

LESSON CXXX.

ASIATIC RUSSIA.

1. ASIATIC RUSSIA consists of two distinct parts: 1st, Siberia; and 2d, the territories in the neighborhood of Mount Caucasus, or the Caucasian Provinces.

2. Siberia is a vast country in northern Asia, bounded on the south by the Chinese Empire and Toorkistan, and on the west by the Ural Mountains.

3. The surface is low and level, and slopes toward the Arctic Ocean. The northern part spreads into desert swamps, called the *tundra*.

4. The climate is very severe. The cold is so intense, that, for several feet below the surface, the soil is constantly frozen. The hot, but short, summer can thaw no more than four or five feet of the soil.

5. A very small part only of Siberia is under cultivation, and more than two thirds seems wholly incapable of it. Beyond the parallel of 60°, agriculture ceases, and is hardly practicable, east of the River Yenisei.

6. Hunting and mining constitute the chief employment of the people. The hunting is chiefly that of the fur-bearing animals. Gold abounds along the eastern side of the Ural Mountains, and gold and silver, among the northern outskirts of the Altai system. Iron and copper are also among the minerals of this region.

7. Tobolsk, the capital, is the largest town in Western Siberia. Ekaterineburg is in the midst of the mining district. Irkutsk is the capital of Eastern Siberia. Yakutsk is a great center of the fur trade.

8. The Caucasian Provinces are situated to the south of the Caucasian Mountains. Georgia is the largest division, and Tiflis is its capital.

Questions.—1. Of what two parts does Asiatic Russia consist? 2. What is Siberia? 3. The surface? 4. Describe the climate. 5. Extent of cultivation? 6. Employment? Where do gold and silver abound? 7. Tobolsk, etc.? 8. Where are the Caucasian Provinces? Which is the largest division, and what is its capital?

LESSON CXXXI.

JAPAN.

1. The Empire of JAPAN consists of an extensive group of islands; the largest of which are Nippon, Sikokk, Kiusiu, and Yeso.

2. All these islands are mountainous, and there are several active volcanoes on the Island of Nippon. The climate is distinguished by great extremes of summer and winter temperature.

3. The minerals include gold, silver, copper, iron, and tin; the copper is of the finest quality.

4. The chief vegetable productions are rice, barley, and wheat. Rice is the most general article of food.

5. The Japanese possess considerable skill in manufacturing. The art of *japaning* (or covering metals with varnish) derives its name from this country, where it is extensively practiced.

6. Until recently, the foreign commerce was limited to intercourse with two nations—the Chinese and Dutch. By treaty, it is now open to the United States and England.

7. The government is a strict despotism; the laws are exceedingly severe, and life is held in trifling regard. The people are pagans; they have numerous temples, and hold as sacred many of the inferior animals, such as the cat and dog. The government entertains great jealousy of foreigners.

8. Yedo, the capital of the Japanese empire, is situated on the south side of the Island of Nippon, and is said to have upward of a million of inhabitants.

Questions.—1. Of what does the empire of Japan consist? 2. Surface? Climate? 3. Minerals? 4. Vegetable productions? 5. Manufacturing? 6. Foreign commerce? 7. Government and laws? Religion? 8. Yedo?

LESSON CXXXII.

CHINESE EMPIRE.

1. The CHINESE EMPIRE embraces a vast region in the central and eastern part of Asia. It consists of Chi'na proper (the principal division), and the tributary provinces, Tib'et, Mongo'lia, Manchoo'ria, and Core'a.

CHINA.

2. Chi'na embraces every variety of surface—mountains, plains, and valleys. The climate is cold, for the latitude; and sudden changes of temperature are common.

3. The chief articles of cultivation are rice (the kind of grain most generally grown), wheat, tea, cotton, tobacco, sugar-cane, and the mulberry. Tea is chiefly produced between the parallels of 27° and 31°.

4. The manufactures are important; including silk, porcelain, nankeen, lacquered ware, India-ink, and paper. The