

of every epoch-making mind, every beacon-light of the world's history, we seek to make familiar to our children as an important part of their education.

This is our moral educational method. The reader may judge of how far its value has been proved under the severe test of the present struggle in which we are engaged.

War is war. It was your General Sherman who said "War is Hell." Nothing known to human experience so wakes the elementary savagery in human nature as the armed, face-to-face and hand-to-hand conflict, the struggle and the thirst for one another's blood. And perhaps the greatest pride which we of Japan feel in the results of this war thus far is the success of the iron training in self-repression which we have sought to impress upon our soldiers. We have adhered as closely to the articles of the Red Cross Society as was humanly possible. We have fought as best we could in a struggle for our national existence which was forced upon us; but whenever the battle has ended, our treatment of our prisoners, on the field, in the hospital and in captivity has been such as to win the heartfelt encomiums of the prisoners themselves. "A prisoner of the Japanese is much better off than a prisoner of the Russians," is to-day an axiom from Harbin to Tokio. But this was never said by us. It was and is the frank tribute of the Russians themselves.

We even permit imprisoned Russian officers to live in private houses, which we rent for them. Lieutenant Benckendorf, son of the Russian Ambassador to England, has leased a house at Nagoya, and to him in captivity has come his young bride. He is free to go abroad in the city, to enjoy himself uninterruptedly, and his period of imprisonment is his honeymoon. Such privileges as are accorded to Lieutenant Benckendorf and his conferees as prisoners of war have never been known before. Japan is proud indeed of the humanity, sympathy and consideration for the defeated with which, on her side, this war has been conducted, and she is perfectly well aware that those in other countries whose business it is to know are perfectly well informed in this respect.

If we have not lost our heads over our wonderful series of triumphs on land and sea during this war, no man nor country need fear that we shall lose our heads in times of peace. The testimony of foreigners who visited Berlin after the close of the Franco-Prussian war was that the Germans were so intoxicated with their triumph that life there was intolerable except for Germans. This was a mistake which cost Germany many friends and one which we know of and shall not make. We shall respect the truth and of foreign occupation in Asia. We always do respect the spirit and we seek no territory, we desire only peace and peaceful development and any man who doubts this does not know Japan. But it is a question of profound interest and one profoundly interesting to many if there is any as to how Japan will be received among the nations of great powers, not how she will look upon and act toward America and the European nations of how the American and the European nations will act with and harmonize with Japan.

The prejudices of race are well-nigh indestructible. The Frenchman and the Englishman, after a thousand years of neighborly contact, have little in common at heart. The Frenchman and the German still nurse memories of war, and potentially at least are still arrayed one against the other. The Italian, the Spaniard, the Hungarian, still look across the barriers

of national pride which mark their frontiers upon alien races which are heterogeneous to them in all national respects. Blood-ties unite the English and the Americans; immigration has made the American nation a composite, having a more or less sympathetic leaning toward all. The question is what will be the mutual feeling between Japan and the family of the nations; and I am frankly convinced that she will win and never forfeit their trust, their reliance and their warm regard.

She will defend her rights and she will seek her own development, as will all the others, but she will do so sympathetically. One of the axioms of our literature is "The People of the Four Seas Are Brothers." The moving force in the matter, in its close relation to public opinion, is religion. And with particular reference to this word "pagan," as well as to its general bearing on the question, I would like to say a few words, which do not appear to have been said before, concerning religion in Japan and its relation to the national policy.

Japan has no national religion. We believe that there are many gates to Heaven; that some may enter through Christ, some through Buddha, some through Confucius, some through Mohammed, some through Zoroaster. We believe that every man should be allowed to follow that faith which best appeals to his instinct, his education and his imagination. We have among our people believers in all the faiths mentioned. We have granted them by our Constitution, as I have said, complete freedom of religious belief. We have a hundred and seventy thousand Catholics about equally divided between the Western Church and the Greek Church. Through all this war the Russian priests of the Greek Church have walked the streets of our cities as unmolested, as free from indignity or insult, as if they were walking the streets of St. Petersburg. We welcome Christianity. The Emperor and Empress subscribed five thousand dollars to the fund raised by the Young Men's Christian Association for the care of our troops in the field. We have come to the West, some of us, to study religion as we have come to study other things, and we have been confronted with the works of Huxley, of Spencer, of Darwin and of Kant. We have formed our own conclusion, which is freedom to all and to every man that religion which best suits him. Morality, the formation of character, we believe to be the substance; belief, the shadow, in the question.

