

GRADE SCHOOL COMPOSITIONS.

JAPAN.

The Japanese Islands are a group of islands situated in the Pacific Ocean, east of China, in Asia. The largest islands are Hondu, Shikoku, Kuisiu and Yezo.

The area of these islands is larger than that of the British Isles, and the population is about the same.

The Japanese coast is very rocky and bold, and many volcanoes traverse these islands.

Japan produces a great quantity of tea, gold, silver iron and copper.

The inhabitants are small people, with dark complexions, and have many queer customs, such as using straw mats for tables and chairs, and taking off their shoes before entering their houses.

The government of Japan is a monarchy. The "Mikado" is aided by a Great Council.

The religion of the Japanese is mostly Buddhists, but many have become Christians.

The capital of Japan is Tokyo. Japan is a very independent little country, and has just declared war against Russia.

Margaret Eldredge,
Age 15; 1st year high school.

JAPAN.

Japan is a group of Islands east of Asia. Although the country is very small, it is one of the foremost countries of Asia, and is increasing in prosperity very rapidly.

It lies between the parallels of 30 and 50 degrees north latitude, but is very narrow. It comprises four islands, and Tokio is the capital. Although a small country, it has a fine army and navy, and has whipped China, a country many times the size of it.

The men come over to America to go to West Point and Annapolis. They are small and agile, and make fine sailors and soldiers.

At one time they were all heathen, but now in Tokio there are fifty-six Christian churches and, unlike most heathen countries, they are anxious to become Christianized.

The islands they live in are of volcanic origin, and have many volcanoes on them now. Scientists say that the land is never at rest, and an earthquake is going on all the time.

At present they are at war with Russia, a country much larger than they are; but they have destroyed many vessels already, but they cannot hold out long, because they are so small.

Norwood Ancrum,
Age 14; high school, first year.

ICE.

Ice is frozen water. Green grocers use ice in warm weather to put fish on, or any other sort of meat, or anything that will not keep without the use of it. In the summer time some people get ice for their water, tea, milk, or any sort of drink, to make it cool and refreshing.

In Alaska and northern Canada, and many other cold places like that, ice cutting is the chief industry.

Poor people who have no fuel for fire, or have no money to buy any, undoubtedly suffer for the want of it. Many people who do not know any better, and go skating on ponds or lakes, sometimes break a bone or two, because the ice is weak in some places and will not hold them.

When it rains and the weather is real cold, it freezes the rain on the trees, houses, ditches and ruts; it makes the scenery beautiful. If it were not so cold, I think to take a drive through the country where the woods are thick, the scenery would be beautiful, if everything were covered with ice as it is now.

Bertie Lenoir,
Age, 13; grade 7.

Letter from Tennessee.
Telford, Tenn., Feb. 20.

Editor "The People."—The third copy of your paper, "The People," has just reached our home. We will now acknowledge our high appreciation of "The People," and the kindness of its editor as well, for his kind remembrance of us in placing our name upon his subscription list. We will further show our appreciation by enclosing herewith \$1 as part payment on our subscription.

We have just returned from a two weeks trip in the mountains of the upper counties of this State, where snow, ice and corn whiskey at this time of the year reigns supreme, and we feel very much as if we had been struck by a cyclone, or a Rodgers engine.

We will have to congratulate you on your new and, what we think, a successful enterprise—"The People." Our family is delighted with it, and especially with your promise to treat your patrons each week to chicken, or, rather, to give them dots on the successful way of raising them. Our wife is an enthusiast on the poultry question. She, in the fall, sold off all her stock except thirty hens and two crows. Her weekly income since Christmas on those has been an average of \$2, and not all of the hens were laying. The price of eggs ranged from 25 to 32 cents per dozen.

Our wife is anxious to learn what is the best kind of food and the best method of treatment to bring the best result in the production of eggs. East Tennessee is hard to beat as a poultry producing section. But you know, brother Schrock, that a woman's wants are hard to supply. I have known some wives to quarrel with their husbands because the hens would not lay twice per day.

If you can suggest any plan or diet that will bring about the two eggs per day result, you then will be termed a ladies man.

East Tennessee has been visited by the most severe winter that we have had in over twenty years. Continued, and some very extreme, cold weather, accompanied by snow and ice, has prevailed here since November 1st.

The wheat, oat and grass crops are said to be greatly damaged, due to their being frozen out.

Stock of all kinds—horses mules and cattle—are scarce, and in demand at high prices.

Success to "The People," the editor and his family. Also to my many friends and acquaintances in Kershaw and surrounding counties. S. H. Ford.

Bethune Items.

After several weeks illness, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Josey died on Thursday, Feb. 18th, aged six months. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the bereaved parents. The funeral services were conducted at Turkey Creek church.

The attention of our town authorities is respectfully called to the horrible condition of the new public road leading from Little Lynchess creek to town, near the depot. It is almost impassable, and the traveling public is complaining in consequence.

R. F. D. No. 1.

There was a pound party at Mr. Williams' on Thursday night. All present had a good time.

Mr. Henry W. Hyatt and Miss Nettie Stokes, both of Lucknow, were married on last Sunday night, Magistrate peebles officiating.

There will be a dance at Mr. Wade Ratcliffe's on next Friday night.

Uncle Sam.

Bethune, Feb 24.

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"The People," Camden, S. C.