

and encircling it extended a border of carved work of wood representing dragons snakes birds fishes, and very neatly done. In the temple yard was a small building with a front of lattice work containing a plant having five or six stalks as large as ones finger and two or three feet long terminating in a large bell-shaped flower all of solid gold and which seemed to be an object of peculiar reverence among them.

Their dress is generally a loose cotton robe reaching nearly to the feet and confined around the waist by a belt while their legs are encased in a pair of light leggings. They seldom wear anything on their head going bare-headed everywhere. The married women can easily be told from the unmarried by their having their teeth blackened which does not add anything to their attractiveness.

The men mostly smoke and their pipe consists of a small bowl holding about a pinch and having a reed stem about a foot long. They will take a pinch of their tobacco and filling the pipe will light it and take three or four whiffs which will exhaust the pipe and then their smoke is finished and the pipe put away for that time.

The streets are all enclosed at night by barricades being drawn from corner to corner of the street the inhabitants being kept within the limits of their respective streets and not allowed to pass the barricade unless on some urgent demand.

Their food is commonly rice vegetables and fish. They eat no meat although raising some cattle. We saw plenty of fish and herrings and shad when we were there also plenty of clams and oysters. In eating they use "chopsticks" like the Chinese and they use them to pick up rice with a dexterity that can only be acquired by long practice. On going into a house one day I was offered some rice and "chopsticks." The rice I accepted but declined the chopsticks.

using my knife instead. After I had eaten it a plate was handed me containing rice flap jacks and a piece of cake resembling in texture and taste a sponge cake. This was followed by a plate of sliced apples and a cup containing "saki." I then took my seat with the family around the charcoal fire and entered into conversation with them which was very interesting neither of us understanding a word spoken by the other. But at length my host and I hit upon a plan which worked admirably. He would touch something and looking at me say "American?" upon which I would repeat the English for it and touching it in my turn would say "Nippon?" which is what they call themselves not Japanese, when he would give me his pronunciation in which way I soon picked up quite an idea of it and among other things learned the Japanese numerals which are. One, for, two, moe, three, gor, four, ittes, five, mas, six, nonnos, seven, gas, eight, tesconos, nine, tu, ten.

We were allowed to ramble round as much as we pleased in the city but as soon as we approached the suburbs we noticed that we were followed and on manifesting a disposition to go out into the open country were ordered back again.

We were much amused to see a merchant and customer transact a trade. The common currency is an iron coin about the size of a cent with a hole in it through which a string is passed and a hundred or more strung on it. It would take several hundred of them to approach in value our dollar. A customer will approach with as many strings of this coin as he can carry and throwing it down he will count off enough to equal in value the article he intends purchasing and carry the rest away with him. A small fortune in this coin would sink a ship.

There is a theatre here but the performance always comes off in the afternoon for rea-