The Laws of Japan.

From the Pall Mall Gazette

Until lately little or nothing was known in Europe of the political system of Japan. On this subject the practice of its Government has invariably been to thwart investigation and mystify inquirers. And so successful has this policy been in keeping even the best informed amongst us in ignorance as to the primary constitution of government in the country, that up to within the last lew years it was miversally believed that two emperors divided the throne of Japan—one living in mystic seclusion and exercising mysterious powers, whom we called "Spiritual;" the other, the Tycoon, in whose hands was believed to rest the supreme temporal sovereignty of the em-Although we are at present better inpire. formed, we yet know very little.

One of the greatest difficulties our diplo-matists have had to encounter in Japan has been to acquire a knowledge of those mysterious Laws of Gongensama to which Japauese officials so often refer as containing the basis of their political system, and in which they profess to find precedents for any line of con-duct they may choose to adopt. These laws, variously called the Legacy of Iyeyas, the Laws of Gongensama, and the Laws of Japan, were framed by Iyeyas, a celebrated Tycoon, the founder of the family of the Tycoon of our own day. Iyeyas lived in the beginning of the seventeenth century, and after his death was delified under the title of Gongensama. Many attempts to gain possession of this important code have been made, at last successfully; manuscript copies have now been obtained, and one or two have lately found their way to Europe. These laws consist of one hundred sections, and display throughout how thoroughly feudal is the Japanese system of government, how much the power of the sword is respected, how little regarded are the people. The laws begin by claimthe people. The laws begin by claim-ing exemption from the gaze of all but official eyes. "This manuscript * * * * may not be seen by any but the Gorojin (Council of State at Yeddo), who, profoundly secreting it even when in the precincts of the official residence in order to conceal it from the sight of others, shall reflect upon and record it in their hearts." After a few recommendations to the practice of self-denial in the performance of duties, the providing "for the widower, the widow, the orphan, and the lone," and the cultivation of purity of heart, they proceed to the estimate of the revenue of the empire. "The whole amount of the revenue of the Empire of Japan is 28,190,000 kokus of rice (each koku equals 5.13 bushels). Of this 20,000,000 is to be divided among the daimios (nobles) and shomios, who render faithful service; and the remaining 8,190 000 kokus form the public revenue, which should provide for the protection of the Emperer and for keeping in subjection the barbarians of the four coasts." The writer next holds up to admiration certain vassals who have suffered "their bones to be ground to powder and their flesh to be chopped up" in his cause; and enacts that "in what way soever their posterity my offend, for anything less than actual treason their estates may not be confiscated." Then the principles of government are expounded:—"To assist the people is to give peace to the empire. * * * Let my pos-terity hold fast this principle." "The people are the foundation of the empire." Upon these very liberal dicta follow laws of an ob-stinately conservative nature. "In absence of precedent, forbid the making of new ground, new water courses, and so forth, and the framing of any new measures of what kind soever. Know that disturbances slwave arise soever. Know that disturbances slways arise from such innovations. * * It is forbidden to alter a faulty regulation if, through inadvertency, it has been allowed to remain in force during fifty years." By a subsequent law the dimios and shomios of the fudai (hereditary vassal) and tozama (baronial) classes, who do not hold official appointments, are divided into two One of these is to reside at Yeddo sections. until relieved by the other. Those on duty are entrusted with the care of the castle and the outer enclosures._ "They should lend assistance in repairing damages, in the erection of new buildings, in extinguishing fire, and so on." When relieved, they are ordered to make "a tour of inspection into the prosperity or adversity of the population of their territories." Then follow rules for the selection of magistrates of the civil and criminal courts, who "are the reflectors of the mode of government. Those who are invested with this office should be chosen from a class of men who are upright and pure, distinguished for charity and benevolence. Once every month one of the Gorojiu should be sent, unexpectedly, to inquire into their mode of administration : or the Shogun should himself go unex-pectedly and investigate and decide the case on hand." This watchful system is no dead letter; it is sharply felt by officials of every grade. The rewards of virtue which the magistrate may bestow, the punishments of vice he may inflict, are next enumerated, the latter list exhibiting strange refinements in cruelty, the terminal words "and so on" giving officials the power to apply any supple-mentary torture they may happen to fancy. These punishments are—lst, branding; 24, splitting the nose; 3d, banishment; 4th, transportation; 5th, strangulation; 6th, imprisonment; 7th, decapitation and exposure of the head; 8th, crucifixion and transfixion; 9th, burning; 10th, decapitation; "and so on." But the infliction of the severe punishments of tying a criminal's legs to two oxen and driving them in different directions, and of boiling in oil, is not within the power of the Shogun [i. e. Tycoon], and is, therefore, we presume, a prerogative of the Emperor. After reading this list of penalties we are not surprised to learn that "a girded sword is the living soul of a samural [i. e. an officer of the military classes]. In case of a samurai forgetting his sword, act as is appointed; it may not be overlooked." W. are not told the punishment due for this offense, but we may safely assume that it is not a light one. Further on we are informed of the uses to which these swords may be applied. "Samurais are the masters of the four classes. Agriculturists, artisans, and merchants may not behave in a rude manner towards samurais." The term for a rude man is,"other than expected fellow:" and a samural is not to be interfered with in outting down a fellow who has behaved to him in a manner "other than is expected." But should two men of equal rank fight and wound one another with "sharp instruments," they are considered culpable, and "should be judged according to the severity of the wounds in-flicted." The rule of procedure on such occasions is to arrest the criminal party; "but at times," it is significantly added, "it may not be expedient to trace him." The maintenance of the standing army is The maintenance of the standing army is made to devolve on the governments of the different provinces. Each province is com-pelled to furnish soldiers in proportion to the quantity of rice grown within its boundaries, whether on public or private properties. "For 1000 kokus of rice 6 cavalrymen may be required; for 10,000, 50 men; for 50,000 250 men; for 100,000, 500 men; for 200,000 1000 men. One thousand horsemen form an army, and 3000 form three complete armies. The commander-in-chief takes command of the whole. The second in command takes

