

## Foreign Missions.

Send all contributions for Foreign Missions to A. McLEAN, Box 750, CINCINNATI, O.

### A Circuit of the Globe.

A. McLEAN

#### No. xiv. and xv. -- A trip to the north of Japan

In order that I might see Japan to the greatest advantage and in the shortest time practicable, it was thought by the missionaries that it would be well for me to visit the churches in the north of the empire first; after that, see the work in Tokyo and Yokohama; and after that again, see the leading cities of the south, namely, Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto and Nagasaki. The first thing to do was to secure a passport. This can now be had for the asking. No one can travel in Japan or live outside the foreign concessions without a passport. There is a reason for this. If a foreigner should commit any crime, he cannot be tried in a Japanese court. If a native has a claim against a foreigner, the same is true. He can be tried only before the Consul of the nation to which he belongs. The Japanese government cannot try him in its own courts for violating its laws, but it can recall his passport, and thereby compel him to live in the foreign concession or leave the country. Every foreigner in Japan is located. He is constantly under police surveillance. Before you are in a hotel five minutes a policeman calls and asks to see your passport. The proprietor of the hotel records your name and number. So before you can buy a railroad ticket you must produce your passport, and thus convince the agent that you have the Emperor's consent to travel within his domain. A child in arms, no less than its parents, must have a passport in order to go anywhere. When the new treaties go into effect in 1899, this nuisance will be abated. The foreigners can go and come at will. Then, too, consular courts will be abolished, and foreigners and natives must appear before the same tribunals and answer for any charges preferred against them. Ten years ago it was a difficult matter to get a passport. It took weeks and months and no small amount of pressure to secure this document from reluctant officials. Now it can be had in a few minutes and without any charge or any condition.

It was arranged that Mr. and Mrs. Guy should act as my escorts part of the way. They are most agreeable traveling companions. The baby went along and added immensely to our joy. A little child makes the whole world kin. Dignified judges and lawmakers

unbent and noticed us because of the pretty boy. When you are in a strange land and do not understand a word of the language, and the people do not understand a word of what you say, you are in a helpless and pitiable condition. At such a time, you find it hard to entertain a very high opinion of those men whose misconduct in building the tower of Babel caused the confusion of tongues. I have not been left for an instant without an interpreter, and so have gotten along smoothly enough. Had I been left without a guardian I should have fared differently. Our first stop was at Nikko. Here I had my first experience in a Japanese hotel. The proprietor and his wife and chief clerk and all the servants in sight, bowed their heads to the earth as we approached. They assured us that we did well in coming. After removing our shoes we were shown to our rooms. There was neither chair nor table in sight. The only furniture in the room was a recess with a scroll hanging in it. Some mats were brought in and we were asked to sit down. I tried to sit on my feet, but it was not a brilliant success. Either my feet are too large, or my backbone is too long, or my joints are not constructed properly. Perhaps if my ancestors had been accustomed to sit on their feet for "age eternal," to borrow a Japanese phrase, I could do it as easily and as gracefully as the natives, but with all my efforts and good intentions I must confess that I cannot. My guardian apologizes for me when guests are in the room. The first thing brought in is a tray containing a little fire and a spittoon. Smoking is universal in Japan. The priests in the temple and the teachers in the schools and the people in the theatres smoke. The pipe holds only a pinch of tobacco. Four or five puffs exhaust it. The cost of smoking on this scale is not more than two cents a week. They could not smoke as the Americans do, on their incomes. The next thing brought in, is another tray containing tea and sweets. The cups hold a tablespoonful. The tea is served without cream or sugar. In a Japanese hotel there is no dining-room where all the guests eat. You eat in your own room. The bill of fare is different from that served in American hotels. It has no bread, no butter, no cheese, no potatoes, seldom any meat, no tea or coffee, no pepper or salt. Rice is the main dish and is cooked and served without seasoning. Besides rice you have fish, soup, eggs in some form, and vegetables, either fresh or pickled. These last are intended to be relishes. Each guest has his own food on a lacquered tray. This tray is placed before

