

no doubt that we were going to rob them. They gave us in exchange some fresh cod and lobster and we left them we hope with a better impression of us than they seemed to entertain at first.

We went through the strait of Borea and stood up along the coast of Japan. These islands seemed full of volcanoes frequently seeing at night fear or fire burning at once. This has been a good ground for sight whaling but we did not see any in the whole passage.

We cruised about here a short time and then bent our course for the port of Hakodadi which had been recently opened to foreigners by the Japanese. When within a hundred miles of it we were astonished by the number of junks bound up and down the coast there sometimes being a hundred in sight at once and we continued to encounter till we got in to port where we found hundreds more at anchor. We anchored here in the beginning of April and the climate being the same as that of New England it was quite comfortable weather. We soon began to find that we had entered a new world, so to speak even things here being so different ^{from} what we had seen hitherto. The junks were the first things that came under our observation and being so clumsily built and carrying a large wooden sail we wondered how they ever went in safety anywhere in them. But they do and make quite long trips and come back loaded with rice, sweet potatoes.

We were allowed to go ashore and look around but we could not purchase anything as the people were forbidden by the government to trade with us in the slightest degree but through the deputy Consul, Mr. Rice vessels could get supplied with the necessary provisions for a cruise.

Hakodadi is a city of thirty or forty thousand inhabitants and is beautifully situated at

the foot of a high hill which rises abruptly from the back of the town and serves to protect both town and harbor from the wind.

The first thing that we noticed when we went ashore was the extreme cleanliness of every thing particularly the houses. On entering a house we had to take off our shoes and leaving them outside enter in our stocking feet. On entering we usually found ourselves in a large square apartment the floor of which being covered with straw matting served for a seat. In the middle of the floor is a square place containing a charcoal furnace around which the family is usually seated and by means of which in little lacquered teapots they make their tea which is the universal drink as rice is for food. The houses are for the most part built of cedar and of one story although some better class are of two. No glass is found here they use instead oiled paper which serves to give light but cannot be seen through.

The men and ^{men} dress so nearly alike that it would be puzzling to tell them apart if it were not for the difference in their head dress. The men shave the top of their heads leaving a little at the sides and on the back which they make into a tail behind and bring over on the top of their head while the women let their grow and do it up behind in a bunch which is secured by a bodkin. Instead of shoes they wear wooden sandals which are easier than shoes to slip off and their stockings are made with a thumb like mittens which fit over the big toe one of the straps to the sandal going between it and the other toe.

Every house has a tub of water and a broom on the to serve in case of its catching on fire which as it is very dry is very liable to happen in which case the broom is used to sprinkle it with the water. Another thing that struck us was the great number of dogs and crows these latter being quite domesticated and picking up what they can find about the streets.