command of two armies. The third in com-

mand is the leader of one army." The writer next proceeds to lay down the laws regulating domestic relationship. "The married state is the great relation of mankind. One should not live aione after sixteen years of age, but should procure a mediator and perform the ceremony of matrimonial alliance. The same kindred, however, may not intermarry." As an inducement to early marriages we are told that "when a line of descendants is prolonged, the foreheads of ancestors ex-pand. * * * A childless man should make provision by the adoption of a child to ensure the succession of the family estate. * The family estate of a person dying without male issue and without having adopted a son is forfeited, without any regard to his rela-tions or connections." Conjugal infidelity on the part of women of the lower classes is a crime on which the writer, as far as the State is concerned, would be inclined to look mercifully; although he gives full power to the injured husband to slay his wife and her seducer. But in order, we presume, to avoid collusion on the husband's part, it is declared that if he slay one of them and spare the other, his guilt "is the same as that of the unrighteous persons." But, adds the lawgiver, "men and women of the military class are expected to know better than to occasion disturbance by violating existing regulations, and such a one breaking them by lewd trilling or illigit intercourse shall be punished at once and without deliberation." Concubinage is sanctioned within certain limits, but the wife is always supreme, and holds the position towards a concubine of a lord towards his vassal. The Emperor has twelve concubines. Princes may have eight. Officers of the higher class may have five mistresses. A samurai may have two handmaids. But below this rank of life such indulgences must cease. As in China, so in Japan, the persons of masters and fathers are considered sacred, and any wrong inflicted on them may be amply revenged without incurring the penalty of the law. This right is granted in these words: - "A person harboring such vengeance" (i. e., for injury done to master or father) "shall notify the same in writing to the criminal court; and * * * no check or hindrance may be offered to his carrying out his desire within the period allowed

for that purpose." The harmony that should exist between lord and vassal is much insisted on. The writer says that this harmony "has been likened to that existing between water and fish;" and he asks, "Ought it not to be so? If the golden rule, 'Do not unto others that which you would not have others do to you," be so firmly grafted in the heart as not to be lost sight of for a moment, the force of example will induce interiors to conform to this virtuous teaching." He fears, however, that other means than example may be necessary to induce inferiors to walk in the way they should go, and so enjoins fearful penalties for insubordination. "The guilt of a vassal murdering his suzerain is the same in principle as that of an arch-traitor to the Emperor. His immediate companions, his relations, all even to his most distant connections, shall be cut off and mowed down, root and fibre. The guilt of a vassal only lifting his hand against his master, even though he does not assassi-nate him, is the same."

