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## THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF JAPAN'S SUCCESS ON MISSIONS IN ASIA

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A student of Asiatic affairs conversant with the sinuosities of their ways of looking at things will speak with hesitation as to the turn events may take as a result of the present struggle in the Far East, but "revolutions never go backward." Great providential movements once started may subside temporarily but not permanently. Like the waves of the sea, subsidence is immediately followed by a greater uplift beyond.

Does God ever use war in the furtherance of His purposes of grace? The query is an ancient one, and there is an ancient answer: "Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee. The remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain." In His administrative department, God has many agencies for the government of the nations. Fire and hail, snow and vapor, stormy wind fulfilling His word, flood and famine, the pestilence that walketh in darkness, the battle bow, the jostling chariot with a rush of impetuous hosts, are all of them His servants. One who wants to study the part these providences take in bringing the rebellious to submission need only to glance through the book of Judges.

### The War as a Formative Agency

The "war," in its comprehensive sense, includes three distinct and yet concatenated events—the Chino-Japanese War, the Boxer Outbreak, and the present Russo-Japanese War. These three have conspired to produce the tremendous cataclysm which has occurred in Northeastern Asia.

The Chino-Japanese War came on China like a thunderbolt. Never before had she been so awfully beaten. The wars with England were mere scratches in comparison. The indemnities paid to England and to the allies were like the petty fines imposed in a police court. Japan, struck heavily. China was compelled to "bleed white" to the

the people, who have suffered, into its confidence. Quiet has now been restored.

### AFRICA

**The Outlook in Abyssinia** Abyssinia seems about to open its gates to the Gospel. Our Swedish missionaries have made many attempts to reach the interior through the valley of the Blue Nile by way of Zeila on the Red Sea. They have at last reached the capital of the Gallas through a converted Galla educated by them at Stockholm. He presented himself to Addis Ababa, the Abyssinian capital and the Coptic Archbishop explained his mission to Menelik, the emperor. The Lord led him to take a favorable view of the project, so that he bade the missionary God-speed. The name of this convert is Onesimus, and he has carried his Bible printed in the language of the Gallas, and reports that he was cordially received. The Swedish mission is now preparing a whole series of evangelical works in the language of this people, and hopes to establish a permanent center of Christian work.

**A New Mission in Nigeria** An interdenominational missionary society, known as the United London Missionary Society, has been formed in Great Britain, with headquarters at Sheffield, its field being North Nigeria, its first station being Wase, 400 miles from the mouth of the Niger. Six missionaries needed to represent the work on the field.

**The Prosiac Side of Missions** The United Presbyterians have recently opened a mission on the Upper Nile. Concerning the situation, one of them writes:

One of the difficult problems of life in Southern Sudan has to do

with the erection of buildings. There is an absence of timber such as would furnish sufficient and satisfactory wood. If wood is brought up the river, the white ants speedily attack it, and houses have to be reconstructed every few years. If the walls are built of mud, after the native fashion, the rains wash them down and constant repairs prove an annoyance. The effort to make brick has not been altogether satisfactory, owing to the presence of shell in the soil; these, after burning, slack whenever they become wet, and the bricks crumble. The location of stone within fifty miles may prove the solution of the problem, and enable us to erect buildings which will be permanent and sanitary.

**Gospel Progress on the Kongo** L. A. de Yampert writes to the *Missionary*: "Eight different Protestant societies are at work in the Kongo valley, with 179 missionaries. The latest annual report of these missions give a sum total of 40 main stations, with 301 outstations, with a total church-membership of 8,812, and 1,836 in the catechumen classes being taught for church-membership. There are 811 native teachers and evangelists, 7,130 Sunday-school scholars, and 13,880 day-school pupils, and 5,810 are reported as members of the various temperance and young peoples' societies. This sum total is a marked increase over that of previous years.

**Giving of Their Poverty** The British and Foreign Bible Society has received from Rev. Mr. Casalis, of the Paris Mission, in Basutoland, South Africa, \$826 as an offering for its Century Fund from the Basuto churches. About \$40 of this amount is from a newly organized church, under charge of a young native pastor, which has very few men on its list of members. The most of the money came from the 60 women of the church. These