

foot long and an inch and a half thick, which he hits together as he walks to let us know that he is doing his duty. We have not yet become sufficiently accustomed to this music to prevent it from disturbing our slumbers. I wake when I hear the clatter and wake when I do not hear it, and wonder why he is not going his rounds. In one fire alone over 20,000 people were rendered homeless. In some cases little children have been hired to throw the fire, being paid, they say, twenty sen if the fire is a small one, and higher prices according to the extent of the destruction made. In many parts of the city the people do not go to bed at all at night, but watch. This is not all, but of late girls of the better classes have had their faces cut while walking on the streets in broad daylight. The perpetrator of this, coming up from behind, the work is done in an instant, and the scoundrel is off before even a good look can be taken at him. In some cases the cuts inflicted have been six to eight inches long and half an inch deep. Yesterday some of our former pupils were in after church. They were telling me of still another brutality. Some sixteen or eighteen girls have had a sharp instrument run in their faces, just under the eye; others have been burned with vitriol, while others still have had their hair cut off. One girl, while walking with her mother and sister, stopped to bow to an acquaintance. Just in an instant her hair was gone. This is a terrible thing, for girls are prohibited by law from cutting off their hair. When widows reach a certain age, if they have decided never to marry again, they may cut their hair short. The girls say they are afraid to be out on the streets at all. I can quite understand this, for we, too, are ever on the watch when either walking or riding abroad.

Lately there has been a most remarkable conversion here. The Japanese speak of the subject as another Saul, and hope