

Externally, the buildings occupied by the Emperor are in the purest Japanese style. Internally, the ordinary Japanese custom of low ceilings to large rooms has been departed from, and all the principal rooms are constructed with ceilings sufficiently high, and with space enough to give each an air of royal grandeur. Each room is enclosed on three sides by heavy sliding doors of plate glass, set in lacquered frames, the result being that from any single room there appears to be an almost endless vista of crystal chambers. Every ceiling is in itself a work of art, being divided into numerous panels by lacquered ribs, every one of which contains a beautifully executed painting or embroidery. The walls are throughout covered with the richest brocades, and the decorative work is, in every possible detail, well worthy of Japanese artists of the highest class, who put forth their very best and most painstaking efforts in honor of their imperial master. The two principal rooms are the banqueting hall and the throne room. The former is of the most noble and imposing proportions, being over five hundred square yards in area, and of corresponding height; the broad expanse of its ceiling glows with gold and rich colors; the wall, which, as in the other principal rooms, is only on one side, is hung with the richest and costliest silk that can be turned out of Japanese looms, and the three remaining sides are practically all of plate glass. The throne room is smaller,

but its decorations are, if possible, of more superb magnificence than those of the banqueting hall. The scene in it during the performance of the dancing was of a degree of brilliance that will not speedily fade from the memories of those who were privileged to witness it. The room, though lighted entirely with candles, was most vividly illuminated, the light being, no doubt, greatly intensified by the plate-glass sliding doors, by which the room is enclosed on three sides. Above these doors, and on the fourth side, the lofty walls were hung with handsome, bright, crimson and gold curtains in festoons, the whole crowned by a richly decorated ceiling in amber and gold and other soft and harmonious colors. On the dais sat their Majesties, in whose honor all had assembled, the Emperor in a general's uniform, and the Empress in an exquisitely made robe of white satin, sparkling with diamonds, and wearing a large diamond coronet. On either side were their Majesties' near relatives, and opposite were the dancers, all men of unusual stature, dressed in rich, ancient costumes and helmeted, going through their silent performance with the utmost impressive solemnity. The diplomatic officials of the United States wore no distinctive uniform. They were in ordinary evening dress, but with these exceptions, every one present was in full court uniform, and the toilettes of the ladies, in every instance, well fitted with the unique beauty of the general scene.

