



**FAMILIAR THINGS.**

Here is a truth that travel brings,  
A truth of hourly birth:  
To dwell among familiar things,  
And little know their worth,  
The emigrant in distant lands,  
The sailor on the sea,  
Or all that roam in silent strands,  
Have deeper hearts than we.

To dwell among familiar things:  
And daily, with dull sight,  
To touch a thousand secret springs  
Of sorrow and delight,  
To those who writhed in  
Pitched dressing-arms in clasp and tie  
Each little household star

To dwell among familiar things;  
We know them by their use,  
By their many ministrances,  
Their value we deduce:  
Useful each has had an eye,  
And each can speak, though dumb;  
All of the choicest days gone by,  
Strange witness might become

To dwell among familiar things;  
But should it be our lot  
To sever all the ties that bind  
That form the household knot;  
To wander now in a new world,  
And cross the restless foam,  
So clearly should we then behold  
The Deities of Home:

**FAR OUT AT SEA.**

At noon—the sun was high,  
And over the wind and shipped the sail,  
A snow-white banner  
Flying before the stiff gale,  
Far out at sea.

Some distance when had left  
A way of danger nothing knew,  
But with the sun upon the mast,  
We hurried on the sea-way blue,  
Far out at sea.

Above, there gleamed the boundless sky;  
Beneath the boundless ocean shone;  
Between them danced the butterfly,  
The spirit free to this vast scene,  
Far out at sea.

Away he sped with skimming glee!  
O'ft in indolent repose—now come;  
Night comes, with wind and rain, and he  
No more will dance before the moon,  
Far out at sea.

He dies unlike his mates I've seen  
Perhaps not sooner, nor worse crossed;  
And he has felt, and known and seen  
A larger life and hope—though lost,  
Far out at sea.

—*Dublin Magazine.*

**JAPAN.**

The whole eastern coast of Asia, from Behr's straits to Ceylon, is thickly studded at uncertain intervals with groups of islands, a large proportion of which are of volcanic formation.

Opposite the coast of Chinese Tartary, but divided from it by the sea of Japan—an irregular cluster of water, six hundred miles wide in its centre but contracting at its northern extremity into the fine channel of Tartary, and its southern, into the strait of Corea—are numerous islands curving in an ovate form, and constituting the Empire of Japan.

The four principal islands of this extensive group are Nippon, eight hundred and fifty miles in length, and in breadth ranging from one hundred to two hundred and fifty miles; and Kjusiu, and Sikoce of much smaller dimensions.

The whole extent of the empire of Japan has been computed at two hundred and seventy thousand square miles, or nearly three times as large as the islands composing the Kingdom of Great Britain. The number of inhabitants taking the mean of various estimates, may be safely reckoned at twenty-two millions.

The climate of Japan is represented as very healthy though subjected to great extremes of heat and cold. The soil, especially in the valley, is extremely fertile, the chief products being rice, wheat and millet; in the cultivation of which the same method is pursued as in the cultivation of wheat in the same part of Europe.

rough knowledge of the science of agriculture as the Chinese.

The two principal cities of the Empire, are on the island of Nippon, and are the respective capitals of the "Kjusiu" and the "Daini," or, as they have been latterly called, the "Siogoon" and the "Mikado," the two civil and religious rulers by whom Japan has been governed for many centuries.

Yeddo the seat of Government, is one of the largest and most populous cities in the world, being seven miles long and five broad, and containing one million and a half of inhabitants. It is here the Siogoon or civil and military ruler resides; and here, also, are compelled to remain during a certain portion of each year, the principal nobles of the Empire.

The residence of the "Daini" or "Mikado," the spiritual chief, is at Miaco, the ancient capital—a city containing five hundred thousand inhabitants, and which is to the rest of Japan, what Rome was at one time to the Roman Empire, venerable from its associations, and reputed holy, as being the centre of all ecclesiastical power.

The Japanese are the most refined and civilized of all the Asiatic nations, and while in point of literary and scientific acquirements they fall far short of many European countries, they are believed to be superior to any in the science of agriculture, and inferior to none in skillful workmanship of the precious metals. In the manufacture of that peculiar species of acquired ware often delicate islands with pearl, which still carry by the name of Japan, they are acknowledged to be unequalled.

Equalling the Chinese in industry and ingenuity, they are in many other respects, far in advance of the latter. They are harder, and more courageous, have a fiercer sense of honor, and are far more moral. It is a singular fact and one that speaks volumes in favor of this insulated people, that criminal acts are less frequent in Japan than in any part of the known world.

For many generations it has been the settled policy of the successive rulers of this interesting and half-civilized people, to keep them as far removed as possible from any contact with other nations. Various attempts have been made, at different times, by European governments, to open to their vessels the ports of Japan, and introduce commercial relations with its people; but the efforts have never yet been crowned with success. One story—