

Travelling in Japan.

A prominent American has said, ¹¹⁵ two centuries ago, the man who had completed a journey around the globe would have been called a hero. One century ago he would have been remarkable. To-day the name he earns is merely "Globe Trotter."

You hear often and read frequently of Japan, and a visit to Japan would certainly be a pleasure to you. A breath of the sweet air, the sight of the tiny houses on the hill-side and the peculiar sound of the prayer bell, would tell you where you ^{are} were. This is what the little people are pleased to call "The Merry Land of the Mikado."

The first thing you surely will laugh at, on leaving the custom house of Yokohama, will be the Jinrikishas that you will find awaiting you.

The Jinrikishas- what are they? If you ask me, I should say big-wheeled baby-carriages. The men who pull these baby-carriages are small, brown and heavy set. Jinrikisha hire is very cheap. One can take a Jinrikisha for all day long without feeling the expense. Ten cents an hour or seventy-five cents for an entire day. If you have packages which do not exceed a hundred pounds you will not need to employ an expressman; you can take them with you in the Jinrikisha. The speed of Jinrikisha is very astonishing. Even with only one man in the shafts, the usual rate is at least five miles an hour. With one man pushing and two pulling, you actually seem to fly. On good roads sometimes they make twelve miles an hour. The Japanese word, Jinrikisha, is worth explaining: Jin means man, riki denotes power, and sha signifies wheel. A man-power carriage is therefore a correct translation, but the most appropriate title is the one which was given to it by a Yankee traveller, "The man pull-car."

The City of Yokohama is divided into three sections. The first is the original business settlement, there the hotels are located, The second is the strictly Japanese quarter; the third lies on an eminence called the Yamate or Bluff. The summit of the hill is reached not only by a winding road, but also by a stairway which is commonly known as the Hundred Steps. Upon the Yamate most of the foreigners

resided. Here also are the hospitals of the different nations, the foreign cemetery and several consulates.

If you wish to call upon a resident upon the hill, it is not necessary to give the name of the person to the Jinrikisha-man. Simply tell him to take you to a gentleman No. 50 or the lady No. 100, which are the numbers of the houses in which they live. It is almost impossible to make the baby-carriage man understand a foreign name.

One morning an American gentleman while strolling through the streets of Yokohama, saw two little Japanese women doing laundry work and spreading the garments out to ~~dry~~^{dry} on a smooth flat board. They laughingly called out to him "Ohio-Ohio," which is the Japanese expression ~~got~~ good-morning. This gentleman was a Judge from Covington, Kentucky, and did not know the meaning of the word as they used it. Accordingly when one of the Japanese women smiled sweetly at him and said with a slightly rising inflection, "Ohio"-- he faltered for an instant, and then replied "Well not exactly, I come from Kentucky, just across the river."

Every twenty minutes a train leaves Yokohama for the Shinbashi Station in Tokyo. It is one of the most beautiful short trips in Japan, and required only ~~forty~~^{thirty} minutes. The view of the blue bay of Tokyo on the right, and the sight of these solitary pagodas and the typical hamlets of Japan on the left are delightful.

Tokyo was formerly called Yedo, and is situated on the bank of the Sumida River fronting the bay of Shingawa and eighteen miles north of Yokohama.

It is, in truth, a city of magnificent distances, for its area surpasses that of London. It has seven railway stations conveniently located. Surface and elevated cars run constantly, and a number of steam-boats and ships are on the Sumida river. Together with its suburbs it has a population of 1,800,000.

Four hundred years ago, however, Tokyo was a fishing hamlet. In 1603, three hundred years ago, it became the military capital of Japan. Since that time it has been very frequently burned and rebuilt. In fact every thirty years this city has arisen anew from its ashes.

In the heart of Tokyo is an old castle which was built by Tokugawa Shogun, a general in the army. This castle is now the imperial palace. Around it is drawn a moat like a warrior's belt; that might easily be deemed as a river. The vast extent of this enclosure, its highly polished walls of stone, the silent and waveless stretch of water which surrounds the palace— all of these add mystery to one whose residence is so secluded from the eyes of the public. Yet it is only recently that the Mikado has lived here.

Forty years ago the residence of the Japanese sovereigns was a retired place in the ancient city of Kiyoto. It may well be called "retired" for they lived like prisoners for many centuries, until the great revolution of 1869 from which new Japan has sprung.

