

JAPAN'S THIRST FOR WAR

Former Resident of Nippon Says
It Is Endless.

PAGAN MYSTICISM THE CAUSE.

Love of Fighting Is the Curse of Japanese, Says Dr. Albert S. Ashmead. Mikado Only a Figurehead Who Typifies God in the Popular Mind, While the "Sat-cho," or War Party, Rules.

Dr. Albert S. Ashmead of New York

and late foreign medical director of the Tokyo hospital in Japan, wrote as follows under a recent date to the editor of the New York Herald:

"In your article in the Herald, entitled 'Japan Prepares For War With the United States,' in your quotation of and remarks from the *Echo de Paris* concerning Mr. Nakahashi Tokugoro's allusions in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* of Japan to the 'Empire of the Mikado' you have overlooked a very important point, which is always considered by the Japanese mind in its ratiocinations.

"The empire of the mikado to a Japanese means spiritual empire and not a mere material or temporal empire. For many centuries, while the mikados (heavenly gates) were isolated in their holy seclusion behind the Devil's gate at Kioto, there reigned mere temporal rulers, the shoguns (great generals) at Tokyo. In 1867, the beginning of the Meiji era, the Sat-cho (Satsuma and Choshin provincials of high degree), a political ring, overthrew the shoguns and brought the figurehead of the empire from his sacred isolation at Kioto.

"He is the religious head of the nation, typifying the Bushido (war spirit) of the people, that is all. He is not emperor—a word the Japanese do not know, although they use it to deceive westerners. A mikado is Tenno (son of heaven or God). He never dies, but hodzurus (translates). He is God in man's form and as such can only reign in the spirit of the nation.

"The real temporal ruler of the empire of Japan is that Sat-cho, a political clique, and the mikado is only puppet king. His mentality is of a very low order. In fact, all the high nobles of Japan under the old order of nobility were rather effeminate if not really imbecile. The mikado is no exception to this category. Therefore he is easily handled politically by the ringsters, whose only aim is to satisfy Samourisu, or Bushido, the war spirit of the nation, handed down to them from the time of Krishna, god of war, of Brahmanism, even at the beginning of protestant Buddhism.

"This is the curse of the Japanese people—that love of fighting—and besides, there is the worship of heroes. And how are heroes to be made in a Japanese point of view save by war? Samuraism before the disestablishment of feudalism in 1867 was satiated by wars between the Daimios. Each province or high class family's servants (samurai) would fight with the next ones. But in 1867 samurai were nationalized into a central army, or fighting force.

"This spirit of war, the true soul of Japan, will never be willing to remain in barracks for any length of time. It soon demands a new war. Where will a war be found to appease it by that ring of political tricksters called Sat-cho except in a foreign war? Thus it will be ever.

"After they have fought America they must find some other country to make war upon. That next in all probability will be Holland, for Japan must have the Dutch West Indies. And so it will go on.

"But what I write this letter for especially is to point out that the 'spiritual empire' of that pagan 'ruler' is what we have most to dread. It is that which threatens us already in our Pacific states. Paganism of the mikado is already getting a foothold upon our Christian European and American shores. This is what we must guard against most.

"The war that is on in the world today is that between two civilizations—paganism and Christianity. Until Japanese have been taught by defeat that their emperor, as we call him, is not a god or holy avatar there will be endless wars on the part of Japan. We must put down her unholy paganism and then there will be peace of Christianity. Which will win, paganism or Christianity; the god of war (Krishna) or peace and good will to men (Christ)?"