girl who loved luxury, this butterfly of fashion, who had breathed no other atmosphere, would be as remote from him as a star.

They went out on a balcony with their ices, the murmur and the glitter behind them, the music sounding far within, the unseen moon shining on the dewy garden underneath. "I am glad," said he, "that my last dance with you was so perfect." She looked up quickly. "My last dance," he said. "I am going away. I came here with a fortune; I am going away without it. I have been gambling—oh, none of the vulgar gambling, but that with the glamour of the gigantesque about it; a nation taking a hand in the game—and I have gotten what I deserved, beggary! It may be I can in some manner retrieve myself; but probably not. In that case my only resource is to go West. So good-by, Miss Vavasour. But before we part I am going to tell you, just as a devotee tells his god, without hope of reward—and now that it can not make any difference to you—that I love you. I love you from my soul, and I always shall. Don't speak; oh, pray, don't answer me: I only want the satisfaction of having told you, the memory of your sweet face as you listened to me. For, come cloud or sunshine, it will always be sunshine to me to think I love you, and that you know I love you!"

He did not touch her; he sat a little apart from her; but his low impassioned voice was shaking—she felt him tremble as he spoke.

She turned and looked at him. She was very white herself. "Do you mean that you would have asked me to be your wife, and do not now because your money is gone?" she said.

"Ah, yes, I meant it," he breathed.

"And you could love me, and yet think—" She did not go on. She took up the neglected ice. "Very well," said she, coolly, "in that case, I suppose, this is the last ice we shall ever eat with gold spoons!"

It was the best thing she could have done. A tender word, a touch, would have jarred on that intense strain of his. He sprang to his feet. But she was standing beside him as instantly. "Come and put me in my carriage," said she, "and find Mrs. Belton, please."

"Am I dreaming? Are you in earnest?" he murmured. "Then, by Heaven, I shall drive to the priest's before we go back to the Arlington!" She stood so white and perfect in the moonlight now, it was all as impossible as if he had plucked down that star that had appeared so remote. He stopped and faced her. "Are you really mine?" he whispered, hoarsely.

"I shall be to-morrow," she said, "if you want me. Papa will never give his consent in all the whole wide world, and so I may as well take it, and ask for it afterward. I always have."

And, upon my word, she did; for at noon of the morrow the radiant Mrs. M'Devitt was writing to her father—and trustee—begging his forgiveness because there was no longer any beautiful Miss Vavasour.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF JAPAN.

It is impossible to overstate the universal ignorance upon the subject of Japan. The singular political and social constitution of a vigorous and intelligent nation numbering thirty millions of inhabitants is regarded with an indifference which is bestowed upon no other people of ancient or modern times. Scholars vouchsafe a far greater amount of consideration to the study of the vanished empires of antiquity, and to the common mind the existence of this by no means contemptible body of the human race is as remote as that of the lost tribes. Excepting where commerce has somewhat rudely touched its shores, no points of sympathy have been established between the finest land of the East and the civilization of the West. The exceptions to the rule are few. Those who have given more than passing attention have been looked upon rather as amateurs of ethnological *bizarrerie*, connoisseurs of society in quaint and grotesque forms, searchers after rare and curious remains of history, than as serious observers. Undoubtedly the disinclination of others to share their zeal has attached them the more persistently to the object of their attraction, and perhaps their devotion has been its own, though its only, reward. Certainly no amount of general carelessness as to the results of the development which he has watched with keenest interest, no intrusive doubts as to the value of his speculations, have been sufficient to awe the Japanese devotee from the career of his humor. It may be that his fidelity has been assisted by a conviction that the time could not be far distant when the attention of the world, to a certain extent, must of necessity be turned in the same direction as his own investigations. In such a case, he may now enjoy the speedy anticipation of a second recompense.

