

IMPRESSIONS OF JAPAN

GEO. H. RITTNER

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IMPRESSIONS OF
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BY GEO. H. RITTNER

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P R E F A C E

THE object I have had in view in writing these pages has been not merely to give a description of my journeys through Japan, but to put on record some impressions of the development of the Japanese.

The changes which that country has undergone during the last decade have been so rapid and radical, that it would have been impossible within the limits of a single volume to give any adequate idea of their number or nature, for many of the topics touched on would require a volume to themselves.

The greatest change of all seemed to have taken place in the country's Art, which twenty years ago was its chief and most distinguishing glory; and I have tried to show the reasons for that deterioration. In so doing I have brought out the differences between town and country life, and hope that by so doing I may lead those among my readers, whose good fortune it is to visit Japan for themselves, to penetrate beyond

the modern life of the city into the remote country places, where the pristine life of old Japan still survives.

I have to tender to Mr. Max von Grunelius my grateful thanks for furnishing me with a number of photographs, which have served to make the series of illustrations more complete. Without them many essential features of land and life must necessarily have been omitted.

G. H. R.

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