Japan in history, folklore and art

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JAPAN: IN HISTORY, FOLK-LORE AND ART

By WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS
JAPAN
IN HISTORY, FOLK LORE
AND ART

BY

WILLIAM ELLIOT GRIFFIS
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"MATTHEW CALBRAITH PERRY," ETC.

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DEDICATED
TO
THE BOYS AND GIRLS
OF
CONSTITUTIONAL
JAPAN
PREFACE.

In this contribution to the Riverside Library for Young People, I have told more about Kioto than about Yedo. I have sketched in outline the Japan of ages rather than of our own age. While political history is the chief theme, my aim has been to show how and why the Japanese see and think as they do. The adoption of Western civilization changes the outer, but does not greatly modify the inner man. Believing also that what the dignified historians write is only part of a people's true history, I have sought, from their customs and folk-lore, as well as from the interpretation of their artists, material with which to brighten the narrative. Fact and fiction, however, are presented in separate chapters.

No writer on Japan can fail to acknowledge deep obligations to that noble band of English students, Messrs. Satow, Aston, and Chamberlain, who have made such profound researches into the
ancient Japanese language and literature. To them and to Captain Brinkley, the scholarly editor of the "Japan Mail," I heartily acknowledge much obligation. To my many Japanese friends who from time to time assist me, and especially to the members of the Historical Society of the Imperial University of Tokio, who have honored me by membership in their body, I owe much, and herewith offer my grateful thanks.

It is one of the good signs of the times that the Japanese are now studying their own history according to the methods of science, with truth as the end in view. God speed them!

W. E. G.

Boston, Oct. 17, 1892.