There is now no mistaking the signs of progress in the revived empire. Japan has already formally claimed admission to the community of nations, and is preparing to support its claim with an earnestness and an energy which show no lack of courage, although they may betray occasional unsteadiness of judgment. It is prepared to offer almost any sacrifice of past prejudices, and ready, perhaps too ready, to engage in almost any pledges for the future. The en-

thusiasm with which it asserts its resolution to fit itself for the freest international intercourse is of a kind which is not likely to be turned aside by ordinary discouragements. At present it is blind to many formidable obstacles, but it admits their possible existence, and professes itself resolved to find a way to overcome them when they arise. Such a spirit, on the part of a government which, although hitherto feeble, is growing stronger every day, and which is gradually acquiring undisputed control over thirty millions of industrious and quick-witted people,* is not likely to be easily checked. From this time forward, and doubtless for a century to come, the relations of Japan with foreign countries, and its processes of internal development, are matters that must occupy the serious attention of the political and commercial world. What the distant result will be—whether it will ultimately take prominent rank, or fade into lifeless obscurity, or utterly decay—it would be useless now to discuss, much more to attempt to determine. Its present vitality at least is certain, and the newly aroused spirit of the people is ample guarantee that it will not soon be suffered to ingloriously decline. Whether their prowess hereafter will be equal to their purpose is one of the interesting problems of the future.

For a long period there was little to wonder at in the general lack of information concerning Japan. Its history was imbedded in a seclusion of centuries, and every thing that was not absolutely hidden of its government and society was, at all events, darkened by mystery. It was no easy matter to get even a glimmer of truth as to its true condition, and few persons cared to search for that which was so scrupulously concealed. But within the last twelve or fifteen years the veil has gradually been lifted. The outlines, if nothing more, of all that was before so strange and impenetrable have been made clear. If the book of Japan has not been thrown freely open, it has at least been unsealed, and its pages offered for the examination of those who would take pains to lift the cover. Yet the popular indifference remains unmoved as ever. The world, of course, chooses its own subjects of interest, and no nation can compel its attention against its will; but it certainly seems remarkable that the events of a land which, within five years, has rushed swiftly, and thus far safely, through almost every progressive form of government, which has reproduced in miniature centuries of European development, which has made but one stride from the twilight of the Middle Ages to a brightness of purpose not very far behind that of modern Western civilization, should have possessed no attraction for the outside public. It is too little to say that during the last half dozen years Japan has made more history for itself than in the preceding two and a half centuries of its own annals. It has exhibited transformations the like of which have required ages to accomplish in every other land. Reforms which elsewhere have only been achieved by the struggles of generations, and at the cost of countless lives, have here been established in a day, and—since the first brief contest in 1868—without disturbance of the national peace. I have no idea of forcing a comparison between the progress of European enlightenment and that of a remote Asiatic empire, for that, I presume, would not be tolerated; but, setting aside all consideration of the thirty millions whose prosperity is involved, and viewing the movement in its most limited aspect, that of a state—even an insignificant state—so suddenly and so boldly carried through successive radical changes to its present secure condition, the reorganization of Japan remains one of the social marvels of modern times.

Five years ago, although certain privileges had been reluctantly granted to strangers, the country was, in temper and purpose, as impenetrable as ever. The principle of isolation had not been willingly abandoned, and the recognition of foreign powers was looked upon by the majority of the ruling aristocracy merely as an inevitable concession to superior force. At that period many influences tending toward the overthrow of the old system were already at work, but to most outside observers the form of administration which had lasted nearly three hundred years continued unshaken. The Siogun (Tycoon) still held despotic supremacy, and under his sway a feudalism more fixed and rigorous than any of medieval Europe prevailed. A sudden combination was formed in 1867 by a few discontented baronial chiefs (daimios) against the oppressive régime of the Siogun. It was successful, and within a few months the descendant of a long line of autocrats was deposed and reduced to the level of the higher peerage. The Mikado, whose nominal sovereignty had never ceased, was called by the victorious faction to assume once more his imperial functions. The change was as startling as it was sudden, and many spectators believed that a revolution thus planned and executed by a body totally inexperienced in affairs of state could not endure—a belief, it may be added, which has only recently been dispelled. For a while, indeed, the new executive officers distinguished themselves chiefly by their confessions of weakness, their errors of statecraft, and the awkwardness with which they handled the delicate bureaucratic organization of their predecessors. Conspiracies for

* The latest census estimates the population at a little over 35,000,000; but as this is not understood to be strictly exact, I speak well within the limit.