As a warning sgainst wives meddling in their husbands' business the writer says, "When a wife occupies herselt with outside affairs * * it is a pre-evidence of ruin to the house; it is as when a hen is afflicted with a propensity to crow at morn, and an affliction of which every samural should beware."

From such matters the writer turns to provincial regulations. He says, "in the revo-lutions of nature, countries, houses, mountains, rivers, and ferries become damaged and ruined, and considerable ontlay is requisite to put them in repair. A part of such expenses is to be borne by the neighboring province, in proportion to the number of kokus it produces. This tax is called 'provincial thank-tribute.'" Next the roads and fields have his care, and he ordains that, "including the trees on either side," the great sea road "should have a uniform width of 120 feet;" cross-roads and horse roads are to be 30 feet wide, footpaths 6 feet, and by-paths 3. feet. "Dwellings shall not be erected on ground under cultivation by husbandmen, as the growth of bamboos and trees round the walls is prejudicial to the crops. * * * If the boughs of large trees in the immediate neighborhood of villages in which the houses are built consecutively become so large as to interfere with the drying of grain, or to interrupt the payment of annual tribute, in the first place the branches shall be cut off, and if that is not sufficient the whole tree shall be cut down." The regulations for the preservation of order on the roads are strict and emphatic. 'There are sixteen guard-houses established on the main roads and by-roads of the districts and provinces * * * in order to prevent man or woman disturbing the public peace. * * * The superintendence of these should be entrusted to a samural of the Fadai class of ancient lineage, without regard, however, to his wealth. He shall see that the rules written for their regulation are properly carried out. Under certain circumstances, not even a needle should be permitted to pass; but on ordinary occasions horses and vehicles may go through." As may be imagined from the tenor of these laws, the persons of members of the Imperial family are considered sacred, and a death amongst them ranks as a public misfortune. "The departure from life of the Emperer, the Imperial sire, the Imperial spouse, or any of the Imperial blood relations, are occasions of profound darkness, and great and ominous calamity for the whole empire. In high antiquity on such occasions the eight sounds were suppressed within the four seas # and all kinds of festivals were observed in silence. When an occasion of public mourning arises, a fixed term of mourning should be appointed * * * during which every instrument that emits a sound of what kind goever shall cease." Further on we are informed that evilly disosed men are prevented from following more dangerous pursuits by the establishment in towns of houses for "women of pleasure;" which houses, however, the writer also de-scribes as the "worm-eaten spots of cities." He says—"They are necessary evils, which, if forcibly abolished, men of unrighteous principle would become like ravelled thread." After various regulations as to the title, rank, and suites of the different daimios, he orders that at the expiration of their term of duty at the capital, as mentioned above, each daimic according to his rank shall present offerings to the Council of State; those in receipt of a "revenue of 10,000 kokus and up-wards shall give the price of a horse in gold;" those in "receipt of less than 10,000 kokus the price of a horse in silver." On the occasion of foreigners landing in the country every means is to be taken to inspire them with awe at the wealth and strength of the Government. "According to circumstances they shall be treated with commiseration and benevolence, or with dignified reserve. In all cases a guard shall be placed on board their ships for their restraint."

lay them down with a slight feeling of disappointment; for though they are of great in-terest, yet the extreme jealonsy with which they have been gnarded fostered the belief that they contained the more secret clues to political action in Japan. Some such feeling appears to have occurred to their author on laying down his pen; for he says, "Let not future generations be induced to ridicule me as having the heart of a venerable old grandmother."

"Her Majesty's Theatre." From the London Times.

