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THE LARGEST & MOST COMPLETE HOTEL
IN THE LOWER PROVINCES.Has been lately fitted with all modern
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Leading Hotels in Canada.

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This is one of the most quiet, orderly, and well-
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Clean, well-ventilated Rooms and Beds, and no
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quiet home while in the city.

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LYONS' HOTEL,

Opp. Railway Depot.

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CONTINENTAL HOTEL,100 and 102 Granville St.,
(OPPOSITE PROVINCIAL BUILDING.)The nicest place in the City to get a lunch, din-
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Oysters in every style. Lunches, 12 to 2-30.W. H. MURRAY, Prop.,
Late Halifax Hotel.**BRITISH AMERICAN HOTEL.**OPPOSITE JOHN TOBIN & CO.'S.
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Halifax Steam Coffee and Spice Mills.

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March 17th.Returning, will leave Lewis' Wharf, Boston, at
10 a. m., every Tuesday and Friday, connecting at
Yarmouth with train for Halifax and intermediate
station.The YARMOUTH is the fastest steamer plying
between Nova Scotia and the United States, being
fitted with Triple Expansion Engines, Electric
Lights, Steel Steering Gear, Bilge Keels, etc. etc.
S.S. CITY OF ST. JOHN leaves Halifax every
MONDAY EVENING, and Yarmouth every
THURSDAY.For Tickets, Staterooms, and all other informa-
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and Annapolis or Western Counties Railways.
W. A. CHASE, I. E. BAKER,
Agent, President and Manager.**MOTT'S****Homeopathic Cocoa**THOS. NICHOL, M.D., L.L.D., D.C.L.
of Montreal, writing to us under recent date,
says:—"For over thirty years I have been drinking
Chocolate and Cocoa, and have at various times
used all the preparations of Cocoa in the market,
but I have met with nothing equal to your prepara-
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Homeopathic Prepared Cocoa,

Especially, is superior to any I have seen for use
by invalids.**JOHN P. MOTT & CO.**

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Steamship between Boston and the Provinces**THROUGH TICKETS**To New York, Chicago, California and all
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Manufacturers of Mill and Mining Machinery
Marine and Stationary Engines, Shafting, Pulleys
and Hangers. Repair work promptly attended to.
ON HAND—Several New and Second-hand
engines.**A SECRET SONG.**O Snow-bird! Snow-bird!
Welcome thy note when maple boughs are bare;
Thy merry twitter, thy amiable call,
Like silver trumpets pierce the freezing air,
What time the radiant flakes begin to fall,
We know thy secret. When the days grow dim,
Far from the homes that thou hast cheered so long,
Thy chirping changes to a twilight hymn!
O snow-bird, snow-bird, wherefore hide thy song?O Snow-bird! Snow-bird!
Is it a song of sorrow none may know,
An aching memory? Nay, too glad the note!
Untouched by knowledge of our human woe,
Clearly the crystal flutings fall and float.
We hear thy tender ecstasy and cry:
"Send us thy gladness that can brave the chill!"
Under the splendours of the winter sky,
O snow-bird, snow-bird, carest to us still.

MISS J. E. GOSTWICK ROBERTS.

A FIRST GLANCE AT JAPAN.

The first thing that strikes the traveller in Japan—fresh, it may be, from the indiscriminating rudeness of the American Far West—is the exceeding civility of everybody, custom house officers included. Cheerfulness, good temper, and politeness are universal. The mothers smile, the children chatter without quarrelling in the streets, and it is a pleasure to watch the ordinary work-people as they meet and go through the prescribed etiquette of bowing and shaking hands with each other. Differences over the carriage of your person and effects—if they exist—are speedily settled without the use of bad language and angry oaths, and in less time than it takes to write, the traveller and his baggage are put into "jinrikishas" (or light carriages, drawn by one or more men scantily dressed, with funny white hats shaped like mushrooms), and are trotted off to the Grand Hotel, famous for its English comfort and French cuisine. These "jinrikishas," or man power carriages, deserve a word or two in passing. Of modern invention, they have been improvised to supply the want of horses and flies, and it is marvellous to see what power of endurance and capacity for toil it is to be found amongst the little broad-shouldered coolies who draw them. It is quite a common thing for them to keep up a good steady pace of six or seven miles an hour, on a diet of rice, fish, or tea, for as many hours in the day, and all this for the scanty wages of 1½d. a mile. These are stubborn facts, which, by comparison, make one tremble for the future of the English working classes, unless they make up their minds to gird themselves up for the coming struggle. The bitter cry of employers at home increases yearly with the increasing dislike of the rising generation to hard manual labor. Throughout Europe and Asia it is the same story—Germans and Japanese beat us with our own weapons, because they work harder, longer, and for less wages. It was not always so; but education has softened us, and philanthropy, with the best intentions, is doing all it can to destroy the sturdy feeling of self dependence, once the pride of the British workman.

In Japan man certainly "wants but little here below." With cotton clothes, a diet of rice and fish, and a house of wattle and daub, domestic bills are not high. An ordinary coolie or laborer in the fields is content with 2s 6d. a week. A clerk in a government office is well paid with £50 a year, and a cabinet minister with £1,000. The so called necessities of life in all classes are at least one-third of what they would be in the United States or in Europe. My inquiries did not extend so far as rent, rates, and taxes, but, whatever they may be, there is a good deal to show for them.

The streets and roads in and about the capital are good, clean, fairly lighted, and admirably policed, and the railroad of eighteen miles to Tokyo—built, like all the railroads of the country, after the English model—leaves little to be desired. The capital itself extends over a large area, and is said to contain a million inhabitants. The area it covers is enormous, embracing as it does numerous temples, surrounded by groves of evergreen trees, and parks laid out in European fashion. Amongst the finest buildings were the Sheba temple and gardens, and the old palace of the Shoguns. These are characteristic of an order of things which is fast passing away. The gardens were prettily laid out in the ancient style, with gigantic stone lanterns surrounding a lake devoted to fish and waterfowl; the latter, when required, being ingeniously caught by keepers with long nets, concealed behind hedges planted for the purpose.

The sight of these old temples and gardens is full of interest to the antiquarian and philosopher. They speak of a form of government and a state of society which it is impossible for Englishmen to realise without going back to the middle ages, but which existed in Japan not a quarter of a century ago. The Shogun and his court, the daimios or great feudal chiefs, and the samurai or military retainers, have vanished into limbo with a rapidity unexampled in history. Their vices did not differ from those of all oligarchical governments, and so far they deserved to perish. It is rather of their virtues, their courage, and their devotion to their feudal chiefs that one would wish to speak, in the hope that the faith, loyalty, and patriotism of the past will not be lost in the future. But the recent reforms have not yet had time to bear fruit, and the issue is still doubtful. In Japan, more than in any other country in the world, the new ideas of society are making the most rapid progress, and it may be that this marvellous people is destined to find the philosopher's stone in politics of combining liberty with empire without destroying what is worth preserving of the past.

It was refreshing at least to find, amongst much that was a mere copy of European taste and fashions, that the new palace of the Mikado at Tokyo is being built entirely of wood after the old models. I covered a great space, being only one story high, and was roofed with the peculiar long overlapping tiles introduced from China. The rooms were well proportioned,

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