the restoration of the broken siogunate were frequent, and sometimes formidable. The government seemed thoroughly inadequate to the task it had undertaken, and fell rapidly from disfavor into contempt. It is needless to capitulate the numerous evidences of discord and dissension which day by day revealed themselves, but it is sufficient to say that the forebodings of those who predicted another national convulsion were in a good measure justified. Finally, the leader of the conspirators who had united to subvert the government of the Siogun, finding that he was not permitted to control affairs entirely according to his own will, quarreled with his associates, and withdrew in sullen wrath to his own dominion, where he held private and antagonistic court of his own.* Then it seemed, indeed, that the whole fabric of the new administration was about to fall in pieces. There was disaffection on every side. There were insurrectionary plots of greater or less magnitude in half the provinces of the empire. Partisans of the dynasty of the sioguns were here and there in open revolt. Political assassinations were committed even in the capital. And to crown the perils of the government, the originator and chief of the combination, the soul of the enterprise, the most powerful as well as the ablest of the ministerial advisers, had withdrawn himself and his forces, and was now maintaining a position which, if not avowedly hostile, was certainly menacing. These were the gloomiest days of the young Mikado's reign. His immediate counselors did not affect to conceal their anxieties, and as among themselves they could agree upon no method of meeting the crisis, they fell back upon the expedient of seeking a reconciliation at whatever cost with their alienated leader. Upon condition of being allowed to assume the undisputed direction of affairs, he consented to be pacified, and early in 1871 his representatives appeared in Jeddo,† once more prepared to undertake or guide the administration of the government according to the views and upon the principles laid down by their master.

Immediately upon their arrival a rumor began to circulate that the ministry was about to be readjusted upon a basis of unprecedented public liberality; and during the summer the series of remarkable events began, each one of which seemed calculated to provoke immediate tumult, while none, to the astonishment of all observers, native as well as foreign, was followed by results of sufficient consequence to cause serious apprehension. The first indications of reform were of a nature which now appear trifling, in the light of the graver measures afterward instituted, but which at the time filled the country with excitement. It was decreed that the several castes which had in all ages been denied the privileges of riding in the public thoroughfares, and of wearing garments similar to those of the gentry (samurai), should be allowed the amplest freedom in these respects; and, on the other hand, that the high classes might divest themselves at pleasure of their distinguishing dress, and even lay aside their swords. This was the initial step toward placing the entire populace upon the same level, and it was considered so bold that many of the warmest supporters of the government doubted its expediency. It was thought almost incredible that any merchant or artisan would have the hardihood to assume rights which had always belonged exclusively to persons of superior rank; and no samurai was expected to degrade himself by appearing in public in such a garb as to render him liable to be mistaken for one of the vulgar. The experiment was nevertheless a success. A great number, perhaps a majority, of the gentry showed themselves as eager to rid themselves of unnecessary incumbrances of attire as the farmers, tradesmen, etc., were to avail themselves of their new liberties, and weapons rapidly disappeared from view as hack-horses and vehicles began to multiply. The second and more extreme leveling measure was not long delayed. Since the earliest recollection of Japanese historians certain classes had rested under the severest social ban—had been permitted no intercourse, much less alliance by marriage, with the community at large. These were the butchers, tanners, leather-workers—in fact, all persons whose avocations brought them in contact with the bodies or skins of dead animals. Their condition was even lower than that of the way-side beggars; but at the will of the sovereign, or his prompters, their disabilities were removed in a day, and they became equal members of society at large. At the same time especial provision was made for the beggars, who ceased to be an organized body under the head of a recognized hereditary chief. In a few provinces the execution of this last movement was riotously resisted, but not to any extent entailing dangerous consequences. Thus the work of elevating the middle and lower classes to a common grade, and equalizing them as nearly as might be with the inferior order of gentry, was satisfactorily accomplished. There remained the more delicate and difficult task (a year ago it would have been pronounced impossible) of forcing down the loftier nobility to an approximate social grade.

The new administration, under the auspices of the master spirit of the revolution and his adherents, was proclaimed during the summer (1871). Its prevailing influ-

* The Daimio of Satsuma.