"What is now called 'Her Majesty's' was the first theatre built for the performance of Italian opera in England, and it was begun by Sir John Vanbrugh, on its present site, in 1703, and finished in 1705. It was not, however, till 1710 that Italian operas were wholly acted there-till Handel's Rinaldo was first performed by Italian singers as a commercial speculation. The new house was a failure, and in 1720 George I headed a subscription of £50,000, with a small gift towards its maintenance. In less than two seasons Ebers, the then lessee, lost £44,000 in his efforts to make it pay. Such a result is not surprising when we see what he had really to pay first of all. For one season there was £15,000 a year rent; for expenses there were:- Opera, £8600; ballet, £10,600; orchestra, £3200; scene-painting and wardrobes, £5300; lighting, £130; selaries, £2600; servants, £400; military gnard at the doors, £150; fittings of the King's box, £300, etc. With such outgoings it is no wonder there was a loss. At last, in 1789, the King's Theatre, as it was then called, was burnt to the ground; and though nothing was saved, not very much was lost by its destruction, for the theatre, as a theatre, was illbuilt, ill-nourished, and ill-managed.

"Another arose upon its ruins, built by Novolsielski, who was among the first to introduce the horseshoe form of auditorium. The first stone was laid by the Earl of Back-inghamshire. Under the stone were laid guines, half-guines, seven, five, and one shilling coins. All these, though not laid in a bottle, as is usual now, were found during the building of the new theatre to be as bright and fresh as when they came from the mint. In 1820 the exterior of this new building was altered by Nash and Ripton. The ground on which the late theatre stood is crown pro-perty, the lease of which, held by a private individual, has still more than forty years to run. The old theatre had many faults. Its stage was too small; its means of ingress and egress were lamentably defisient. Only one narrow wooden stair communicated with the amphitheatre, gallery, and side slips, and it is not too much to say that, had the fire which at last destroyed it in less than an hour occurred when the house was full, some four hundred or five hundred people must almost inevitably have lost their lives.

"The new theatre, though smaller in the auditorium, is in every way finer, better, and more convenient than the old. The length of the space at the disposal of Mr. Lee was one hundred and sixty-six feet, and its width one hundred and forty-six feet, and its width one hundred and forty-six feet. This has been utilized to the utmost. The stage is now fifty-one feet deep, ninety-five feet wide, and seventy-one feet high-as large as the largest stages yet built, either here or abroad. Twelve feet below this stage is a mezzanine floor, and the total depth below the stage extends to nearly thirty feet, where the drums are placed for hoisting the scenery. It is not intended to have the usual sliding scenes on the stage at all. They are nearly all, if not entirely, to be what are technically called 'cloths'-that is, scenes not painted on frame-work, but on loose canvas, with heavy rollers at the ends to keep them firm and stiff in their places when lowered. The advantage this plan is that it does away with the noi and bustle and labor of scene-shifting, th scene being merely raised up or lowered b neath the stage like an ordinary curtain. "The side scenes, too, as they are calle are not intended to be run in the ordinat wooden grooves, which constantly occasio embarrassment and delay. These scenes wi simply be taken down twelve feet below th stage into the mezzanine floor, and then ru in grooves without requiring support fro above. Every part of the stage, though mad in the firmest manner, is, in fact, movable and can be adapted in a few minutes to th most urgent requirements of a great scen opera. The house is built in a horse-sh curve, seventy feet deep from the curtain h fifty-six feet wide in the middle. The sea will be wide enough to accommodate even th utmost amplitude of fashionable toilets, an sufficient space will be given to allow ever one to sit with ease. The stall, altogether will accommodate about six hundred visitor There are four tiers of boxes in front of th stage, and four tiers and an additional ha tier at either side. "The boxes are much larger than of ol They have about six feet frontage, wi heights according to the line of seven and half feet and nine feet, with depths varyin from seven feet to twelve feet. All the tie of boxes are so built that there is no need columns for the support of any part, and the partitions between them are so arranged the during the winter season they can be remove in the course of a day or so, and almost th whole of the curve formed into the unbroke balcony of a dress circle. The plan on which the boxes have been thus constructed to away with great supporting pillars is ve simple. From the outer walls a series wrought-iron brackets have been built on radiating towards the centre. These, midwi from the wall, are supported by a series powerful cast-iron columns which exten from the basement to the roof. The bros passages between these iron columns and t walls are filled up on the inner theatre si with fireproof walls and lofty arched firepro roofs overhead. Then there is a distinct fi proof passage round every tier of boxes fro top to bottom. The weight of the box themselves is carried on that part of t brackets or cantalevers which project beyo these columns, and these are strong enoug not only to bear the weight of the usual fo visitors in a box, but enough literally support the box if it were filled with bric or stone. "There are two great staircases betwe fire-proof walls, which pass upwards to the very roof of the building, and which won suffice to empty it in case of alarm in less that five minutes; the grand staircase is equa protected, so is the ornsh-room, and t saloons and retiring rooms specially devote to the use of ladies. Beneath the wood flooring of the pit all is built in strong fir proof arches, while the stage itself is out from the body of the theatre by a stout bri wall, which rises behind the woodwork almost a level with the footlights. No won shops are allowed over the ceiling at all, whe there is only a wide ventilator to take off t heated air. There is an admirable system ventilation, by which an ample current of d air, not warm, is let into and made to circ late all over the theatre, and pass out by th

