social system a pronounced type of feudalism; its army the detached bands of *samurai* who followed the banners of their feudal lords and recognized no other authority; its navy a few scores of local trading and fishing junks that a single gunboat could quickly have sent to the bottom. Without railroads, telegraphs or steamships, without schools or a postal system, without any of those appliances that are deemed indispensable in modern civilization, the Japan of fifty years ago seemed to present an instance of arrested development, a survival of mediæval institutions in strange contrast with the changed conditions and eager throbbing life of the new civilization.

Twenty-five years ago there were signs that a change was passing over the nation. Ports were opened to foreign trade. The Shogun, who had long been the virtual ruler, was relegated to obscurity, and the Mikado became in reality what he had always been in theory—the actual head of the state. The feudal system was abolished, the great daimyos surrendered their estates and revenues, and their armed retainers were disbanded or became the nucleus of a stand-

ing army for the defence of a common country. Large numbers of the brightest young men of the nation were sent to Europe and America to study everything that was worth studying. Gradually, though it seemed very rapidly, other changes followed. Railroad construction began, a postal system was introduced, a graded educational system, from primary school to university, was devised, a standing army organized and drilled, the foundation of a navy laid. And when all this was crowned by a constitutional government, with representative institutions and a free press, the world perceived the salient features of a transformation unparalleled in the world's history.

The nations were amazed beyond measure, and wondered whereunto all this would grow. The changes had been so swift and sudden that many doubted their permanence. To superficial observers it seemed as if the Japanese had been sunk for centuries in a Rip-Van-Winkle sleep, and awaking suddenly in the noontide of modern civilization, had been dazzled with its glare, and were now groping about in a vain attempt to lay hold of new appliances of whose uses they were entirely ignorant. Twenty-five years ago a common opinion was, "This thing will not last; the changes have been too sudden to be permanent. The Japanese are like children pleased with a new toy, and will soon tire of it. In a few years these surface reforms will be back where it was before." But the wise ones were wrong. The simple fact is, that Japan, with wonderful prescience, had grasped the whole situation and prepared to adjust herself to the new conditions. Surveying the institutions of the western nations, she became an apt