† After the overthrow of the Siogun dynasty the name of the capital was changed to Tokei, but I retain the familiar title for the sake of convenience.

ences were liberal in an extreme degree. Two officers alone were supposed to retain a good share of the old conservative temper of the Mikado's court. These were the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, both members of the former proud peerage of Kuge, which, in the days of its existence, looked down from a complacent height of dignified poverty upon the wealthiest and most powerful daimios. But the Prime Minister was, and always has been, an ornamental nullity—an amiable and weak man, with little skill or courage to execute ideas of his own, supposing him to be possessed of any. The Foreign Minister* was of a different stamp, but his extreme conservatism was already greatly modified, and his original retrogressive propensities had given way to a wholesome desire to guide with caution, rather than to obstruct the progressive tendencies of his colleagues. The remainder of the cabinet were all reformers of greater or less intensity. They first set themselves to the labor of reconstructing and liberalizing the various government departments, and having finally cleared the way for the great *coup*, issued, on the 29th of August, an imperial edict reducing the daimios to simple citizenship, assuming control of their domains, and diverting their immense personal revenues to the needs of the nation. The whole fabric of feudalism in Japan was blown away with a single breath.

By the mass of the people, even by the dispossessed noblemen themselves, this overwhelming stroke of policy was totally unexpected. The gradual changes which had preceded it were by no means understood as leading the way to so vast a scheme. The previous interferences of the central government in the administration of the provinces had been looked upon as merely nominal, and it is yet doubtful whether they were originally intended to prepare for the absolute overthrow of the local systems. It is true that the actual title of "daimio" had been dispensed with some time before, and that of "chiji," or governor, substituted, but as the lords of the soil remained unmolested in their possessions, this was regarded as of slight consequence. Had not the lofty "kuges" also been forced to sacrifice their titular rank? And to the kuges thus bereft nothing worth mentioning remained—their name having been their only fortune—while the great daimios continued the undisputed masters of annual millions. As they became "chiji," so their provinces, formerly "koku" or "kuni," became "han;" but this, again, was apparently only a nominal change. There was nothing to break the fall. The first feeling throughout the country was one of stupefaction, followed by a very general consternation. The ministry was new, and its strength had not been tested. The independent force of the daimios, on the other hand, was well known. Would they tranquilly permit their power and their possessions to be thus arbitrarily wrested from them? For a while this seemed a serious question. The decree amounted almost to a degradation. They were to be stripped at once of their rank, their retinue, and the greater part of their revenues. Socially, they were to be no better than the humblest of their former followers. They were to be allowed only a few attendants, at their own cost, instead of the thousands of vassal men-at-arms to whom they had been accustomed. Their wealth was to be turned into the national treasury, and they were to be pensioned by imperial bounty to the extent of only one-tenth of their former respective incomes. Finally, they must forthwith repair to the capital, there to reside indefinitely, under official surveillance. The adroit managers of the government, led by the crafty instigator of the movement, were of course prompt in complying with a summons which, in point of fact, emanated from themselves. The lord of Satsuma found little difficulty in surrendering every thing to an administration which consisted chiefly of his own person. But others were less complaisant. Two at least of the most important daimios showed such signs of contumacy that it was thought expedient to pacify them by assurances of partial immunity from the general confiscation, and, in spite of repeated government assurances to the contrary, there can be little doubt that the majority of the two hundred and fifty feudal rulers acquiesced only because of their conviction that no plan of united resistance was practicable. To suppose that they were animated by any prevailing sense of patriotism, or that they yielded from a conviction of duty to the sovereign, is a delusion. The fact that the Mikado is at present only the instrument of the will of those who overthrew the Siogun in his name, and brought him from the seclusion of Kioto (Miako) to the new capital, is thoroughly understood, and every daimio was well aware that in relinquishing his riches and his rights he simply placed them at the disposition of this dominant faction. Whatever advantages to the country might spring from the forcible establishment of a central authority (and it is undeniable that many have already come and more are sure to follow), its first victims were not the persons to sympathize with it or to appreciate its value. The weak submitted from necessity, the strong compromised, and, in one way or another, the government accomplished its purpose, and the unification of the empire was declared.

