

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Written for this Paper.*

## ACROSS THE PACIFIC.



UNDER the shadow of the snow-clad mountain, Fujiyami! In the heart of flowery Japan when the snow is on the ground! In the land of the rising sun with the sun left out! Surrounded by a bare-necked, bare-chested and almost bare-legged nation on stilts, I shiver in my overcoat as I write for the homes of the base burner and the furnace. Within the past three weeks I have traveled 8,000 miles and have now nearly reached the other side of the globe. I am on my way to interior China, and a month later I will be in the very center of the great Chinese empire. I have come to the far east to tell you of the wonderful changes that are taking place on the other side of the world. Asia is now one of the great news centers of the globe. It is making history faster than either America or Europe, and a wonderful change is going on among the nations of slant-eyed humanity, which is bound to effect every man, woman and child in Christendom. This land of Japan made the start and it has now on its feet the seven league boots of modern progress. It is jumping ahead faster than any people have ever jumped in the past and within twenty years it has grown more in civilization than the European nations have advanced in centuries. I see from a Japanese newspaper of this morning that Japan made last year one hundred and twenty million postal cards at a cost of 50 cents per thousand. I can hardly realize it, and think there must be a mistake in the figures. But there is no doubt that the postal service here is as good and as cheap as that of the United States and these people run their postal arrangements, paying for everything in silver, more cheaply than we do paying in gold. The banking systems, railroads, telegraphs and schools of Japan are managed almost as carefully and as intelligently as those of the United States. There are one hundred periodicals published in the city of Tokyo alone, and the newspapers are read by the millions. In business and manufacturing on a large scale there is a movement all over the land, and reports of the elections, which are now taking place in the different provinces, show as many quarrels and as much bribery as though the Japs had taken lessons of our ring politicians.

A slower but as sure a revolution is going on in China. The four hundred odd millions of pig-tailed celestials are

pulling the slits of their button hole eyelids apart, and it is only a question of time how soon they will be putting their wonderful muscles, their sharp business brains and their five cents a day habits of living into competition with our eight hour, two-dollar-a-day laborers as to the manufactured products of the world. They have coal and iron in every one of their eighteen provinces. They can do as good work as we can, and they will work twelve hours for one-twentieth the sum that our people get. When they enter the modern manufacturing race the question will not be one of competition. It will be one of existence, and we will have to build a protective tariff barrier about the country as high as the Washington monument, or cut down our living expenses to the size of the aluminum tip on the top of it. At the present time, big cotton factories have been established in almost the center of the Chinese empire. They are, I am told, making cannon and guns as good as those turned out by our government works, and the question of railroads is being agitated by some of the most progressive men of the empire. It may take generations to bring the country to the state that Japan has already reached or the revolution precipitated by a war may come with a rush. Just now both Japan and China are torn with dissensions on the subject. There are strong anti-foreign elements and an American buyer for a big New York silk firm told me this morning that he did not think it safe for him to travel over the country while the elections are taking place. The bulk of the people of China are against the foreigners and anti-foreign sentiment increases daily. The literati of the empire see the possibility of a revolution and they are disseminating all sorts of reports as to the wickedness of the missionaries and of the other "Red-headed, blue-eyed foreign devils," as they call us. Out in the country districts about this place I have often heard the words of Japanese which my interpreter tells me mean "hairy barbarian" hurled at me, and in the streets of the Chinese cities I shall probably have to pocket many an insult to avoid trouble. In Japan, where the progressive element is in the ascendancy, and I have special letters from the government, it is comparatively safe, and I shall return here and make an extended tour in the most out-of-the-way parts of the country.

The most dangerous part of my journey I find will probably be among the Chinese. I shall skip the coast ports and push my way into the interior. I will visit many large cities, some of which are hardly known to the average reader, and will travel one thousand miles or more up the great Yang-tse-kiang river. I expect to visit the old capital of the empire, known as Nanking, where the famous "Porcelain tower" was, and which is now one of the centers of the Chinese literati of the land. It has been called the Athens of China and it is one of the centers of anti-foreign influence. I will take a trip along the Grand canal, if possible, and will tell you how this wonderful artery of Chin-

ese trade is managed. About seven hundred miles from the coast there is a viceroy, who is famous all over the celestial world for his progressive ideas. I shall spend some time at his capital, the city of Hankow, which with its suburbs, contains more than a million people, and from thence will push my way further into the interior to Ichang, where is some of the most wonderful scenery in the world. The gorges of the Yang-tse-kiang near this point are thousands of feet deep, and they are said to have no superior in their picturesque grandeur. I will have my photographer with me both in the cities and in the country. Leaving this part of China, I will next go to the north and again visit the capital. Peking has a million inhabitants, and of these I doubt whether a thousand think that we Americans are anything else than barbarians. When I was there before, now five years ago, I was told that the street on which all of the foreign legations are located was called the "Street of the Subject Nations," and today 900,000 of the people of Peking actually believe that the American minister to China and the ministers from Russia, France and England are at the capital to pay their respects to their emperor and to give tribute to him. I will take some trips through this part of China and will describe the Chinese of the north, who are as different in their appearance, manners and customs from the Cantonese Chinese, who come to America, as the inhabitants of North Germany are different from the Lazzaroni of Naples. Our Chinese are short and small boned. The Tartars and the Chinese of the north have many men six feet in height and they are as strong in intellect and physique as any people in the world. At Peking are the great universities of the empire and in some of these they are now teaching our sciences, and the big Chinese examinations of the future will probably embrace geology and astronomy as well as the essays of Confucius. The hatred of foreigners is great and the majority of the people would like to see the Americans and Europeans excluded.

After leaving North China, I shall sail for Korea, where there is another live news center. The king is in favor of foreign methods, and these people, who have a civilization about 400 years behind that of the China of today, may yet outstrip them in civilization. The king and his queen, and the thousand odd eunuchs of the palace, now conduct all the business under the rays of the electric light, and I understand there is an American employed to build an electric railroad at the capital. The anti-foreign influence exists here as well as in China, but the people are more kindly, and I hope that such arrangements can be made as to enable me to go right across the kingdom from one side to the other. It will take several mule loads of money to pay my expenses on this trip, for the only coin in circulation is the copper cash, and twenty-five of our dollars in this would weigh at least 300 pounds.

From Korea I may go to Siberia and give a letter on the trans-Siberian railroad from its terminus, Vladivostock, or I may sail direct for Japan and visit the Alaska of that country, where are the hairy Ainos, who worship bears, and keep themselves, as far as possible, drunk from one years end to the other.