

Going into a barber shop we witnessed the operation of shaving as performed by them. A patient sitting in the chair the barber takes his razor which they keep keen and sharp and using no lotion but water he went over his face and the inside of his nose and ears and the top of his head and then making up his tail he was ready for another customer.

They are dexterous workmen in whatever trade they undertake. To look at a carpenter's set of tools one would think that he could never do anything with them but is surprised to see him apply them so readily to his work they being made entirely different from ours but applied in the same manner. The blacksmiths work sitting two together with an anvil between them and in this department and brass founding they have no superiors.

The principal streets are filled with shops containing silk and cotton goods but no woollen as these last are not found here. Others seemed to be groceries and about the entrance were displayed apples and other fruit and stone bottles containing "sake" a liquor distilled from rice, sweet and mild to the taste but still sufficiently strong to intoxicate. As they would not sell or give anything away we stood it as long as we could but finally if we wanted any thing we would take it without asking any questions taking care however that it should be of no great value. They would at first undertake to make us put it down but seeing that ~~we~~ we would have it they would then laugh at us thinking doubtless that we knew no better. It was all the way that we could obtain anything as on the least intimation of trading they would shake their heads and draw their fingers across their throats giving us to understand that if they had any dealings with us they would suffer decapitation the common punishment here.

The people generally are socially inclined but the strictness of the laws in relation to foreigners renders all intercourse with them very diffi-

cult in consequence of the restraint under which they labored. This being once removed the boag of the people would welcome foreign trade with delight and would readily adopt any of our customs suited to their comfort and convenience.

One place of usual resort for sailors were the public bathhouses. Both men and women bathe at least once a day and both women as well as men would come in and stepping themselves stark naked before us would go in and take their bath and then come out and dress with as much unconcern as though they were eating a dinner. Modesty is at a discount here obscene books and prints being exhibited and sold as publicly as any other and on entering a house almost the first thing that you will be shown will be one of these and your opinion asked of it. There are a large number of houses of prostitution here it being lawfully allowed among themselves and the usual consequences are visible in a great many of the people. It is death however for a woman to be detected with a foreigner and any approach to familiarity with them is at once repulsed not from a native modesty but from fear of the penalty attached to detection.

Their religion seems to consist in the worship of idols and looking at their temples reminds one of the heathens of Bible times worshipping in groves and high places for their temples are built in the highest part of the city and behind each of them rises a stately grove of cedars. I went into one of their temples or "Jin houses" and on entering found myself in the presence of one of their deities a huge grotesque looking idol carved of wood and seated on a throne or place of honor with a space before him fifteen or twenty feet square enclosed by a wooden railing which kept the worshippers at a respectful distance and the enclosed space served to contain the money that was thrown in as offerings. Over this space