* Iwakura, at present the head of the embassy to the United States and Europe.

To the completion of this important work the ministry have since applied their best intelligence and their most earnest efforts. No further progressive step has been attempted, nor is any required at present. It will be labor enough for some time to come to readjust affairs upon the new basis, to compose the many differences which still exist, and to gather together the scattered political energies of the country for a genuine fresh departure. Although the storm is undoubtedly over, there is now and then, even to this day, an upheaval which shows that the agitation has not wholly ceased. But these are becoming fewer and less violent, and can not be regarded as portentous. They in no way retard the fulfillment of the minor measures of reform which naturally follow in the wake of the great achievement. The monarch has laid aside his character of mystery, even among his own people. He appears in public with less ceremony and pomp than many a European sovereign. As premonitory evidence of an intention to dispense with rigorous forms of government, military patrols and armed guard-posts have been abolished every where. In Jeddo especially, although the garrison is large, no special service is required from it. Sentinels no longer obstruct the massive gateways of the castle, the greater part of which is open night and day, for the first time within centuries. Even the Mikado's private grounds are free to the populace on days of particular festivity. Intellectual as well as personal liberty is encouraged. The native press is allowed a latitude of discussion which is almost without limit. Education in every form is fostered, and foreign instructors in nearly every branch of practical science abound. The only repressive regulation which visibly remains in force is that compelling the ex-daimios to reside in the capital, and this is justified on the ground that, if they were permitted to remain in their former provinces, they might, and in many cases would, become the centres of new conspiracies and outbreaks. They are, however, allowed perfect freedom of foreign travel, and, in fact, an imperial proclamation has lately been published recommending them to avail themselves of this privilege, now granted for the first time in the history of the country.

Such is the present state of Japan—a nation suddenly restored to vitality, and starting with headlong and not always discreet energy and enthusiasm upon a bold career of enterprise and activity—a form of government anomalous in the circumstance that no constitutional body, either hereditary or elective, stands between the sovereign and the people—an emperor of nominal autocratic power, whose policy is really directed by a ministry of liberal if not democratic convictions, and this ministry so identified with reform in its broadest signification as to have virtually pledged itself to introduce, at whatever cost and risk, every element of external progress which can in any manner be applied to the institutions of the country, and to prepare the way as rapidly as possible for the opening of the whole nation to foreign visitation and trade. As regards the latter point, the only question in debate is respecting the time when all prohibitions shall be removed. Here, naturally, opinions greatly differ, a few declaring in favor of unrestricted intercommunication immediately after the ratification of the treaties next year, while others whose judgment is cooler advise a delay until such time as Japan shall have established a judiciary system sufficiently in conformity with those of other nations to render superfluous the existence of foreign consular or other courts, which are a constant humiliation to the native authorities. These, however, are considerations of the future; and to the prospects of the future, such as may be speculated upon with probable accuracy, let us turn.

At the first view the outlook is not altogether promising. In spite of the sincerity of its wishes for reform, the government has thus far displayed more rashness than reason in the prosecution of its aims. The best intentions can not of themselves command the best results. The determination seems to have been to make up as hastily as possible for the lost centuries when the country was shut in from foreign contact; but the race against time has been too rapid. With the general plans for constitutional reorganization, internal improvement, and educational development, no fault could fairly be found; but the precipitate manner in which these have altogether been undertaken threatens, for two important reasons, to bring about a serious reaction at no very distant day. In the first place, the nation is utterly exhausting its finances. The total revenue is quite limited—not much greater now than in the time of the earliest siogun. Nothing worth speaking of is derived from foreign sources, while the outlay is unceasing and enormous. For reasons of its own the government declines to remove the restrictions on exportation of its staples, by which its excessive importations might in some degree be balanced, and is consequently cramped to the last extremity, and compelled to seek relief in repeated issues of paper currency, which long ago reached an almost intolerable excess, and is held in circulation only by the exercise of that peremptory power which may still be employed in case of need. In fact, the government is nearly bankrupt, notwithstanding which it continues its course of munificent expenditure as if its resources were yet unlimited. In every direction new plans for post-routes, railroads, telegraph lines, Western colleges,

