

ernment treats us on this Pacific coast. The very supplies come from eastern contractors. The lard oil for the lights on the Pacific coast is furnished by the Mansurvey steamer Carlile P. Patthough especially built for service on the Pacific coast, was constructvards. The vessel has been so did his work as cheaply as possithat he dared, so as to make money out of a low contract. A far superior vessel could have been built at either Mare island or in the Columbia river, or on Puget sound, and at equal cost, taking into consideration the expense of the trip and the wear and tear of the vessel in the long sea voyage from New York to San Francisco, A new lighthouse steamer, the Madrona, has recently been launched on the Delaware for the Pacific coast lighthouse depart-

ment. For the same reasons as in the case of the Patterson, that vessel should have been built on this coast. The authorities at Washington have been neither liberal nor just in the treatment of the merchants and workmen of the Pacific states. They have acted as though we were outside colonies, and all supplies for the governent that were to be used at shipped to us from the distant eastern states, instead of being procured from our own business communities. 

AN IMPORTANT REFORM.

"reform" in these days, it is natural to suppose it to refer to politics or morals. But there are reforms in other directions quite as interesting. One of these has just been instituted in the faraway empire of Japan, That assemblage of islands, containing

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more people than Great Britain and Ireland, has a language which stands in about the same relation to that of China as the English does to Latin. Its common words belong to a stock which may be regarded as native, while its modern additions are mostly of Chinese origin, especially those of a scientific character. Also it has borrowed its mode of writing from the celestial kingdom, and has hitherto employed that terrible array of syllabic and ideographic characters for every written record

of thought or fact, though using the syllable forms a little more freely than the Chinese themselves. But the representative men of Japan have among their number not a few who have recently devoted their energies to the acquirement and diffusion of the knowledge of the white race, and particularly of those who speak the English language. They have arrived at the important, conclusion that the most formidable barrier to progress in that effort is couched in the fact that it

requires a large part of the labor of a lifetime to learn the use of the Chinese cheracters, and have therefore introduced the English

ing of their native tongue. That involves the abandonment of the syllabic and ideographic methods, as well as of the characters now in use. In taking this step Japan is yesterday. really going far ahead of either England or the United States, as

it adopts the phonetic plan of representing each word by letters which spell out the sound. Its use will enable the Japanese youth

