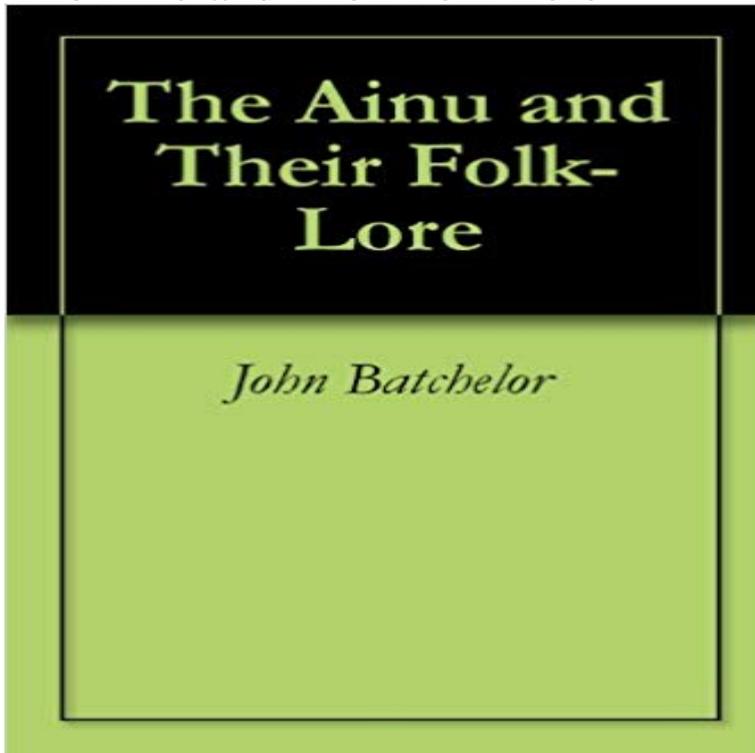


The Ainu and Their Folk-Lore



This memoir is from 1901 and covers 25 years of living, as a missionary, with the Ainu people of Japan . A great read about a unique people and their customs. From the Preface: My book entitled *The Ainu of Japan* was written in the year 1889, and published three years later. Since then it has been my privilege to have had further experience of some twelve years duration in the midst of the Ainu, altogether making a life among them of nearly twenty-five years. On reading that book through in the light of the more extended knowledge thus obtained, I am bound to admit that I found many matters contained therein which need modification, as well as some others which struck me as being mis- leading. It was an earnest desire to make amends to the public by rectifying these blemishes which first suggested the idea of either writing a new book on the subject or revising the old one.

After thinking the matter well over, I came to the conclusion that it would be better to write a new book, especially as I had in hand a large quantity of new material in the way of legends and folk-lore. The present production is not, therefore, simply the old volume revised (though much has been quoted from it), but a new book with the mistakes found in the old one rectified as far as known. And it has been my aim throughout to let the Ainu themselves speak, while I have simply acted as translator in so far as the legends and folk-lore are concerned. It may, perhaps, be considered by some readers that I have quoted too many similar legends and items of folk-lore. But the apology for having produced so many (if apology is necessary) is that I thought it best to give all I had, so that any one interested in this kind of research might have materials for purposes of comparison with the lore of other races; and the ethnologist knows (and who better than he ?) that slight differences in lore some- times mean a great deal. Others also may imagine that I might have made more

use of Mr. Savage Landors book on The Hairy Ainu than I have done. I have read that production through very carefully, and have come to the conclusion that his book is too inexact to be used for any purposes of ethnological science ; it is, therefore, not quoted in this book. Through the courtesy of The Religious Tract Society I have been able to reproduce in this volume the illustrations contained in my old book, and for this I desire to express my thanks. But these have been largely added to by photos and sketches I have been able to obtain since writing that book, thus considerably enriching the present volume. I am also greatly indebted to the Society for the courteous way in which they have met me, for the suggestions made by them, and for the care exercised in bringing out this book. My best thanks are also due to my friend, Dr. Miyabe, Professor of Botany in the Sapporo Agricultural College, Japan, for kindly supplying me with the correct botanical names of plants mentioned in this book. In conclusion (to quote from the preface of my old work), my * object will be attained if it {the present book} leads my readers to appreciate the good points of this strange race; and, above all, if it leads them to feel renewed interest in the efforts that are being made to bring them under the civilising influence and saving grace of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some subjects: The early Ainu were cannibals--Clan wars--How tattooing is done--Household Furnishings--Marriage and Divorce--Etiquette--Food--Trees and Tree Worship--Serpent Cultus--Animan and Bird Cultus--About Names and Name Giving--Treasures and Ornaments---The Pleasures of Life--The village community--Diseases--Exorcism--Hunting and Fishing--Music and singing--The village community--Reverence for old people taught-- Death and Burial....and so much more!

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