Perhaps one of the most pitiful and undesirable positions in society in Japan is that held by the half breed. I mean the half breed whose blood is a mixture of the Caucasian and Japanese. It is usually the mother who is a Japanese, the father being a foreigner. The reason for this is that of that country as Japanese citizens, they live strangely isolated both from their mother's people and from their father's. If they at all resemble their father, or act or live different from those about them, the Japanese look down on them, sheding to them contemptuously, as "half caste." On the other hand, Westerners are inclined to regard them with interest, strongly marveling, perhaps, with a pity that the proud sensitive heart of the half breed resents.

**Characteristics.**

In Japan half breeds are wonderulously precocious, their sharpness and brightness being almost unexampled, though as a rule they are so sensitive that their education is too general for them to accomplish much in any one direction. Furthermore they are extremely eratic and moody, made happy by the smallest of things, and plunged into the depths of despair at trifles. Some are undoubtedly something like the mixed-breed horses, and the half breed as a rule hard and heartless. I have found it to be the reverse. It is true that they are reticent and slow to make friends, and even where they make them, it is observed no one ever gets really close to them, yet when it comes to an act of wonderful heroism or unselfishness, I am never surprised to find, a half breed the one who has incident. They appear generous enough to give to those they love, and bitter as death to those they dislike.

From their earliest childhood, whether in this country or in Japan, certain is made to feel that they are different from those about them. Children are very often the cruelest of tormentors as well as the keenest sufferers. The sufferings of half breed while in their childhood from the hands of strangers, thoughtless children, can never perhaps be understood or appreciated by any one.

Should they be educated in Japan, the Japanese children will despise them because their fathers were Christians. In this country or in England they are accused of being "niggers," "Chinee," etc. Such methods of torture are administered to these children under the very noses of the teachers both in Japan and other countries, though it is less common here in America. When it is brought to the notice of the teachers, they will perhaps administer some slight punishment, and the incident passes from their minds. How many acts of cruelty are daily performed by thoughtless children unknown by parents or teachers. To a superstitious nature such is that of the half breed, the smallest cut or slight is felt. This is how cynics are made. Half breeds are either cynics, or they are philosophers or geniuses. They are seldom ordinary—seldom normal.

I know a little half breed Japanese girl of twelve years who used to say that she loved and hated every country in the world. It made her angry to find people patriotic, because patriotism seemed to her so selfish—an excluded sort of content. This is how patriotism appeared to a little girl who had no real country to be proud of. Perhaps both of the countries she might have called her own home, had bruised her so that in the midst of her yearning and love for them, she resented the fact that she herself belonged to neither of them, insomuch as she was an outcast from both—entirely different from those about her.

**Lack Veneration.**

The Japanese half breed seldom made good sons or daughters, nor do they have that great reverence and love for the parents which is common among children of ordinary parents. I do not know why this is so, unless it lies in the fact that the same love and care that are given to good parents to their children are withheld from them. Their education is superstitious; they are taught the smarter trick of their father's country, and those of their mother's. Very often their parents do not live together and then they have not been, and who is merciful, are often bittered perhaps. Of course, there are exceptional cases, where the children are brought up entirely as their father's people, or as their mother's, and usually the Japanese half breed does not know the counsel, and the dearly-to-be-desired strict guidance of a father, or the watchful, tender loving care of a mother.

**Childhood.**

It must not be imagined, however, that the half breed's life is altogether devoid of happiness. It is generally in their childhood that they really suffer the most. After that period is passed, they go out into the world prepared to encounter sorrows. It is noticeable that people who have suffered an isolated childhood, in who their early youth have been ridiculed and tortured by companions, for no other reason perhaps than that they were different from them, usually make the very best or the very worst of men and women. Some of them become quite philosophic, and it is natural for them to weigh everything that comes their way. They lose heart in the face of adversity and are always careful in judgment, wondering how they could have let such trials cause them so much misery. These ones doubtless even in childhood forgot their ways among their school companions and demanded and got all their rights. On the other hand the over-sensitive ones are spoilt from childhood for any sort of a higher life. From constantly being called names and shammed, they become bitter and harsh in their judgment of everyone.

**Possibilities Exceptions.**

There are a great number of Japanese half-breeds, though they are scattered so much that it is not often one comes into contact with them. I wonder whether the sadness of their lot is due to the fact that their fathers were Christian and their mothers Japanese, or whether it is due to the fact that their fathers were Japanese men, too. In this country who have married American or English women, and whose children receive every opportunity, but alas! for the hundreds of pitiful little ones who are born in Japan every year, and whose fathers they seldom know.