For many centuries the people of Japan had never seen the face of their Emperor. In giving audience, even to his priests and nobles, he sat behind a screen invisible. When he walked in his garden, carpets were spread before him to keep his sacred feet from contact with the ground. If he drove out, it was in a covered carriage, closed by screens, and as he passed along the streets his subjects knelt down in the attitude of prayer. This was the custom of half a century ago— that is to say, before Commodore Perry opened the door of Japan in 1854.

There are many parks in Tokyo— Hibiya, Ueno, Assakusa, and Shiba are the principal ones.

Hibiya park is situated in front of the imperial palace and occupies many acres. All sorts of stately trees are planted there. Hills, ponds, pavillions and Japanese restaurants are everywhere to be seen. This beautiful park cost the Japanese government over ten millions of dollars.

Ueno park is very beautiful in the Spring. It is located on a hill West of the Hibiya Park. Thousands of old cherry trees spread over a mile. Ancient and modern structures shoot heavenward, among the cherry trees. Here are also the Zoological gardens and the Japanese Imperial Museum. In the Museum will be found many interesting, historical relics and curios of Japan.

Assakusa Park is on the North west side of Tokyo and is noted for its amusements of all kinds, such as theatres, circuses, panoramas and all sorts of ^hshows, and resembles Luna Park and Dreamland of Coney Island. There is also a fine aquarium which contains all kinds of things that live in the sea.

Shiba Park is small, and is located on the east side of the City, and is noted for the most beautiful temple, Zojoji, and for the tombs of forty-seven patriotic Japanese soldiers.

The Japanese have a festival day in every odd number month, except November, such as the first of January, the third of March, the fifth of May, the seventh of July and the ninth of September.

The first of January is very much like New Years Day in America. The ^dthird of March is the festival day for young girls. On this day the girls have the most jolly time of ^{the}year. They display their dolls and invite children to the dolls' dinner. Some girls go for a picnic on the hill or to the sea shore.

The fifth of May is the festival day for the boys and is called "Flag Day." Every house is decorated with flags, banners and immense fishes made of cloth. On the flag is usually painted the portrait of a ²hero or the three sacred trees of Japan, the pine, the bamboo and the plum. On this day mothers and ^sisters are very busy in the kitchen making cakes which they call Kashiwamochi. These cakes are made of rice, with crushed beans ^{which sweetened}, then folded in oak leaves and steamed.

The seventh of July is the festival day of the weavers and it is called Tanabata. In celebrating this day they decorate with bamboos and tie hundreds of red, blue, silver and gold tags on them. On each of the tags, children write some lucky ^{or} rhymes so as to have good luck. This decorating with bamboo is something like the Christmas tree in America.

The ninth of September is the last festival day of the labours. Men and women, boys and girls enjoy themselves at the picnics in the woods or on the hill.

The customs of picnic in Japan may be interesting to you. The Japanese ^{usually} carry uncooked provisions, and cook them at the place

where the picnic is held. They spread a couple of red blankets on the ground and place the dishes in the centre of the blankets and kneel around the edge. The happy folks thus placed resemble a huge chrysanthemum. They drink *sake*, and sing and dance most joyfully. They laugh loudly and clap their hands. Their happy voices can be heard almost a mile away.

Nikko is a small town at the foot of Tutaara Mountain, a hundred miles North of Tokyo, and where the golden temple and the great monument are erected for the tomb of Tokugawa Iyeyasu, by two hundred and sixty-four Daimiyoes ~~and~~ ^{or} governors in Japan. It is a most beautiful structure and is the finest place in Japan. Some one has said that the *sculpture* of Nikko ~~are~~ ^{is} far better than those of Acropolis in Greece.

There are many historical places, buildings, hot-springs and magnificent views in Japan, such as Enoshima, Kamakura, Atami, Hakone, Bewako, Kiyoto, ^t ⁱ Nikkaguji, Ginkaguji, Shima, Akashi, and Nara, etc., but I will not take time to describe them for fear of wearying you.

In connection with this, it will be interesting to you to be reminded of a peculiar custom of Japan. The polite method of salutation is to bow three times almost to the ground. Hand-shaking is not used as a greeting; it is only used among the young ^e people as a ^{si} sign of love. When my friend first came to America, it was all right when a gentleman shook hands with him, but rather strange it was and embarrassing ^{to him} when a lady did so.

