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Henry Faulds

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Nine Years in Nipon

The Scottish doctor Henry Faulds (1843–1930) is best remembered for his role in the history of fingerprinting. His strong religious faith had first led him to missionary work in India and then, from 1874, in Japan. He worked there as a surgeon in the mission hospital at Tsukiji, near Tokyo, where he also established a medical school and a school for the blind. It was his discovery of the impressions of thumbprints on ancient Japanese pottery which led to his development of a fingerprinting system and his championing of it as a forensic tool. The present work, part-travelogue, part-journal, was first published in 1885. It remains an engaging account of Japanese life, customs, geography and natural history, interwoven with discussions of topics such as education, language, and the future of the country. There are characterful line drawings throughout. Faulds' *Dactylography* (1912) is also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection.

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ON THE TOKAIDO

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NINE YEARS IN NIPON:

SKETCHES OF JAPANESE LIFE AND MANNERS.

BY

HENRY FAULDS, L.F.P.S.,

Surgeon of Tsukiji Hospital, Tokio; Member of the Royal Asiatic Society.



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TO MY FATHER

THIS WORK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED.

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P R E F A C E .

SO many works have of late been written on Japan that perhaps the best apology for publishing a new one is that the public seem to wish for more.

My aim has been to give in language as free as possible from pedantic jargon such an account of Nipon and its people as may instruct, without unduly boring my readers. A great deal more might have been written than I have here attempted, but fortunately strict limits were imposed upon me, and I sincerely hope that useful and interesting things only have found admission.

I have been obliged to omit, most reluctantly, a large section in which I intended to give some account of the religious and moral systems which prevail in Japan, but, should this work succeed in finding a moderate measure of public approbation, I hope soon to expand my notes on these subjects into a separate volume.

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