And so, in our future intercourse with the nations,

we see no sources of inharmony. We owe to America a debt of gratitude which is impressed upon every Japanese child, and which will forever be a recorded portion of our national history. When President Fillmore sent Commodore Perry to advise our Government to open our ports and enter into the unity of nations, he did us a favor as a nation which will never be forgotten. Without Perry's visit, which gave us the key to the great treasury of modern national advancement, we could never have attained our present position. We have learned much from the West. We owe to the West a great debt. That the West is now coming to us to learn is a source of gladness and pride, because it gives us the opportunity to repay this debt in part, because it is the essential proof of intellectual equality. Our love of our country, our pride in our country, is intense. Careless critics do not realize this; do not realize our sensitiveness to unjust criticism.

Japan will never be arrogant; Japan will always be courteous; and Japan will always be more than fair in her intercourse with the nations. Every Japanese knows this, and all the world will come to know it under the test of experience. We desire, perhaps to an unusual degree, the respect, the regard and the friendship of other nations, and any offerings to this end will always be met more than half way, and cordially welcomed by the Emperor and the people of Japan.

Two Cuban Products

It may not be known generally that the island of Cuba can boast a larger snake than is found in the United States. It is a fact, however, that Cuba's boa-constrictor, locally known as the "maja" (pronounced ma-ha), can claim that distinction, some specimens reaching a length of sixteen feet, and a girth depending upon what it swallowed last before being measured—a chicken, a pig or a goat. I have in my possession the skin of one that in life was all of fourteen feet in length, and had a fine open countenance that would have done credit to and made the fortune of an auctioneer. It had a mouth that could have taken in a calf, and which, when open, resembled the inside of a fiery furnace.

To find the "maja" in its native haunts and jungles, one must go to Santiago Province and penetrate the forests, or else start a chicken ranch on the outskirts of the woods, when the boa is sure to put in an early appearance. The "maja"

is not considered dangerous in Cuba, except to domestic fowl. The proper moment to capture this serpent is just after it has laid down to rest, with a few toes snugly stowed away within its anatomy. Then you approach it warily, and just as it rises to receive you, you lop off its head with a machete. It is a simple operation.

Second Cuban product number two is the lightning-bug, or fire-beetle, which is ten times as large as our northern firefly or glow-worm. The average fire-bug in Cuba is an inch and a half in length, and its two phosphorescent headlights, one on each side the thorax, appear at a distance like coach-lamps. The Cuban lightning-bug (the *cucuyol*), as well as in Mexico, is worn as an ornament at night, especially by the women, in the place of diamonds, for it is only necessary to tie up a *cucuyol* in a little muslin bag and pin it on one's dress or coat, to produce a glitter not unlike a diamond, but much brighter. I often have read fine print by the light of two or three *cucuyols* in a bottle, when in camp in the West Indies, where they swarm by the million.

The bug is the deadly foe of mosquitoes.

THE HEART'S CRY

Illustrated by Lee Woodward Zeigler



By Ethel Maude Colson

If I only knew, if I only knew!—
Whether for her the skies are blue;
Whether for her the wind blows clear
In the same sweet manner that pleased her here;
Whether for her the stars shine bright,
The stars that she smiled at every night;
If the old, fond stories are false or true—
If I only knew, if I only knew!

If I only knew, if I only knew!—
If ready for passing her sweet soul grew
In an instant's space, or was drawn away,
Silently, steadily, day by day,
Loosening ever the bonds of sense,
Yielding the here for the unknown hence,
Till it slipped with a smile the Strange Gates through—
If I only knew, if I only knew!

If I only knew, if I only knew!—
Dear, as I wake and think of you,
Hungry and sick for your vanished grace,
Whether you sometimes recall my face,
Stretching the hands that once clasped my own,
Swelling the heart that was mine alone,
And even in Heaven your love renew—
If I only knew, if I only knew!

If I only knew, if I only knew!—
If I had but the faintest, slightest clue
To the mystery laid with your form away,
Yet hauntingly close to my soul to stay,
To the wonderful region that lies between
The life I know and the Land Unseen,
That shuts from my vision your larger view—
If I only knew, if I only knew!