and augmentations of army and navy are announced, for the execution of which foreign services and foreign materials are required which must be promptly paid for in solid money. A state of things so ruinous as this can not last forever, and when the end does come, it seems only too likely that it will come not merely with the evil of financial prostration, but with the additional shock of what in itself may constitute a second and quite independent cause of reaction—the culmination of the now growing and in many respects well-founded distrust of the value of this foreign assistance which is obtained at such great pecuniary sacrifice. Whoever may be to blame for it, there is no disputing that the results of the lavish outlay do not justify the expectations of the Japanese. In many cases, undoubtedly, the fault is their own. Partly from vanity, partly from awakening suspicion, they undertake to assume the direct management of enterprises which are beyond their grasp, and find themselves, after protracted experiments, obliged to set aside all they have uselessly accomplished, and recommence from the starting-point. But in other and more important instances they are, and know themselves to be, the victims of unprincipled extortion and fraud. It is probably impossible to find elsewhere, except perhaps in New York city, such examples of monstrous jobbery as the records of the Japanese Board of Works can show. In truth, they do not know how to protect themselves. They continually seek counsel, yet are afraid to act upon it. They feel themselves betrayed by foreigners on every side. The mercantile community is arrayed against them, and its rapacity is tolerated, if not fostered, by the diplomatic authorities whose duty it should be to protect them against unjust dealings. Provisions of treaties which are of vital consequence to them are disregarded without excuse or explanation by the governments in which they have placed the most implicit trust.* And now they are often compelled to doubt the integrity of their own servants. That they should manifest disgust and alarm is not to be wondered at, and when it becomes clear—as there is every prospect that it may—that they have thrown themselves into almost inextricable financial confusion, principally to satisfy the greed of insatiate strangers, their indignation will hardly be assuaged by the reflection that to their own recklessness much of the misfortune must be attributed. At such a time, should the crisis arrive before the internal reconstruction of the country has been settled, the position of the government will be doubly embarrassing. There are plenty among the disaffected who would avail themselves of any opportunity to add to its annoyances, and up to this time, it must be remembered, the administration does not represent the people at large, or even the power of all the various clans. Years may pass before, by ingenious shifting of local officials and redistribution of the several provincial elements, it can bring about a thorough and secure homogeneity.

But the worst that need be apprehended, we may believe, is a period of reaction which within a few years may temporarily paralyze the progressive impulses of the country, and compel the suspension of all these active projects of improvement. During that time there will probably be little cordiality felt toward foreigners. It is not to be expected that there will be any exhibition of positive hostility, but it would be surprising if the extensive business relations which now exist were not to a great extent broken up, and it is a question if the Japanese will ever be disposed to renew them. To a casual view the position of foreigners may not be substantially changed, but it will be found that their share in the material development of the land will be reduced to the narrowest possible limits, and that the great works so eagerly contemplated will be suffered to languish rather than pushed forward by their aid. While this term of necessary rest and retrenchment lasts—supposing it to come, as I confidently anticipate—we shall inevitably hear loud complaints of the ingratitude and fickleness of the Japanese; that they have thrown over their best friends, who were laboring nobly and unselfishly for their advancement; that they are relapsing into barbarism; that they are presenting a new phase of their well-known instability of character and purpose. The rule of action is first to bleed the government and the people to the last attainable drop, and then to abuse them as if they were encumbered with all the vices that can be calculated or conceived. When they refuse to be bled any longer, their veins being, in fact, quite dry, and undertake measures of self-protection and recuperation, the outcries will, of course, be multiplied. But these will not affect them very painfully, and if they can contrive to extract some wisdom from their uncomfortable experience, and fortify their judgment for the future, the momentary check to their aspirations may be a benefit rather than a disaster. They certainly need to be taught that they can not keep up the pace at which they have started, and that, as disinterested counsel is beyond their power to purchase, they must

* Witness the result of the recent appeal to the United States, in the matter of the occupation of Saghalien. Article II. of the treaty of 1858 declares that "The President of the United States, at the request of the Japanese government, will act as a friendly mediator in such matters of difference as may arise between the government of Japan and any European power." A very earnest request was made in this case; but, after a brief semi-official and unsatisfactory correspondence with Russia, the United States government declined to fulfill its obligation.

instruct and discipline themselves more thoroughly before dashing headlong into all imaginable schemes of practical or theoretical reform, and attempting to obtain an equal place among the most advanced nations of the earth by contract. In more than one instance their undue haste has already been its own punishment, and any event, or series of events, however calamitous at first appearance, that can bring them to a proper sense of prudence and moderation should be regarded by their real well-wishers as a sure ultimate advantage.

