

NOTES OF TRAVEL IN JAPAN.

(By W. HAGUE HARRINGTON.)

(Delivered January 14th, 1892.)

On Thursday, the 14th of January, Mr. W. Hague Harrington delivered an address on some of the physical and natural history features of Japan as observed by him in his visit to the Sunrise Kingdom during the preceding summer. Hilly and well-wooded land was seen from the *Empress of India* on the 11th August, some three hundred miles northward of Yokohama. The following morning at daylight the Gulf of Tokio was entered, and the run up this capacious bay about thirty miles to Yokohama (Tokio lying at the head several miles beyond) was very charming, the shores on either side being clothed with foliage and with a succession of villages lining the bays at the foot of the hills. Great numbers of junks and fishing craft enlivened the waters, and when the steamer anchored off Yokohama, the water being shallow, she was immediately surrounded by scores of sampans and other craft, with military, police, customs, medical, post-office and other officials, and the scene was very animated and interesting. Mr. Harrington was met by his two brothers (Rev. F. G. Harrington and Rev. C. K. Harrington), who reside in Yokohama, and from his landing to the termination of his visit, ten weeks later, enjoyed every moment and found ever new features of interest. To be in a country where the people, dress, customs, dwellings and almost everything observed are so strikingly different from those of America was in itself a guarantee of pleasurable excitement.

An early visit was made to Hakone, the favourite summer resort of many foreigners, and a district of a very beautiful character. The village of Hakone is situated on a lake (nearly four miles long and 2,400 feet above sea level), which apparently lies in the crater of an ancient volcano, and which is surrounded by fine wooded or grass-covered hills. In the vicinity are many hot springs of varied temperature and qualities, while about two miles from the head of the lake is an extensive solfataras or volcanic gorge from which rise steaming vapours. The native name is Cjikoku (Big Hell), and beneath the decomposed surface may be heard the boiling waters. It is necessary to