

savages were conquered and subdued. Our men began to make some improvements, and we instituted a government over the parts we had conquered. The Chinese at once became alarmed, and they demanded that the Japanese leave Formosa. They were so earnest about it that they paid the Japanese the sum of 500,000 taels in order to get them to go. In the presentation of the money, it was put on the ground that the Japanese had done work to the amount of the money given in road-building, etc.

"Is Formosa a rich country?"

"Yes, it is very rich," was the reply. "It has been, at times, called the granary of China. It produces the finest tea, and the Formosa tea commands the highest prices in China. It yields great quantities of rice. It has valuable forests, and it is said to contain fine sugar-growing territory. It has coal, and its mineral resources are as yet undeveloped. A chain of mountains runs through the island, but it has large alluvial plains, and it is well watered. It is indeed a valuable acquisition."

"What will the Japanese do with it?"

"I do not know," replied the minister. "But I presume that it will be colonized and developed. The government will probably offer extraordinary inducements to the people to emigrate to it. Japanese capital will be organized to develop its resources, and it may be that the Japanese of the Sandwich Islands will come to Formosa and be induced to go into sugar raising there. They know all about the business, you know, from their employment in Hawaii, and they will probably be glad to make the change. The Japanese government has hitherto endeavored to promote the colonization of the Island of Yezo with some degree of success; but private enterprise, from lack of capital, and, perhaps, partly from climatic reasons, has not done so well there. Formosa will prove a more tempting field for immigration, especially to the inhabitants of southern Japan."

WILL JAPAN MONOPOLIZE COREA?

"I suppose the Japanese will monopolize all concessions which may be given out for the development of Corea," said I.

"No, I think not," replied the minister. "It is not the intention of Japan to ask for any special favors for herself or her people in Corea. The citizens of European nations and those of the United States will have the same chance to get concessions there as will the Japanese. The probability is that the Japanese will not invest much in Corea, and that they will turn their attention more to Formosa. What Japan has done in this respect is to make such concessions possible. In the past the Chinese minister Yuan took care to prevent such concessions. I know that several big contracts were about to be let at different times to American capitalists when, from some mysterious cause, they were broken off at the last moment. I have been told that the Chinese minister was this cause."

COREA'S OPPORTUNITY.

"What has Japan done for Corea?" I asked.

"She has established her independence and given her a chance to do everything for herself," was Minister Kurino's reply. "From now on it can have the right to send ministers to such foreign countries as it pleases, and it will take its place throughout the world as an in-

dependent nation. As to its future, Japan expects Corea to work that out for herself. She will be read to advise and assist, if called upon, and she has given a list of reforms to the king which she thinks should be inaugurated. The king has promised to do this, but politics are in such a condition, and the state of society is such, that his power is very limited. Already the nobles of the country are clogging his efforts in this direction in many ways. The officials of Corea are degraded and corrupt. They have been living off of the people, and they dislike to give up their power. The Augean stables of Corea cannot be cleaned in a day, but Japan has laid out the plan, and if the Koreans follow it, they will eventually become civilized."

JAPAN'S ADVICE TO COREA.

"Give me some of the reforms which Japan advises the Koreans to make."

"They are many," replied Mr. Kurino. "They are being introduced into Corea at the instigation and under the supervision of Count Inouye, and if the country and the people will adopt them they will lead to a thorough reorganization of the government and to the prosperity of the people. Count Inouye proposed twenty-two measures of reform. In the first place he advised that the public administration should be directed by one sovereign power, the king. This was to avoid the evils which have been so prevalent on account of the different ministers and the queen, claiming that they had an almost equal right with the king as to certain classes of public affairs. Another provision modified this power of the king in that it made him bound to respect and obey the laws which were enacted for the government of his country. Heretofore the king at the instigation of his advisers has changed the laws without due notice, and his servants and himself have sometimes disregarded the laws altogether. Other provisions regulated the establishment of criminal laws uniform in their nature. They put the police authority under one direction and fixed laws against bribery and improper taxation. They provided for an organization of the local officials, so that their exact authority should be fixed and that they should work under the central government."

"Count Inouye suggested the putting down of political intrigues, of reforming the army and of sending students abroad to study foreign civilization. One of his suggestions related to the royal household and provided that it should be entirely separated from the general administration of the government. He advised that all public business should be conducted by the ministers and no one in the royal household should have the right to interfere. All taxes are to be administered by the treasury department and no tax should be imposed upon the people under any pretext beyond the rate fixed by law."

"This last," said Minister Kurino, "was a very important suggestion. Heretofore the king, the queen, the crown prince and all the departments of the government have been in the habit of imposing taxes. They did this more in accordance with their necessity than with law or justice, and the people did not know what taxes they would have to expect. Count Inouye suggested that the expenditures of the royal household should be fixed by law, and his

scheme all told, if carried out, will give Corea a good modern government."

WHAT JAPAN HAS DONE.

"What has Japan done as to carrying out these reforms?"

"It has made it possible for the Koreans to carry them out if they will," replied Minister Kurino. "They are having the advice and assistance of one of the ablest men of the far east. No statesman stands higher in my country than Count Inouye. He ranks with Count Ito as one of the greatest of our statesmen. He has held the most important positions in our government. He is one of the chief advisers of the emperor and he sacrificed a great deal when he stepped down from his high position and took the office of minister to Corea in order that he might be able to help them in the work of civilization. Count Inouye signed the first treaty of peace which Japan made with Corea, about twenty years ago, and he was connected with the country in nearly every movement in which Japan has been connected with it since then. The most of the reforms which have been proposed to the Koreans have been suggested by Count Inouye. He has been the adviser of the king and the cabinet in carrying out these new ideas since the Chinese were driven out of the country. He gives advice, but he believes that Corea should act for herself."

"Then it is not the intention of Japan to make Corea in any respect tributary to her?"

"No, not in the least," replied Mr. Kurino. "The administration is left entirely with the Koreans. The king, the queen and the Tai Wen Kun, or the king's father, are all concerned in the new administration. A new cabinet has been organized, and it contains ten members now instead of six as before. It has its ministers of finance, war, education and foreign affairs. It has its secretaries of justice, and its secretary of the interior and other officials, just as the Japanese cabinet has. The cabinet consult with Count Inouye, and some of them undoubtedly wish to see Corea modernized. Others do not, and the desire for personal aggrandizement and personal profit is a strong element in every question."

WHAT THE WORLD GAINS.

"What has Japan done for the world in this war?"

"I think it has done a good deal," replied the minister. "It has made a number of experiments in the arts of war which will benefit the other nations in their wars of the future. It has tested the value of modern boats and guns. It has given the world a number of new avenues of trade in China. By the terms of peace, as I have seen them, the Chinese now agree to allow all kinds of machinery to be imported into their country. They consent to allow foreigners to establish and to engage in manufacturing industries. Japan did not ask these things solely for herself. She demanded them for the world, and they are more to the advantage of the United States and Europe than they will be to Japan. We do not, as yet, make machinery for export. It is doubtful whether we ever will. The Americans make some of the best machinery of the world, and one of their chief articles of export is machinery. On the above lines such development as occurs in China will be largely through Europe."