"Kiss"- Japanese never do, even a kind mother with her sweet baby. It is said that once an American kissed a Japanese girl whom he liked well. She screamed as she was ~~so~~ frightened. Then he explained the fact ^{to her}. Next day she came to him and said, "Scare me again."

Many years ago there was a Japanese farmer who understood that the telegraph wire carried any kind of messages and packages. It was near Christmas time and he wanted to send a pair of boots to his

who was several hundred miles away from home as he was studying in a College. He hung up the new pair of boots on the wire and went home. Soon after he left there, a tramp came and saw the new pair of boots and exclaimed "Oh Lord, I thank Thee for the gift." He took them down, put them on, and put up his old pair. The farmer next morning was so glad to see the old pair, as ~~the~~ thought that his son received the new pair and sent the old ones back.

Watching the Japanese is like watching yourself in a mirror, because everything seems reversed, or you might say, everything appears upside-down. American carpenters push the plane from them, while Japanese pull it towards them. Your keys turn outward, but Japanese keys turn inward. The Japanese way of doing a hundred familiar things is so directly opposite to that of Americans, that one is almost tempted to believe the cause is their position on the opposite side of the earth, and that the Japanese way of living is really upside-down.

The only question is things which are up which are down. For example, Americans take off their hats when entering a house, while the Japanese take off their shoes. In respect American stands before the distinguished person, your books begin at the left side of the page while the Japanese begin at the right side. If a Japanese book is annotated, the notes are placed at the top of the pages instead of at the bottom; they are headnotes, not footnotes. Americans write across the sheet of paper horizontally, while Japanese write down the page perpendicularly as an American make a column of figures. Your color for morning is black; the Japanese morning color is white. The best rooms of your house are in the front, while the best rooms of the Japanese houses are in the rear. The American husband is anxious to please his wife, while the Japanese wife is anxious to please her husband.

Japanese are dirty & homely but their hearts & nature are good
 The people of Japan are small. A man seems like a boy, a woman looks like a girl and their child appears like a moving doll. But they are polite, industrious and smart like Yankees. They are keen and studious like the people of Germany. In war they are splendid soldiers like the Spartans of old.

It is true to-day, as it was three hundred years ago, when the quaint words of Williams Adams were written, that the people of the

Religion in Japan.

There are three ^{principal} religions in Japan, — Shinto, Buddhism and Christianity ~~are the principal ones.~~

Shinto means, literally, the ways of the Gods. Though often styled by foreign writers as a religion, it is really not one. No concise definition of it appears to exist, but the following are some of its leading points.

"Shinto contains no moral code," said the famous ^{Japanese} writer, Motocri, ^{who lived from 1720-1801} and even asserts that "in Japan there is no necessity for any system of Morals, as every Japanese acts aright if he only consults his own heart." He also declared that "the whole duty of a good Japanese consisted in obeying implicitly and without question the commands of the Mikado."

In Shinto, the people believe that Japan is held to be the country of Gods, and the Mikado to be the direct descendant and actual representative of the Sun goddess, whom ~~we~~ ^{they} call Amaterasu-Omikami. In it there is also mixed up a system of hero-worship, many renowned warriors and other persons of Ancient days being exalted to what Americans would term demi-god; thus it inculcates a reverent feeling toward the dead. By it, ^{are} spiritual agencies attributed to the elements or natural phenomena.

The Shinto Shrines throughout the land of Mikado are built in very simple style, being generally constructed of white wood, ^{un}adorned by brilliant colouring as in Buddhist temples and roofed with thatch. Most of them ^{are small} ~~do not have~~ and never have ^{had} ~~had~~ preaching halls.

Buddhism is based upon the belief that Buddha is a supreme being, has no beginning and no end, and rules the world, known and unknown; that the soul of every living creature, whether human or animal, is an offspring of Buddha, and the body in which the soul resides is a temporary resting place, which may be occupied or abandoned at option; that to die is to return to one's original birthplace, where one is absorbed by the Almighty Buddha, still retaining one's individuality, and that, therefore, a soul transmigrates in every seventh generation, disappearing and reappearing, now as a man, then as an animal according

to merit during the previous existence.

This religion is said to have been introduced from Korea in the first century of the Christian era, but was not propagated until the year 552. a.d.

In 1899 there were 168,000 Buddhist priests and 160,244 temples and monasteries.

