

# **JAPAN AND ITS REGENERATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649617463

Japan and Its Regeneration by Otis Cary

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**OTIS CARY**

**JAPAN AND ITS  
REGENERATION**



# JAPAN AND ITS REGENERATION

BY THE  
REV. OTIS CARY  
MISSIONARY IN JAPAN

NEW YORK  
STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT  
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS  
1903

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## PREFATORY NOTE

This volume is one of a series of text-books primarily intended for mission study classes in institutions of higher learning, but also likely to be largely used by church and young people's mission study circles. This fact will account for its condensed style and for some peculiarities of typography and paragraphing, which have been suggested by five years' experience of the Volunteer Movement's Educational Department.

The subject treated is one of great fascination to every student of history, and especially so to those who are interested in the progress of the Kingdom of God. The reader finds here the story of the most astounding transformation within a few years that can be found in all history, and that, too, in our own generation. While no one can claim that Japan's regeneration, which has scarcely more than begun, is wholly due to the work of Christian Missions, it would be equally untrue to overlook the importance of the missionary factor in these sweeping changes. The aim of this little volume is to exhibit the interworking of the many agencies in this Oriental renaissance and their true relation one to another, as well as to clearly depict the material, social, and religious environment of the Japanese missionary.

The basis of this text-book is the admirable volume entitled "Japan and the Japan Mission," which is published by the Church Missionary Society of London. The editor acknowledges most gratefully the kindness of the officers of that Society, who have allowed him to use freely

such portions of their book as he chose. While some pages have been transcribed with little if any change, more than half the present volume is wholly new.

As will be seen, the treatment is broad and catholic and the attempt has been made to do equal justice to all leading elements that have entered into Japan's recent wonderful progress. Inasmuch as more than forty Protestant missionary agencies are represented in the Empire, it was manifestly impossible to even summarize the work of each. As was done, however, in the case of the text-book on China, "Dawn on the Hills of T'ang," published in 1898, so it is hoped that missionary boards will issue for use with this text-book special sketches of the work of their own churches in the Island Empire. Such sketches will greatly increase the value of the comprehensive summary found in the present volume.

*New York, June 1, 1899.*



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# JAPAN AND ITS REGENERATION

## I

### THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

**I. The Name.**—The Japanese call their country *Dai Nippon*. *Dai* signifies "Great"; while *Nippon*, or *Nihon*, as it is sometimes pronounced, means "Sun-Origin." The latter part of the title was probably first used by the Chinese, since it was from the Japanese Islands lying to the east of their empire that the sun came to them. The Chinese pronunciation of the characters employed in writing the name is *Jih-pên*, or *Ji-puan*. From this came the name *Zipangu* by which Marco Polo introduced the country to the knowledge of Europeans, and other modifications of the sounds have given us in English the word *Japan*.

**II. Situation.**—1. The Japanese Empire consists of a chain of islands stretching along the northeast coast of Asia. Formerly it claimed the southern part of *Saghalien*; but this was ceded in 1875 to Russia, and the Kurile Islands accepted in exchange. The Bonin and Loochoo Islands are now recognized as belonging to Japan. As a result of the war with China its domain was increased in 1895 by the addition of *Formosa*; but the present volume does not deal with this new possession. (See, however, Appendix A.)

2. The most southern of the Loochoo Islands is in  $24^{\circ}$  north latitude, while the Kuriles extend nearly to  $51^{\circ}$ . The extremes thus correspond very nearly with the southern part of the Persian Gulf and Southampton, England; or with Key West and the northern part of Newfoundland. The range of longitude— $124^{\circ}$  to  $157^{\circ}$  east of