

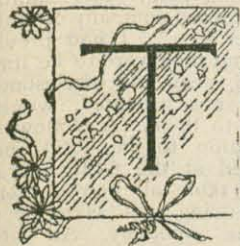
deemer. I know that God lives. I know that Jesus is the Christ. I know that by faith and prayer miracles can be wrought, not only to the healing of the sick, but to the overcoming of our bad propensities. I know that Joseph Smith was a true servant of the Son of God, and that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, presided over by Presidents Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, is the Church of the living God. I bear this solemn testimony to you, and rejoice that I have the privilege. You may ask me how I know it. I have had an experience of over forty years in it. I have seen the power of God manifested. I have seen the signs follow the believer. Above all, I have had the witness of the Holy Spirit. No matter what course I may take in the future, though I may be overcome and fall away, it will never invalidate this testimony, for I testify in all solemnity that God has spoken from the Heavens, He has established His Church upon the earth, and blessed are they who have ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to comprehend the glorious principles of this everlasting Gospel.

I wish to testify that I am in harmony with the First Presidency and the Apostles, and that I strive, in my weak way, to magnify my calling and to fulfil the individual mission that our Heavenly Father has given unto me. May He give us all grace to accomplish the missions that He has given unto us. We have come many miles to hear the word of the Lord, and I am well repaid, if I do not hear another word, for my long journey and the difficulties and fatigues thereof. I suppose there is not a man or woman that has come to Conference but that feels to say, "Glory be to the God of Israel, who hath spoken in these days, who feeds us with the bread of life, and who teaches us of His ways that we may walk in His paths." That we may have the understanding heart and grace to overcome and endure unto the end in His kingdom is my earnest prayer, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Written for this Paper

EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

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HERE is no ruler in the world so interesting today as the Emperor of Japan. He has moved from his capital, Tokyo, 400 miles west-

ward, to his naval station at Hiroshima, and he has practically taken control of his army. He has his parliament and his cabinet with him, and he is directing the naval and military forces by telegraph. There is no monarch in the world who is less understood, and of whom the world knows so little. You hear little said about him in Japan, and the information which I got had to be worked for, and it only came in response to many questions. Among others whom I interviewed on the subject was his majesty's grand master of ceremonies, Mr. Sannomiya. He told me that the emperor was the hardest worked man in Japan, and that he had directions to

bring all telegrams that came concerning the rebellion in Corea directly to him, no matter what hour of the night they came. He said his whole day was devoted to work, and that he had his fingers on nearly every branch of the government. I heard the same from other Japanese statesmen, and the change in Japan is no more wonderful than the change which has taken place in the character of the emperor.

KEPT IN A GLASS CAGE.

The present emperor of Japan was kept in a sort of a glass cage, figuratively speaking, during the first third of his life. He was forty five years old last November, and he was put on the throne at the age of fifteen. This was when the Shogun was still commander-in-chief of the army, and was practically the ruler of Japan. I had at one time in Kioto a guide furnished me by the governor of the city, and he took me into the palace of the emperor, where the present mikado lived for the first part of his life, and he told me something about him. At this time he was so holy that no one mentioned his name. When it was necessary to write it a letter was left out from reverence. He was, like the Emperor of China, a sort of a son of heaven, and he was kept in this big palace, surrounded by a baker's dozen or so of concubines and a lot of servants. Whenever he went out it was in a closed cart, and he knew nothing whatever of what was going on in Japan. I saw his throne. It looked more like a four-poster bedstead than anything else. It was covered with fine white silk, and the emperor sat cross-legged on the floor, and he had a couple of swords on tables beside him. I had to take off my shoes before I was admitted into the palace, and I walked for about a mile over soft matted floors. The palace is altogether Japanese in structure. It has sliding walls covered with gold leaf, and it is decorated with paintings by the old Japanese masters. It was in it that the emperor received the foreigners for the first time. This was about twenty-six years ago, and it was shortly after that that he moved his court to Tokyo. He has visited Kioto several times since then, and at one time came back to open the railroad at Kobe.

THE EMPEROR'S PALACES.

The home of the mikado at Tokyo is far different from these old Japanese palaces in Kioto. He has a vast estate right in the center of the city, made up of hill and valley, containing lakes and woods, and vast one story palaces. It is surrounded by three moats, some of which are crossed by marble bridges, and at all of which you find soldiers in modern uniforms. These moats are in places from 100 to 200 feet wide. They are filled with water and magnificent lotus flowers float upon them on sheets of green leaves.

His palaces are now a combination of Europe and Japan. They cost three million dollars, and the walls of many of the rooms are sliding ones, made of immense plate-doors in lacquered frames. They are so arranged that a great number of rooms can be thrown into one, and many of the parlors are large. Some are ceiled with the most magnificent embroideries, and there is one room which has a ceiling of gold-thread tapestry, the cloth covering of which cost \$10,000. Many of the floors are inlaid, and they are all covered with

the finest and softest of white mats, on the top of some of which are magnificent rugs. I don't know how many rooms there are in the palace buildings, but they run well up into the hundreds. There is one dining room that will seat one hundred people. There are ball rooms and drawing rooms, libraries and studios, and there are bed rooms furnished in both foreign and Japanese style. The banqueting hall takes 540 square yards of matting to cover it. Its ceiling glows with gold, and its walls are hung with the costliest silk. There are six imperial studios in the palace, and the throne chamber has a ceiling paneled with the Japanese crests. It is here that the emperor receives the foreign ministers, and he talks to them through interpreters. They bow three times when they come in, and also bow three times when they back out, and the receptions, as a rule, are very stiff on the part of both the mikado and the foreigners.

THE MIKADO'S DAILY LIFE.

The Emperor of Japan, according to the people most closely connected with him at Tokyo, has by no means an easy office to fill. Japan now contains more than 40,000,000 people, and there are a baker's dozen of political factions, many of which are anxious to create trouble. The changing condition of the people makes plenty of work. You can never tell who is going to fly off on a tangent, and the newspapers have to be carefully watched. The emperor keeps his eyes on everything. At least, I was told so. He rises early, and breakfasts about seven o'clock. He uses a knife and fork whenever he takes foreign food, but he prefers the chopsticks at his Japanese dinners. He eats both kinds of food, and is very fond of rice, taking it with every meal. He likes meats, and is by no means averse to sweets. He usually eats his breakfast alone and also his lunch. His dinner is served in table d'hôte style and with all the European accompaniments. Contrary to the regular practice in Japanese families, his wife often sits down at the table with him, and also the crown prince. His work begins as soon as his breakfast is over. From nine o'clock until twelve he receives his ministers and discusses matters of state. After this he takes his lunch, and then spends a little time in reading newspapers. He watches closely the Japanese press, keeps track of current public opinion, and, I venture, changes his actions somewhat to suit it. All the papers are looked over for him, and the passages which he should see are marked. Ordinary misstatements or criticisms he passes over, but if a newspaper becomes at all dangerous, he gives an order to his censors, and the newspaper is stopped, while its editors are liable to be thrown into prison. He has also the leading foreign papers, and the articles of these which treat of Japan are translated for him, and he keeps track of public opinion all over the world. He takes our illustrated papers, and the articles relating to the pictures in them are sometimes translated. He does a great deal of work in the afternoon, but toward evening goes out for exercise. He is a good horseback rider, and is fond of fine horses. He has about three hundred in his stables, and these are of all kinds, including a number of fine hunters. The emperor is fond of hunting, and he has large game preserves where there are deer and wild pigs. There are plenty of