

pheasants, and his majesty is said to be a very good shot.

AN IMPERIAL DUCK HUNTER.

"There is one kind of game," said the man connected with the government, who gave me the above information, "which the emperor is especially fond of, and that is duck-netting. There are lots of wild ducks about Tokyo, and the emperor has great duck-ponds and duck ditches in his palace grounds into which the ducks come and are caught by means of decoys. The ponds cover acres, and they have embankments about them which are cut up by little canals running out from the pond. These canals are so lined with trees and embankments that a man can easily hide along them. The pond is studded with decoys, and grain is scattered about in the canals as bait. The ducks light and go up into the canals, where the emperor and the nobles are concealed, each with a net in his hand. They throw these over the ducks, and they catch them in large numbers. It requires great skill to throw the net properly, but the emperor has caught scores of ducks in a single day.

A RICH MONARCH.

The mikado is by no means a poor man. He receives about two million and a half of dollars to keep up his palace and his household establishment every year, and he has a large private fortune. Mr. Sannomiya, his grand master of ceremonies, told me that he knew all about his investments, and that he was a good business man. He has a great deal of money in public land. He is not extravagant in his living, and the customs of Japan are such that he does not have to entertain as extensively as the monarchs of Europe. He has magnificent turnouts, and rides about in great state. He opens parliament in person, and at the back of the senate chamber, behind the president's chair, there is a little alcove where he sits, and from whence his addresses is read to the members. He has the appointment of a large number of the members of parliament, and the constitution is so adroitly worded that he is still the almost absolute ruler of Japan.

A BLUE BLOODED MONARCH.

The Emperor of Japan is entitled to be considered the most aristocratic ruler on earth. The royal family of Japan has a genealogical tree which reaches to heaven, and their traditions state that the emperor comes from the gods. There have been one hundred and twenty-one emperors of Japan, and they all belong to this family. The first one governed Japan just about twenty-five hundred years ago. He was on the throne long before Julius Caesar aspired to be the emperor of Rome, and three hundred years before Alexander the Great thought he had conquered the world. The Japanese have the history of all of their emperors from that time down to this, and they will assure you that the mikado is a lineal descendant of the first emperor, whose name was Jimmu Tenno.

A WORD ABOUT THE EMPRESS.

Any other royal family would have run out in less than this time, especially in an isolated country like Japan, but the Japanese have a law by which the emperor cannot marry one of his own family. He has to marry the daughter of one of the court nobles, and the empress is, therefore not of royal blood.

She is the daughter of Ichijo Takada, and she is said to be a very bright woman. She comes from Kioto, in western Japan, and she was eighteen years old at the time she was married. This was away back in 1868, and foreign ways had not yet gotten well into the empire. Her majesty wore at that time Japanese clothes, and she followed, I am told, the horrible custom which prevailed throughout the old Japan in that she shaved off her eyebrows and blackened her teeth. The idea is that a good wife must show her devotion to her husband by doing this, and to render it impossible for any one else to admire her. Later on in her life, however, her majesty changed her ideas about this matter, and her eyebrows have grown out and her teeth are as white as those of any American girl. She is at the front of all movements for the introduction of the western civilization, and she frowns on the old custom of teeth-blackening, and she is at the head of all things which are proposed to better the condition of Japanese women. She has hospitals and schools, and she is one of the most charitable of monarchs.

The Noble girls' School founded by her at Tokyo is like one of our best female colleges, and it is devoted to the education of the young peeresses of the empire. Her majesty often visits it, and she has the girls call upon her at the palace.

She is not fond of society, and she is almost as busy as the emperor. She has her own secretaries, and her time is taken up with reading, study, receptions and charitable work. She likes to ride horseback, and she often takes a ride through the palace grounds. She is short rather than tall, and is slender and petite. She has not the very best of health, and was ill during a great part of the summer.

BORN TO BLUSH UNSEEN.

There are a number of ladies connected with the palaces in Tokyo who, like the flowers in Gray's Elegy, are "born to blush unseen," though they do not "waste their sweetness on the desert air," I refer to the secondary wives of the emperor. You hear nothing about these in Tokyo, and they are kept as much as possible in the back-ground. But from time immemorial the emperor has been allotted a certain number of secondary wives or concubines, and there are, I am told, twelve of these in the palace grounds. They have establishments of their own, and are the daughters of nobles. The crown prince is the son of one of them, his mother's name being Madam Yanagiwara.

JAPAN'S NEXT EMPEROR.

The crown prince was sixteen years old last September. He is a very bright boy, dark-faced and almond-eyed, of the most pronounced Japanese type. He is as straight as an arrow, and is fond of military pursuits, and is an officer, I think, in the army. He has been educated in the Nobles' School, and he is learning English and French. He has an establishment of his own inside the palace grounds, with his own servants, guards and attendants. He occasionally comes over and stays with his father, eating dinner with him and sometimes sleeping in his father's quarters. He does not look very much like his father, his face being rounder and shorter. The emperor is very dark, and his features are heavy and swarthy. He is taller

than the average Japanese, and he has the fat nose, the wide nostrils and the rather thick lips which you see all over Japan.

THE COURT AT HIROSHIMA.

The removal of the court to Hiroshima is causing a great change in this, the biggest city of western Japan. Osaka, Kioto and Kobe lie nearly a hundred miles to the eastward, and Hiroshima is the biggest town between these cities and Nagasaki, which is on the extreme west coast. Hiroshima is the naval capital of Japan, and is one of the most beautiful located towns in the world. It lies on the sea at the foot of the mountains, and the waters about it are filled with rocky islands. It is cut up by canals, and its sea view is beautiful. It has always been a great manufacturing place, but I hear that it has had a great boom since the emperor moved into it. Wages have doubled, and modern methods have come in. Barbers now charge 8 cents instead of 2 cents for a shave, and the Japanese member of parliament who wants his hair cut in foreign style has to pay 12 cents for it instead of the 4 cents which is the regular price. Provisions of all kinds have gone up, and the city is filled with concert troupes, geishas and the floating population which always hangs around a pleasure-loving center. Tokyo, the Japanese capital, has been materially injured by the change, and the theaters are only half full.

Frank G. Carpenter

PREACHING THE GOSPEL.

ST. GEORGE, Utah, Nov. 14, 1894.—On Friday, May 3rd, 1861, at Basle, Switzerland, at 5:25 p. m., over 70 Saints had arrived from the different portions of our field of labor, under charge of their respective officers, all having been duly instructed, and upon calling our roll every one answered. Upon reporting to our agent that we were all present and ready for lodgings, he stared at me in amazement and said: "Mr. Smith, this is the best ordered company of emigrants I have ever seen." I had previously arranged that they were to be furnished with good, clean and wholesome food, which, if not provided, would double the cost to them. All followed me from the station to the hotel and were soon seated at the table. At a slight rap on the table all bowed their heads, and a blessing was asked by a patriarch of the company. All ate heartily and were soon shown to their rooms.

On Saturday, 4th, the breakfast was over and all were on the train and under way at 10 a. m. We arrived at Monheim, at 8 p. m., and quartered at the hotel "Silver Anchor." Here I received a conductor's free ticket to Liverpool and return, via Rotterdam, Holland; and Hull, England. Next day at 6 a. m. all went on board the steamer Guttenberg and down the river Rhine, for Cologne, where we arrived at 8:30 p. m. The hotel was too small and our company was divided. On Monday evening, 6th, when we went on board the steamer Schiller, and continued down the Rhine, the captain and officers were very kind and tendered me the use of the cabin for any who were elderly or