That they will gain wisdom by reflection, after this feverish excitement shall have come to a necessary termination, there is good reason to believe. The Japanese are vain and self-willed, but, whatever other deficiencies of character may be theirs, lack of shrewdness and persistent blindness to their own mistakes are not among them. On many accounts it is to be hoped that the period of depression which seems impending may not be too brief. They need time to prepare themselves, once and for all, to meet foreigners upon terms that do not place them entirely at a disadvantage. They need a more solid confidence in themselves, in order that they may know when to award it to and when to withhold it from others; and at present they have nothing to guide them but their instincts, which have been irritated to a condition of abnormal dread and suspicion. They need the fruits of the extensive system of education which they have planted with great liberality, though with little regularity or order, and the enlarged perceptions to which the investigations of their numerous messengers abroad will contribute in due season. They especially require an acquaintance with the political and commercial usages of the great nations which are now awkwardly unfamiliar to them. Meanwhile their railways and telegraphs can wait. It is better that they should remain a while unfinished than that they should be finished under conditions that may prevent the undertaking of similar works for years to come. And when they at last extricate themselves from the embarrassments which surround them, and from others which await them, they may set out again from a truer point of departure, and with more wholesome prospects, upon the high-road of reform. Their country, its social reorganization fairly established, and regulated by new and moderate laws, may be ready for the reception of foreigners in all parts. The incongruities of their present incomplete form of government may be remedied. The vast productive resources of the nation, now neglected or misapplied, will certainly be to a considerable extent developed. Reciprocal commerce, which the government has always hesitated to sanction, will be possible without the risk that the gain will all be on the side of speculators from abroad, and the squandered wealth of the empire may be gradually recovered. The greater part of the political disabilities of the entire population will probably be removed, so that all can join without restraint in the work of national progress. And these results are almost certain to be accomplished by the Japanese alone, uncontrolled by the influence and unassisted by the power of any of the foreign states that are struggling to secure the predominant voice in its councils.

These, I am persuaded, are reasonable estimates of the condition of Japan as it now stands, and of the probable contingencies of the next few years. To speak of its present requires only a careful and, in this case, sympathetic observation of events as they pass by. To discuss the future is always hazardous, and I am well enough aware that unforeseen catastrophes — internal or external vicissitudes that can in no way be calculated upon—might at any time turn the course of the nation widely apart from what now appears to be its destiny. But in the ordinary succession of events its career can hardly be other than that which I have indicated: for a time overstrained effort and forced vitality, then a period of prolonged depression and anxiety, and subsequently a laborious but certain rise to a respectable, perhaps a prominent, position among the civilized countries of the world.

THE DAISY.

My heart is like that daisy, she said,
Silver white with a flush of red,
That steadfast stands in the meadow grass,
While the golden summer hours pass:
Soft and slow
The long hours go,
And the brook is murmuring low.

In the tangled hedge of the meadow grows,
Flushed and fragrant, a brier-rose,
Flinging like incense on the air
The wealth of its perfume rich and rare,
Floating sweet
Through sunny heat,
Far afield to the daisy's feet.

Over the daisy's patient head
Flit the butterflies, brown and red,
Bearing the loves of flower and tree—
"Have ye never a love for me?"
Half afraid,
The daisy said,
While the bright wings over her played.

The bright wings flash and are gone again;
Naught have they brought but a little pain,
To throb and ache in the daisy's heart—
Sitting forever alone and apart,
Ah! so far
From the rosy star
That scarce is conscious daisies are!

But courage! little daisy, she said;
Fear not to love though hope be dead:
The heart that loves, though it love alone,
Something better than peace doth own:
Hearts are strong,
Though life be long,
And the blind bird sings the sweetest song!