

laid his hand when he crossed them in the presence of his son Joseph, and said Ephraim should be the greater. I behold a people who are the children of Ephraim, a portion of one of the tribes, driven into all countries. I behold a people who are the descendants of Jacob through the loins of Joseph and Ephraim, a people of whom it is prophesied that they should be great and glorious and should be gathered together, to whom the other tribes should come as the brethren of Joseph came to Joseph in Egypt, seeking succor at his hand; so will the other tribes come to the tribe of Ephraim and seek the blessings of God at their hands. I am speaking to that people who, it was ordained, should come forth in the latter days, and the Lord would take one of a city and two of a family and bring them to His own house, where they should worship Him, and He would place pastors over them after His own heart. These children of Ephraim are here today to do the work of the Father and assist in bringing to pass His strange act.

What will we do with the mission assigned us—the mission that Jacob saw, though he was old and feeble and nigh unto the grave? When he laid his hands on the boy he told him what should befall the generations that should come of him. Ephraim, what shall we do with this mission? Will we handle it as He wants us to do? Will we honor the Priesthood that He has given us? Or will Ephraim rebel? for we have rebellious blood in us. God has been merciful unto this people. He has led us in green pastures, though trials have assailed us. The blood of Ephraim has surged through the hearts of this people, and they have determined and set their faces as flint that they would serve God in adversity. Can we do it in prosperity? If this people will unite together, if they will honor God and honor the worthies from whom they claim descent, God will fight their battles. He will argue for them with arguments that cannot be refuted, and He will bring these things to pass. You and me are incompetent to do it without Him. I know we will succeed, but not by the strong hand of the warrior, nor the peculiar gifts of the statesman, nor by oratory, nor by cunning and craftiness, nor by any honors that the world can heap upon us, though they were to make us the head of the nation. It is God that will do it, and no one else. Union must be in the hearts of these men and these women, or they will not accomplish what God designs them to do in the latter days.

Now, brethren and sisters, what will we do with the things that God has given us? I appeal to my own heart; I appeal to the hearts of the brethren. In humility let us seek Him; in union let us go unto Him and plead with Him; for we must not be forsaken. As individuals we must have Him with us. As fathers of households we must have His Spirit with us to guide the family God has given us; also as mothers, who bear the bodies that clothe the spirits that come to us. Brethren and sisters, the time has come—I feel it in my heart—for us to throw away the dissensions that rise in our hearts, the worldly ambitions that prompt us to do things that are not of God. We must render to God the things that are God's and to Cæsar the pride of the world and the things there-

of and prepare for the honest of every nation that will come unto us and will claim of us sustenance and protection, which He will enable us to give to them if we are faithful. I pray that the blessings of God may be upon this people; that humility may be given us instead of pride; that the peace of the Spirit may be given us instead of the turmoil and confusion that wait upon the spirit that the world is in possession of; that the peace and blessing of God may be in our habitations and in our hearts, with our families, with our neighbors, with the whole people, throughout the length and breadth of the land, and in all the departments of this great and glorious cause which God has entrusted to us, is my humble prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Written for this Paper.

MINISTER KURINO.

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HERE IS NO abler diplomat in Washington than his excellency, Mr. Shinichiro Kurino, the minister from Japan. He came to the capital at the beginning of the war between this country and China, and he has handled Japanese affairs in a masterly manner. He is a man of broad culture, is full of ideas, and he is less backward in expressing his opinion than many of the others of the diplomatic corps. He is a man of social qualities, and his functions at the legation have been among the most noted given there. Straight, well formed and dignified, he has the features and complexion of a Japanese, but his personal appearance is such as would command attention in any company of prominent men, and he has shown himself to be a living example of the wonderful strength and possibilities of the Japanese people. He is a man of wide experience. His father was one of the most prominent of the Samurai in the service of Prince Kuroda and when the prince in 1874 sent a number of Japanese youths to America to be educated Mr. Kurino was among them. He went to school in Boston and graduated there at the Cambridge law school about 1881. He then went back to Japan and entered the foreign office or department of state. He has been connected with this office in different positions from that time until now, when he has come to the United States to represent his country at perhaps the most critical time in its history. He was for a time chief of the bureau of international telegraphs and as such was sent to Europe not long ago to an international conference on the subject. He has at different times been sent to Corea on diplomatic business and he was there in 1882, and in 1884 when the revolution occurred, and he was again in Corea just before the opening of the present war, having been sent there to report to the government as to the situation. Knowing as he does all about his own country and having had a long experience as to all

matters connected with China, there is no man in the world who is better fitted to discuss the present situation in the far east. I called upon him the other day at the legation and had a long talk regarding the settlement of the war and its effect upon Japan and the nations of the west. The talk was entirely a personal one, and Minister Kurino was very particular to state that his views were those of an individual, that he spoke only for himself and not the Japanese government.

WHAT JAPAN GOT BY THE WAR.

One of my first questions was as to what Japan got by the war, and as to what changes the war would make on the face of Asia?

He replied: "It will make changes of a very important description in Asia. Japan will, of course, have the island of Formosa, but as regards the occupation of the main-land or any portion of it, the matter now being the subject of negotiation of the most delicate nature, it would hardly be proper for me to express an opinion on the subject.

"There is one thing, however, that I would like to say, and that is as to the assertion which seems to have gained some credence that the Japanese nation are eager to aggrandize themselves by the acquisition of foreign territory. We are not land crazy, and we have never striven for colonial acquisition. Whatever concessions we may have gained from China in this direction are the legitimate results of the struggle we have waged with her, either in the extension of territory which our geographical position renders natural or proper, or by its acquisition for purposes of necessary defense against future attacks."

THE ISLAND OF FORMOSA.

"How about Formosa?" your excellency, I asked. "Does Japan gain much by its acquisition?"

"I think it does," replied the minister. "Formosa is essentially a part of a long train of the Japanese islands. These run from Yezo down to Nagasaki, then break out a little further below in the Loo Choo Islands. Formosa is a natural part of this chain. The island can hardly be called a Chinese province, except in name. Its Chinese population is not large, and a great many of the inhabitants are savages, who live by hunting, and who have long been a menace to all strangers shipwrecked on their coasts. They have in the past killed Japanese, French, English and Americans, and it is said that they eat part of the bodies of their enemies.

"They are not cannibals in the ordinary sense of the word, but they celebrate their victories by feasts of this kind. They tattoo their faces and skin, and they are divided up into tribes. These men are very fierce, and the Japanese, in taking the island, will control them. Under the Chinese rule they have been allowed to do as they pleased. You remember in 1872 a Japanese crew which was shipwrecked on their coasts was slaughtered by them. We sent an embassy to Peking and demanded redress, and that the offenders be given up to justice. The Yung li yamen, or bureau of foreign affairs, said they could not restrain the savages. Our embassy then replied that if they would give the Japanese permission to do so, that they would control them. This was acceded to, and an expedition was sent from Japan to Formosa. The