

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

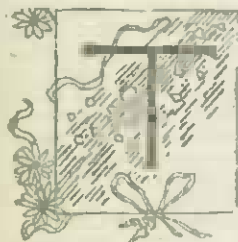
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## ASIATIC TRAVEL.

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THE Hon. Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois, and several other Congressmen expect to leave within a week or so for Japan. They will spend the summer in Asia, and will return by the opening of the next congressional session to the United States. The war between China and Japan has created a great interest in eastern matters, and I am told that more Americans will visit Asia this summer than ever before. For the past ten years the travel to Japan has been increasing. Last summer the seaport hotels were full of American travelers. There were fifteen people from Washington city registered at the Grand Hotel during a part of my stay in Yokohama, and you could not number the Chicago guests on your fingers and toes. As far as traveling for pleasure in Japan is concerned, you meet there two Americans to every other foreigner, and this year our people will cross the Pacific by the hundreds. I meet every day men who tell me they are going to Japan. Some are rich, and are going for fun. Others are business men who are planning such trips to investigate the chances for investment and speculation in Asia. I met two young mechanics yesterday who said they were going to China to take advantage of the manufacturing and railroad movement which would probably follow on the heels of this war, and a big coal operator told me this morning that he was going out to look into the coal mines of Corea and China. I receive letters every day asking me as to the cost of a trip over the Pacific, and as to matters of travel in Asia, and these I wish to answer as far as possible in this letter.

### THE COST OF AN ASIATIC TRIP.

First as to the cost of a trip to Japan. This depends, of course, on the man. It can be made very cheaply, or it may figure up a good round sum. Traveling in Japan is comparatively cheaper than traveling in Europe, and you can make a trip in Asia for less money than it will cost you to do the great European capitals. The advantage lies chiefly in the matter of exchange. The money you take from America is gold, and the Asiatic countries are all on the silver

basis. The result is you get about two dollars for one. For every hundred dollars which I drew on my letter of credit last year I received from \$190 to \$200 in silver. These had in nearly every respect as great a purchasing power as the same number of gold dollars in America, and it cut down my expenses nearly one-half.

The average cost of travel comfortably anywhere in the world is about \$10 per day. During the trip which I took around the world about six years ago I had my wife with me, and we traveled twelve months on Asiatic soil. It cost us just \$20 a day during that trip, and the distances were great. Such an expenditure ought to include the best hotels, carriages, interpreters and all the necessities of travel. It can, of course, be greatly reduced if a man wishes to cut things down to the lowest notch. I met one young fellow who told me that he was going to spend a year in his tour of the globe, and that his expenses would be less than \$1,500. He traveled second-class on the steamers and sought the cheapest hotels. Another of my traveling acquaintances was spending not more than \$3 a day, but I afterwards found that this man had cut down his expenses by sponging off the missionaries, and by making most of his tours on foot. The reduction in silver, however, has materially reduced the cost of the Japanese trip, and, after the ocean voyage is paid for, one ought to be able to travel comfortably in Japan for about \$7.50 a day in gold.

### THREE MONTHS IN JAPAN FOR \$1,000.

You can take a three months' trip to Japan for \$1,000, and have all the comforts. You could travel very well for that time on \$600, and if you were especially economical I believe you could make it for even less than this. This is on the presumption that the start is made from San Francisco or Vancouver. If you go from New York you must add about \$200 for the return trip and sleepers across the continent. Here are some of the items: The round-trip from San Francisco or Vancouver to Yokohama, Japan, in a first class steamer will cost you \$300 in gold. If you are going to confine your expenses to \$600, you have \$300 left to spend. You take this to one of the banks, and they will give you nearly \$600 in silver for it. The trip across the Pacific and back will take fully one month of your time, and you will have about sixty days left. This gives you an average of \$10 in silver a day to spend, and, provided you do not go out of Japan, this ought to be sufficient. Hotels will cost you at the seaports from \$3 to \$6 per day. These hotels are for foreigners, and

they are as comfortable as any you will find in the world. Similar hotels are to be found in all the large cities, and the charges are about the same everywhere. I paid \$4.50 a day at the Grand Hotel at Yokohama. At the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo, I paid \$5 a day, and in Kioto and Kobe my bill was about \$4 per day. The first-class railroad accommodations cost less than they do in America, and the cars are equally comfortable. The hotels above referred to have suitable accommodation for ladies. The service is better than that you get in America, and the cooking is up to the standard of our best hotels. The rich traveler or the man who would spend, say, from \$8 to \$10 a day in gold can travel as luxuriously as he can anywhere in Europe. The people are kind, and there is no danger anywhere you go.

### ECONOMICAL TRAVELING IN JAPAN.

The economical traveler, on the other hand, can cut down his expenses very materially by avoiding the big foreign hotels and living as the Japanese do. This is the real way of travel in Japan. The foreign hotels are filled with Americans and English, and you might as well be in New York as in Tokyo, for all the Japanese life that you see at the Imperial Hotel. At the Japanese hotels you will have to sleep on the floor, but your bed will be made of thick padded quilts, and you will get your eating and lodging for less than \$2 in silver per day. Away from the big cities you will pay only about fifty cents in silver for supper bed and breakfast, and everything will be proportionately cheap. You will not have a porcelain bath tub with hot and cold water, but your bath will be furnished you in a wooded barrel, and the water will be next to boiling. You will be lucky if you get the first bath, and at many of the hotels, if you do not decidedly object, you will have some of the female servants of the establishment aiding you in your dressing and undressing, your soaping and scouring. You can cut down your railroad fares by going second class. The cars of this class are exceedingly comfortable. They have their seats running along under the windows like those of a street car, and there is usually enough room so that you can lie down and take a nap during the journey. There are refreshments for sale at all of the stations, and you can get a snack with a teapoful of tea for a dime. The rich traveler will probably pay \$2 a day for a guide, but an economical man will hire a student for about \$5 a week, or he will take a little translation of Japanese phrases with him and get along without the use of a servant or guide. You can travel with less language in Japan than in any other unknown country. The people are so kind, and