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of t,	OFFICE FOR PROCURING PATENTS,	etc., for limited periods, and permanently on build- ings by deposit of premium a citve operation for more The Company has been in active operation for more than SIXTY YEARS, during which all losses have been promptly adjusted and paid. DIRECTORS. John L. Hodge. DIRECTORS.	Section 1. 7 of the City the Germant is hereby aut
y	FORREST BUILDINGS, No. 119 South FOURTH St., Philadelphia,	M. B. Mahony, Benjamin Etting, John T. Lewis, Thomas H. Powers,	on that porti the junction Diamond str they are inc
d	AND MARBLE BUILDINGS, No 160 SEVENTH Bireet, opposite U. S. Patent Office, Washington, D. O.	D. Clark Wharton, Samuel Wilcox, Lawrence Lewis, Jr., Lewis C. Norris,	same are her Preside
of e-	H. HOWFON, Solicitor of Patents, C. HOWSON, Attorney at Law, Communications to be addressed to the Principal Office, Philadelphia, 31 im*	BAMUEL WILCOX, Becretary. 24222	Attest- BENJAJ Cl
m es	PATENTS PROCURED IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE.	PHILADELPHIA. Office Southwest Cor, FOURTH and WALNUT Sta. FIRE INSURANCE EXOLUSIVELY, PERFETUAL AND TERM POLICIES ISSUED.	SEI
h ar	EDWARD BROWN,	Cash Capital	This certif entitled "Ar Privilege to
to ks	SOLICITOR OF PATENTS, 3 13 stutham No. 311 WALNUT Street.	Nalbro Frazier, John M. Atwoed, Benj, T. Tredick, George H. Stuart, John H. Brown, James M. Aertseu,	way Compa to the Selec March, one
ne ld	LEGAL NOTICES.	This Company insures only first-class risks, taking no specially hazardous risks whatever, such as facto- ries, mills, etc. F, RATCHFORD STARR President. F, BATCHFORD STARR President. THOS. H. MONTGOMERY, Vice-President.	said ordina was passed the eighteen
ly 10	The Anditor appointed by the Court to andit, settle.	ALEX. W. WINTER, Secretary. 261 IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.	ably to the a and provide 19; nays, 6. And the s
ed en e-	and adjust the final account of JOHN GEGAN, M. D., guardiau of the minor children of JOHN F. BURK E, cecessed, and to report distribution of the balance in the bands of the accountant, will meet the narrise	LONDON. ESTABLISHED 1803.	objections of the Common was passed b of March, A.
	Interested, for the purpose of his appointment, on THURSDAY, March 25, 1869, at 4 o'clock P. M., at his office, No. 433 WALLNUT Street, in the city of Philadelphia, THOMAS J. WORRELL,	Paid-up Capital and Accomulated Funds,	following vo Wherefore, passed agree
k- re	Auditor. LETTERS AESTAMENTARY TO THE ES- ing been granted to the undersigned, all persons hav-	\$8,000,000 IN GOLD. PREVOST & HERRING, Agents, No. 107 South THIRD Street, Philada.	of Assembly and is now a manner as Philadelphia
lo	ing claip s against the estate will present them for	CHAS. M. PREVOST. CHAS. P. HERRING	na an An Alfandi Maria an Ang
ae be	please make payment to JOHN W. SEXTON. No. 114 S. THIRD Street. HANNAH K. BURNETT, No. 3915 CHEETNUT street. 1 0 tout Philadelphia.	D.B. KINKELIN, AFTER A RESIDENCE orner of Third and Union streets, has lately re- moved to South ELEVENTH Street, between MAR. EFT and CHERNUT. His superjority in the prompt and perfect qure of	Attest- BENJAN Cl
	LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION TO THE	EFT and CHIERNUT. His superiority in the prompt and perfect ours of all recent, chronic, local, and constitutional affec- liens of a special nature, is proverbial. Ducance of the skin, appearing in a hundred dis- ferent forma, totally cradicated; mental and physical weakness, and all nervons debilities scientifically and mocenspully ireated. Dince hours from 5 4. M to 5 7.50	Cotton wagon-Cover Also, I Paper thirty inches i ing, Sail Twin
k.	indebied to said estate will make payment, and all having claims against the same will present them to ELLEN M. BAILEY, Administratrix, SI 1051 No. 36 N. FIFTH Etreet, Philadelphia,	and successfully treates. Silios Boars from 5 A. M	ing, Sail Twin

