

a very good one on the Bluff, overlooking the harbor) with our purses considerable lighter. The next morning early we started for Tokio, the capital where the Mikado lives. After half an hour by train we reached there and found lots to interest us. We only spent a short time there that day, as I was lucky enough to have friends who had got me an invitation to the Mikado's Garden Party coming off the next day. This was a grand affair; it is given always when the chrysanthemms are in full bloom, and certainly the display of them there was very magnificent, but I must say I didn't think any eastern flower comes up to some of our own lovely ones. Oh! girls, you'd have been amused if you could only see the absurd figures some of the Japanese ladies and men make of themselves, the men in Kimonos (the native dress) and billycock hats, and the women (who are often very pretty indeed in their native dress which is picturesque and becoming,) disfiguring themselves by appearing in the latest Persians fashions. Well, I must get on with my travels, (I can't resist the temptation to have a short gossip with you occasionally,) after 5 or 6 days in and about Yokohama which I spent in trying to learn something of the people and customs; I came away with the idea that they were a most agreeable nation they are very clean, good tempered and seem to look on the bright side of life always, answering one with a laugh, of course I only saw their best side, others who know them better tell me they are very disappointing and treacherous. I hope this is a mistake. We left Yokohama on our 7th day, (having dropped most of our passengers and picked up several new ones,) and reached Kobe two days later. This is another very pretty place, and here I went over several shops and saw the women making those pretty bamboo and bead curtains. We also drove out in Rickshaw to a pretty little waterfall and had tiffin (luncheon) at a dear little restaurant out there, returning to the steamer that night, as we were leaving at 2 a. m. When we woke up next morning we found ourselves in the Inland sea, on our way to Nagasaki. I had heard so much of this sea that I'm afraid I was a little disappointed, though undoubtedly it comes next to the Rockies in grandeur. One travels through hundreds of small islands

and rocks covered with moss; at times you almost hold your breath, the steamer seems so close to some of them, and then by the wonderfully clever navigation of the Pilot, you seem to glide past them. One place is so very dangerous and we were going through it at night that all the forward lights had to be extinguished so no false shadow could mislead the navigator. We reached Nagasaki at about 9 a. m. on a glorious moonlight night. Luckily for us there was some grand church festival going on and all the temples which are built very high upon the hills were beautifully illuminated by Japanese lanterns, so the place presented a gala appearance, and in my idea is the prettiest place in Japan, the harbor is almost enclosed by lovely Islands and moss covered rocks. We landed early next morning and spent our day in Rickshaws sight seeing, after a long visit to the bazaar where we bought no end of curios at a very small price. We invested in a lot of Japanese sweets here too, they are mostly fruits and candies. Then we went to the "Bronze House Temple," one has to ascend about 200 stone steps to get to it, but you feel quite repaid on arriving there by the lovely view which greets you on all sides, the whole temple is surrounded by large camilla trees, but unfortunately we arrived just as they had finished blooming. The temple was interesting, and it seems so odd to look into a sort of enormous cage to see the gold and painted idol which they worship: this figure is almost covered with tiny balls of paper, on which are prayers: these are rolled up and wet and thrown in and nearly always cling to the figure, presenting a very funny picture on it. Before our return to the steamer we visited the best curio shop I saw in Japan, here they had some lovely taxuma and the old lacca, which has become so rare. We steamed out of Nagasaki harbor about 10 p. m., and proceeded to Shanghai which place we reached in two days, the Empress is too large to go up the Yangt-si Kiang river, so she anchored at Woosung just at its mouth and the tender came and took us up. We had a very pleasant day as this is a very lively place, with any amount of Europeans and good buildings; we drove about to see the sights, invested largely in some exquisite brocades which are sold at an absurdly low price

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