you on the floor. You find no knife or fork or spoon, chopsticks answer all purposes. It is astonishing to see how deftly a native can dispose of any dish with chopsticks. I tried mine. I got them by the wrong end, and could not make them lift anything. When I got a piece of food so that I could move it I could not find my mouth. The little maid, with all her inborn and inbred politeness, could not help laughing outright. In her own mind she set me down as a full fledged barbarian. The food is clean and palatable and digestible. You look about for a washstand and find none. You are expected to carry your own soap and towel, and to go to the public wash room whenever it suits your convenience. Travellers carry their own pillow, sheets, mosquito bar and insect powder. The hotel supplies the floor and some rugs. The mats and thatched roofs of Japanese houses afford fleas a superb refuge. If you wish to sleep in peace you must protect yourself. With all this protection, a bed on the floor is not quite to the taste of a pampered American who has been accustomed to a mattress with springs under it. The bath is a curiosity. The water is kept at a point near boiling. One water lasts the whole day. The family and the guests are expected to use it. Some fastidious persons object to this feature of a Japanese bath-tub. Knowing that we were likely to have some scruples on this point, the clerk came to us and told us the bath-tub was ready, we asked him if it had been used since it was filled; he added that a Korean had been in it, but a little thing like that did not count with him. Before lying down to sleep you try to lock your room. You cannot lock it. Three sides are screens and can be lifted out bodily. The screens are made of paper. There is no door with hinges that you can lock. A burglar or a rat could walk in any hour of the day or night. You put your valuables inside your fly-net and sleep the sleep of the weary. The people about the hotel are all politeness. They bow when we go out, and assure us that we shall be welcome when we return. We come back and they bow again and thank us for our kindness. Fancy an American hotel clerk bumping the floor with the top of his head whenever a guest went out or came in. When we left, each one received a present and a letter of recommendation to other hotels. For our food and lodging we paid sixty cents a day. In other hotels in

the interior we paid twenty-five cents. Aside from this difference in price, one hotel is like another hotel; all have the same bill of fare.

The Japanese have a proverb to the effect that no one ought to use the word "magnificent" till he has seen Nikko. Chamberlain says of this place, that it has a double glory, a glory of nature and a glory of art. "Mountains, cascades, and monumental forest trees had always stood there." Japanese artists have produced there the most perfect assemblage of shimes in the whole land. One of the greatest of the Shoguns, the founder of a dynasty that swayed the destinies of Japan for two hundred and fifty years, lies buried above the temples. His grandson, a man almost equally renowned in Japanese history, is also buried there. Their family and friends spared neither pains nor money to make the grounds and buildings near their tombs as magnificent as possible. The temples are square wooden buildings; externally there is nothing striking or beautiful about them. They do not compare in either size or grandeur with the cathedrals of Europe. They were not built to accommodate great audiences. Men and women go to Nikko to worship, but not in our sense or according to our method. They pray for a few seconds in one place, and then hasten on to another place, and so continue till they have made the rounds of every temple and pagoda and shrine within the enclosure. People do not visit this place to hear words of instruction or admonition from the lips of some eloquent preacher. For this reason no vast auditorium is needed. The glory and the beauty of these buildings are seen within. In the Buddhist temples there are numerous idols. You may see the Buddha in pure gold, and the Goddess of Mercy, and Fudo and many others. On the walls and on the ceiling are the works of the most famous Japanese artists. They have carved lions, tigers, dragons, cats, flowers and trees of almost every kind, birds and sages. In one group there are three monkeys; one has his hands on his eyes, another on his ears, another on his mouth. The lesson is that a good man should have neither eyes, nor ears, nor mouth for evil things. In one shrine we saw the sacred horse. One of the gods of the place rides on him when he goes out. We inquired as to his pedigree and age and record and value, but could get no answers. He is selected because he has four white feet. More magnificent than the temples and the grounds are the trees in and about Nikko. There is an avenue of white cedars which extends for twenty miles toward Tokyo. Along this

**A GUARANTEED CURE**  
For **DYSPEPSIA** OR MONEY  
IS FOUND IN **K.D.C.** REFUNDED  
Highly recommended. Write for testimonials & guarantee.  
K.D.C. CO. Ltd. Boston U.S. and New Glasgow, N.S., Can.