There are two distinct periods of Christian mission in the land of Japan.

The first was begun by the earnest and successful Xavier in the year of 1542. It was, of course, a movement of ^{the} Roman-Catholic Church. Xavier himself was in Japan about two years. This was the first time ^{Japanese} our ancestors enjoyed the preaching of Charity, Faith, and Duty and Holiness, which had never moved a human ^{being} an inch heavenward in Japan. After he started ^{with} ^{the} work ~~that~~ other priests carried on for nearly a century with extraordinary results. "In little over half a century ~~ago~~ the Christians numbered one million, the highest figure ever attained in Japan."

But when the great Hideyoshi Taego, a general, arose, who scorned the ways and the teachings of the foreign priests and began the most bloody persecution in our history, these were ^{indeed} dark days for Japan. During the persecution, edicts were exhibited in every town ^{said} in which says: "If any one is suspected of being a Christian, inform ~~me~~ against him at once. Informers ^{shall} have the following rewards."

"For a Christian Priest. \$300. ^{pieces of silver}

"For a Catchman \$300

"For one who has lived in the same house with a Christian

\$100. ^{pieces of silver}

"If one conceals a Christian, ⁱⁿ his house and the local officers shall be severely punished."

After that time Christianity practically became a secret religion until the great revolution in 1869, from which the new Japan has sprung.

The second period ⁱⁿ has begun since 1872.

On the tenth of March, 1872, Rev. James Ballagh organized the Christian Church in Yokohama, with eleven members. This is what

Japanese
 we call "The Birth of the First Christian Church in the Kingdom of the Rising Sun."

In the same year Capt. L. L. James, formerly ~~was~~ an instructor at West Point, was employed to found a school in Kumamoto, where he made hundreds of converts.

In 1874 Dr. Joseph Neejima returned from America with a burning inspiration of Christianity. It is said that the first day when he preached at home, tears streamed down the cheeks of his relations and neighbors as he eloquently told them the story of salvation and made ^{over} three hundred converts. In the following years he boldly established a theological School in the heart of the Buddhist monasteries, which is now called Kiyoto University.

In 1878 the nine Americans and six British Protestant missions in Japan had 104 Missionaries, 26 Churches, 1617 members, 3 Theological Schools, 173 students and 9 ordained preachers. But within the last twenty-nine years 269 Christian Schools with ^{number of} total pupils, 5952 have been established. Ordained preachers have been increased to 1389, and 1005 Churches with the total membership of over two hundred and fifty thousand members. The average of about 90 baptisms take place in the Churches every Sunday. The Commander in Chief of ^{the} Japanese Navy and the leader of ^{the} Japan Parliament are Christians.

This manifestation of ^{the} prosperity of Christianity proves how much you people are helping the mission work in Japan.

Thomas S. Rockrise.

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land of Japan are courteous above measure and valiant in war. They are bold and heroic by nature. Deeds of daring and desperate adventure may be looked for from them as a matter of course. Patriotism, too, is a passion with the Japanese. The tie which binds every Japanese to his Emperor is closer than that which binds father and son. To die for his lord has always been the highest ambition of a samurai or soldier. Time has not touched his ancient passion save to intensify it. The nation of Japan knows no division, ^{it is} but one Empire. It is as one man consumed with patriotic zeal to die, if need be, for the Emperor, whom with unquestioning reverence the Japanese style "Son of Heaven." Another strong characteristic is that no man, woman or child in the empire will hold back money or life in the hour of their country's need. This is no ^{strong} figure of speech, but a plain statement of the fact. Thus the nation of Japan has proved itself to be one of the strongest nations in the world. Since the war with Russia has ended, the business and education in Japan are growing rapidly. There are many things which signify the prosperity of Japan, such as railroads have been extended over five thousand miles in that small island which in area is 11,000 square miles less than that of California, ~~one state~~. Ships have been increased 5594, with a total tonnage of 1,267,526, and within the last sixteen months 3,896 business corporations have been organized with a total capital of \$900,000,000. Schools have been increased 31,755 with the total attendance of 8,000,000,—that is to say, 18 per cent of the whole population are in school and there is no uneducated man or woman under the age of forty.

If this nation of Japan advances for another ten years as she has done in the past ten years with the same velocity of improving her prosperity, no Nation under the sun can successfully oppose this kingdom of cherry blossoms.

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