

**ORIENTAL LIFE: AN ACCOUNT OF
PAST AND CONTEMPORARY
CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS IN
ASIA, EXCEPTING CHINA, INDIA
AND JAPAN**

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Oriental life: an account of past and contemporary conditions and progress in Asia, excepting China, India and Japan by Ethlyn T. Clough

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Edited and Arranged by

ETHLYN T. CLOUGH

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PREFACE

WHILE China, Japan, and India are occupying more of the attention of the world than any other of the Asiatic countries, a study of that vast continent would be incomplete without some knowledge of those borderlands we have come to designate as the Near East. Besides, this knowledge is necessary to those who desire to keep abreast of the forward march of the nations.

It is no longer sufficient that we become acquainted with Our Own Country and its advancement, for universal brotherhood is making its demands upon us, and America is playing no small part in the modernization of the East. The old familiar cry that has rung down the centuries, *Come over into Macedonia and help us*, is wafted across the seas to-day. It behooves every Christian nation to foster and aid this universal desire for the "federation of the world." Once the patriotic ideal was all-sufficient; now the farther we remove ourselves from the ideal of patriotism to merge ourselves into that higher ideal of universal peace and freedom, the better it will be for us as individuals, the better will it be for us as a nation.

To help, we must understand; to understand, we must know something of the life and customs of these peoples who are struggling to free themselves from the bondage of centuries of slavery and misrule—slavery to destructive customs and institutions; misrule under

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the grasping and oppressive monarchs of conquering nations.

The regeneration of Turkey and Persia; the wonderful resources of Burma and Ceylon being developed under beneficent British rule, are themes to-day of world-wide interest. In studying the civilizations of Asia, it is our desire that Bay View students familiarize themselves with some of the salient features in the life of these lesser countries of the Orient; and, since no condensed volume of information is to be had, we have, as heretofore, prepared one from the best and latest authorities. This work by no means exhausts the subjects handled, but it gives an insight into the manners and customs of hitherto practically unknown peoples, and sets forth their needs and their future possibilities. As in previous volumes, the chapters have been gathered from reliable sources, and a key-letter at the end of each chapter refers the reader to a page at the close of the book where due credit is given. These chapters are not all of them presented just as the writers themselves prepared them. Many of them have been corrected from recent statistics and brought down to date; some have been amplified, and all of them have been edited and connected with original paragraphs to bring about a running narrative. If the volume proves interesting and informing, and inspires the desire to know more about and do something for these nations knocking at the door of Western Civilization, its mission will have been fulfilled.

ETHLYN T. CLOUGH.

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Oriental Life

INTRODUCTORY

THE OUTSKIRTS OF EMPIRE

“AS far as the East is from the West,” is the simile that the Psalmist used in likening how far from the repentant transgressor his sins might be removed from him, and the simile, in a way, would hold good to-day. The real East, its people, its religions, its customs, and we might almost say its geographical position and physical conditions, are known to but few. A mighty gulf separates the East from the West; the busy throbbing centers of the West take little note of the things that do not lie near at hand, and the call of the East comes for the most part unheeded across the waste. One of the chief charms to the student of these comparatively unknown lands is that subtle something that forever separates the Oriental from the Occidental. It is not so much that they differ from us in the manners and customs of life, in religion, education, government, in the clothes we wear, the food we eat, the houses we live in, and our methods of work and play, although the difference in these things is great, but there is something deeper even than these differences. There is a separation in life and