

Reading 1a/b: *Household Words*/*Bentley's Miscellany*: Worksheet

- 1) Reading 1a. Unsigned [Henry Morley], "Our Phantom Ship: Japan", *Household Words* 3:59 (10 May 1851) pp. 160-7.
 2) Reading 1b. Unsigned. "What do we know about Japan?" *Bentley's Miscellany*, 31 (May 1852) pp. 545-52.

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I. General Questions (regarding both readings)

1. The form of both of these journal articles can be said to be "fictionalized"? How and why?
2. What indications are given in each article of the sources of information about Japan? Where no indication of source is given, can you surmise where the information might come from?
3. Are there any places in either article where it is clear that the writer has been misinformed about Japanese history and society?
4. What attitudes, both positive and negative, do the two passages reflect regarding Japanese society and culture?
5. What attitudes, both positive and negative, do the two passages reflect regarding Western societies and cultures?
6. Do either of the passages reflect the modes of thought that we have termed Social Darwinism and Orientalism? If so, where and how?

II. Specific Questions (regarding each reading)

1a) What do you understand by the following phrases found in the article?

- e. "the England of the Pacific Ocean" (160right)
- b. "excluded from classification" (162left)
- c. "(hear, England!)" (163right)
- d. "*revenons à nos Mikados*" (165left)
- f. "the days of Æschylus" (166left)

1b) What do you understand by the following phrases found in the article?

- a. "but it was *papier-maché*" (545)
- b. "the image of a pretty little Chinese lady at the bottom of her empty tea-cup" (548)
- c. "Our motto should rather be *Veni – v(end)idi – vici.*" (550)
- d. "the annexation of Sindh" (551)
- e. "the future destinies of the Anglo-Saxon races" (552)