

## CHAPTER VII.

Countries with which Canada deals.—Trade and Commerce.—Census Returns.—Education.

### No. 3.—THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN.

370. The Empire of Japan occupies its position in the North Pacific Ocean to the east of the Asiatic continent. It extends from  $24^{\circ} 6'$  north latitude to  $50^{\circ} 56'$  north latitude, and from  $122^{\circ} 45'$  east longitude to  $156^{\circ} 32'$  east longitude.

371. The empire, which consists of the four great islands and numerous smaller islands, is separated on the north-west by the sea of Japan from the Russian Manchuria and the Corean Peninsula. On the north it is separated from the Russian territory by Saghelien Island and the strait of Nicholævsk and on the north-east the group of the Kurile Islands extends to the Kam-tchata in the Russian Dominion. On the south-east the empire is bordered by the Pacific Ocean, the vast expanse of which separates Japan from the Dominion of Canada. On the south-west the empire includes the Riukin Islands and extends southward so as to include the Island of Formosa.

The extent of the empire from north-east to south-west is about 500 ri and its breadth varies from 30 to 60 ri. Ri = 2.44 miles.

Honshin, the largest of the four islands occupies the central position. Shikoku lies in the south ; Kiu-siu in the west and Hokkaido in the north.

The provinces of the empire are divided, exclusive of those of the Kinai, into eight great circuits, seven of which are contained in Honshin, Kiu-siu and Shikoku. The remaining circuit comprises Hokkaido. Besides the four great islands, the chain of the Kuriles extends northward from the eastern coast of Hokkaido.

372. The following statement gives the area and population of the empire :—

Division.	Area, sq. ri.	Population.
Honshin . . . . .	14,571	30,715,265
Shikoku . . . . .	1,181	2,879,260
Kiu-siu . . . . .	2,617	5,755,958
Hokkaido . . . . .	5,062	293,714
The Kuriles (32 islands) . . . . .	1,033	
Sado . . . . .	56	111,633
Oki . . . . .	22	33,932
Awaji . . . . .	37	190,195
Iki . . . . .	9	35,711
Ishushima . . . . .	45	31,719
Ruikiu group (55 islands) . . . . .	156	405,031
Ogasawara group (17 islands) . . . . .	4	1,043
	24,793	40,453,461

Sq. ri = 5.96 sq. miles.