red to execute orders with quick despatch, scription of pattern-making made at the notice. High and Low-presure Fine and Cylinder Bollers, of the best Pennaylva-oal from. Forgings of all sizes and kinds. Erses Casting, and all ether work connected boye bouiness. gs and specifications for all work done as ishment free of charge, and work guaran-

scribers have ample wharf-dock room for boats, where they can be in perfect safety, rovided with shears, blocks, fails, etc. do beavy or light weights. JACOB C. NEAFIE, JOHN P. LEVY, BEACH and PALMER Streets,

N MESRICE. WILLIAM H. MESRICH JORN & COTE WARK FULNDEY, FIFTH ANE MARK FULNDEY, FIFTH ANE MERSICICA & SUME MERSICICA & SUME MERSICICA & SUME MERSICICA & SUME MERSICAL AND MAUNTAINTER, are Size and Low Pressure Steam Enginess Erver, and Marine Story Somas, etc. are Size and Low Pressure Steam Enginess Erver, and Marine Story Somas, etc. are Size and Low Press, etc. are Some for Gas Wirz, Workshops, and Stations, sto.

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ana, Defection, Filipere, Finitery, also accuption of Plancation Machinery, also w, and Griss Mills, Vacuum Pans, Of alma, Defection, Filipere, Pamping, Contine

ais for N. Silienx's Patent Sugar Solling Nesmyth's Patent Steam Hammer, and & Woolsey's Patent Contributed Sugar

CITY ORDINANCES.

R D I N A N C E Grant a Certain Privilege to the Ger-n Passenger Railway Company. I. The Select and Common Councils ity of Philadelphia do ordain, That antown Passenger Railway Company authorized and permitted to use sait ortion of their tracks lying north of tion of Germantown avenue and latter! and all ordinances so far as street; and all ordinances, so far as inconsistent herewith, be and the hereby repealed. LOUIS WAGNER,

ident pro tem. of Common Council.

JAMIN H. HAINES,

Clerk of Select Council. WILLIAM S. STOKLEY, President of Select Council.

OFFICE OF THE CLERKS OF

SELECT AND COMMON COUNCILS, PHILADELPHIA, March 19, 1869. tifics that the foregoing ordinance, An Ordinance to Grant a Certain "An Ordinance to Grant a Certain s to the Germantown Passenger Rail-mpany." was returned by the Mayor Select Council on the sixth day of one thousand eight bundred and he, without his approval, and the linance having been reconsidered, ssed by the Select Council on teenth day of March, A. D. 1896, agrees-he act of Assembly in such case made vided, by the following vote:-Yeas, 6.

.6. he said ordinance, together with the as of the Mayor, having been sent to mon Council for their consideration, ed by that body on the eighteenth day by that body on the eighteenth day by that body on the eighteenth day by the said ordinance having been greesbly to the provisions of the act bly in such cases made and provided, by a law in fail force and virthe, in like as if the Mayor of the said city of phia had signed it. Altest-JOHN ECKSTEIN,

JOHN ECESTEIN, Clerk of Common Council

AMIN H. HAINES, Clerk of Select Council. 3 28 11

SAIL DUCK AND CANVAS, OI antacturers' Drier Felt anty-aix inches wide, Paul JOHN W. EVERMA

AUNTALIAA