

Scriptures more and encourage those that do it. Study them as you would study the analysis of any material thing, and you would find treasures of knowledge and understanding, and that they are simple and plain, comforting the heart, satisfying to the mind and food for the soul. It is given unto us in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants section cxxi, 23-33 what we may find if we can only obtain the Holy Spirit. We shall find that we have great latitude for study and for research, and for blessing and knowledge in the word of God. The revelation says that:

"God shall give unto you knowledge by His Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost; that has not been revealed since the world was until now; which our forefathers waited with anxious expectation to be revealed in the last times, and which their minds were pointed to by the angel as held in reserve for the fullness of that glory—a time to come in which nothing shall be withheld; whether there shall be one God or many Gods, they shall be manifested; all thrones, and dominions, principalities and powers shall be revealed and set forth upon all who have endured valiantly for the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and also if there be bounds set to the heavens, or to the seas, or to the dry land, or to the sun, moon or stars, all the times of their revolutions, all the appointed days, months and years, and all the days of their days, months and years, and all their glory, laws and set times shall be revealed in the days of the dispensation of the fullness of times according to that which was ordained in the midst of the councils of the eternal God of all other Gods before this world was, that shall be reserved until the finishing and the end thereof, when every man shall enter into His eternal presence and into his immortal rest."

Is there not a field of exploration that is worth the talent of anybody who has the disposition and purpose to keep the commandments of God and so live that they can receive of His Spirit? I know there are many in these days that are very technical, very stickish, asking questions requiring a good deal of hair splitting argument, and I want to say to you that it is not best to dally upon those things that are unprofitable, but search the principles of the Gospel and study them by the light of the Holy Spirit. When you cannot see and understand what you want, try, by the grace of God, to get that measure of Spirit which will throw the light, the more than calcium light, upon the subject, and so get to comprehend it. But remember, brethren and sisters, these things have to be held in righteousness. We have to hold the truth in righteousness, or else we cannot grow in Christ, or in the knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ our living head.

May the Lord bless us with His Spirit to enrich us with the knowledge of the truth; but above all to establish in us a determined purpose that as for us and ours we will serve Him, and we will treasure up line upon line, precept upon precept, until we get to see as we are seen and know as we are known. May God help us to do so, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

Prince Bernadotte, the youngest commodore in the Swedish navy, celebrated his 35th birthday.

Written for this Paper.

NEW JAPANESE INDUSTRIES.

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THE NEW treaty between Japan and the United States, which is now in the hands of the Senate, will probably make a big difference in our trade with the Japanese.

Heretofore all our business has had to be done through a limited number of the ports of the country. It has been impossible for merchants or importers to travel through the empire, picking out their own goods, and buying direct from the manufacturers. All business has been done through middlemen, who are Japanese. By this treaty Americans can go into business anywhere in Japan. They can set up factories and employ Japanese cheap labor to make goods for America, and they can buy where they please. The new treaty will make a great change in Japan, and it will probably be the most prosperous country in the world during the next five or ten years. The settlement of the Chinese war will bring a great amount of money into the country. The biggest cities are already building factories, and foreign trade is being cultivated in every possible way. The Japanese have for some time realized that the markets of the world are open to them. They are now studying our tastes, and they are manufacturing for our markets. They are fast becoming a nation of inventors, and during the past summer I spent some weeks in looking up their new industries, especially those which are springing up with a view to American markets. One of these was the business growing up in Japanese rugs and matting. It is really wonderful what they have done within a few years in these branches of trade. The Japanese had no rugs before they began to take up the new civilization. They are now making the most beautiful rugs in the world, and also the cheapest. There is an American firm in Kobe, which is shipping vast quantities of rugs to the United States, and which is introducing the manufacture into Japan in a curious way. Perhaps the most expensive book ever made was produced by this firm. They had artists go to all the great museums of Europe and copy the colors and patterns of the finest rugs in the world. They bound these patterns into a book, which they sent out in Japan and put into the hands of the workmen, and now these famous rugs, are being copied in jute. The jute was brought from India, and the new rugs are equal in colors to the originals. They sell for a song in comparison with the Turkish rugs, and there is a possibility that the Japanese will take up the making of woolen rugs. If they do so, they will crowd the eastern rugs out of the market, for they are born artists, and every child in the empire is a genius as to the manipula-

tion of colors. There are villages in Japan that make nothing but these rugs. I visited one known as Sakai, near Osaka, and I was introduced to the biggest of the manufacturers, a man who employed three thousand hands. The work was done almost altogether by hand, and in houses which looked more like stables than anything else. The proprietor's name was Mitani, and he was a very bright Japanese indeed. He had two hundred houses in his establishment, and he took me to a number of these. Some of the children who were working at rug-making were under six years of age, and there were a number of girls about ten. They receive from seven to eight cents in silver a day, and they work from eight in the morning until six at night, having an hour at noon for lunch. They work Sundays and week days, but have two holidays during each month. I talked with Mr. Mitani as to the prices of the rugs, and it is wonderful how cheaply they can be made. Take a rug three feet wide by six feet long of the kind that is used for hearth rugs in the United States, and which costs when sold at home about \$2.25. It takes a Japanese four days to make one of these rugs. The jute has to be imported. It must pay a duty on coming into Japan, and the rugs, I think, pay a duty on going into America. Altogether out of this \$2.25 there comes about sixteen profits, and the wages are so low that the Japanese can afford to make them. The Japanese are making some very curious rugs now. Their cotton rugs are good and cheap, though the best, which are very closely woven, cost about as much as our imitation Smyrna rugs.

THE NEW JAPANESE MATTING.

I talked some time with Mr. George Flood the head of a new American firm, about the matting industry which has recently sprung up in Japan, and which is now driving the Chinese matting out of our markets. He says that it is only four or five years now since the Japanese began to export this article, and that we already take 250,000 rolls a year. The matting comes from near Hiroshima, where the emperor has been holding his court during the war with China. It has been used for years by the Japanese as a covering for their floors, but it was made only in white patterns and the mats were put together in the form of cushions about three feet wide and six feet long, and the houses were so built that a number of these mats just fitted into each room, and the size of a room in Japan is known by the number of mats it takes to cover it. Very little of the matting such as is sent to America is used in Japan, and the industry has grown up just for the export trade. These mats are now woven in colors, and they are, if anything, thinner than the Chinese matting and are much more beautiful in their artistic finish. Some look as though they were woven of threads of gold and others are as fine as a Panama hat. The Japanese originate new patterns every year. They don't like to work after the old styles. Different workmen exchange ideas, and they produce new things every year. This matting is made out of a reed which grows without knots. It is much like rice, but it produces no seed of value. It has a market value and is sold by the pound. It needs a warm climate. It is harvested like wheat, and is well dried and bleached before it is sold. The-