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Things Japanese

Basil Hall Chamberlain (1850–1935) first encountered Japan on a journey intended to promote the recovery of his health: he had suffered a nervous breakdown while working for Barings Bank. In May 1873, he arrived in Yokohama, and was immediately fascinated by traditional Japanese culture. The drive for modernisation had created a need for teachers of English, and Chamberlain was taken on as a tutor in the naval academy, at the same time studying the Japanese language to such good effect that in 1886 he was made professor of Japanese and philology of the Imperial University (later Tokyo University). This book, first published in 1890, and going into six editions over the next fifty years, is in the form of an encyclopaedia, with topics from 'abacus' to 'zoology'. It gives an affectionate account of aspects of Japanese culture which Chamberlain realised were disappearing under the relentless impact of Western influence.

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THINGS JAPANESE

BEING

NOTES ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH JAPAN

BY

BASIL HALL CHAMBERLAIN

PROFESSOR OF JAPANESE AND PHILOLOGY IN THE IMPERIAL
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PREFACE.

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THE author is under obligations to many kind friends—especially to Mr. W. B. Mason, of the Imperial Department of Communications, by whose unwearying assistance and advice every page of the book has profited more or less. The article on *Porcelain and Pottery* is from the pen of Captain Brinkley, R.A., the appearance of whose “History of Japanese and Chinese Ceramics” is eagerly looked forward to by all persons interested in that beautiful art. The Abbé Félix Evrard, of the French Legation at Tōkyō, has contributed the article on *Roman Catholic Missions*; Mr. H. V. Henson, that on *Trade*; Professor Milne, F.R.S., that on *Geology*; Mr. Mason, those on *Telegraphs*, *Chess*, and the game of *Go*. Mr. Y. Sannomiya, Vice-Grand-Master of Ceremonies and Master of the Court of Her Majesty the Empress, has furnished the materials for *Decorations*; Mr. R. Masujima, of the Japanese Bar and of the Middle Temple, London, the materials for *Law*; Mr. K. Fujikura, Chief Commissioner of Lighthouses, the materials for *Lighthouses*; Captain J. Ingles, R.N., for *Navy*; and Mr. C. A. W. Pownall, for *Railways*. The advice of Dr. Erwin Baelz, of the Imperial University

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## PREFACE.

of Japan, has been sought on various points connected with medicine, and Lieutenant T. H. James, R.N., has been similarly applied to for what relates to shipping. The Map is adapted from one of those in the "Atlas of the Agricultural Productions of the Japanese Empire," by permission of Professor T. Wada, Director of the Imperial Geological Office in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Various other kind friends have contributed—one a fact, another a reference, yet another a counsel. To all, best thanks.

*Imperial University of Japan.*

*Tōkyō, May, 1890.*