

are greater than from nostras cholera. The latter form of the plague is admitted to be in France, especially in Havre, and next in Paris. The public disbelieves both doctors and statistics, and relies on cleanliness, precautionary dietary, and tranquillity of mind. It is against the invasion of Asiatic cholera from Russia that France is applying all the hygienic severities. *Et tu Brute!* The scouring-brush, a well-worked water hose, a vigorous use of brooms, shovels, and dust carts, with spraying instruments for disinfestants—these are the real anti-cholera mixtures. Physiologists are more than ever in quest of new bacilli; people take no interest in the discovery of disease germs; they want parasiticides. I confess to having received a shock on reading the results of analyses of mineral waters, made by the able chemists, Messrs. Colin and Renant, attached to the Ministry of War. Vichy water, as every one knows, comes up bubbling hot from the volcanic interior of the globe; there are several geysers, more or less rich in different salts, the "Grand Grille" mark is in favour with ladies, that of "l'Hopital" with gentlemen; the former has been found to contain 572,000 microbes per cubic centimetre, or one-fifth part of an inch, and the latter 694,000—about the number of little wrigglers found in the worst city sewage—at Clichy, and all this population after forty-eight hours' battling.

In the unhappy Morés-Mayer duel affair, the anti-Semites have won; so Drumont's "War of the Jews" may expect to be waged with fresh vigour. The Marquis de Morés killed some weeks ago artillery Captain Mayer in a duel. He and all the seconds have been tried for homicide. No one questioned the loyalty of the fight, but the Government enlarged the question so as to try to net the Marquis in a conspiracy to kill Mayer, not on account of a question of honour, but because he was an Israelite. Opinion did not accept that way of conducting the prosecution, and hence the natural verdict. The Marquis de Morés is a militant Socialist and son of the wealthy Duke of Vallombrosa, a Frenchified Italian. He proved to be far cleverer than the judge, and his attitude was irrefragable. He placed his honour in the hands of his seconds—he is an officer in the reserve army, and they decided he was to fight. He opposed his life to his adversary's, but fate ruled Mayer was to be spitted. Morés stated his aversion to the Jews resulted from seeing 180,000 persons die annually from hunger in France, while every year the wealth of France accumulated in the hands of the Jews. "Ernest Foa," a banker whose dishonourable conduct, eavesdropping, sneaking, etc., was the cause of the duel, was severely handled by the judge and the counsel. On quitting the court he was hooted, and, warmest of all, by the journalists. It was a remarkable illustration of Professor Lombroso's law of crowds catching the contagion of virtuous indignation. There is a bad Gentile in the affair, too, that it is to be hoped the Minister of War will unearth—an officer of high rank, who supplied secret information respecting his comrades of the Jewish persuasion, and employed the name of a man of straw to screen his disreputable revelations in the press.

The Republic will honour the centenary of the proclamation of its official birth on the 22nd September by an historico-symbolical cavalcade—a new form of rejoicing for the French, but a necessity, as they have exhausted all others, after the manner of the Flemish and the Germans. The Archbishop of Paris will observe the centenary of September 2, 1792, when the massacres in the prisons took place. On the 30th August, 1792, no less than 3,000 domiciliary visits and arrests took place. Lafayette's statue ought to be craped every 19th August, that being the anniversary of the decree of 1792, declaring him to be a traitor to his country. To-day the "Committee of Public Safety" does not chop off heads; it declares war to dirt, disease and cholera.

SOME SPECIMENS OF JAPANESE ENGLISH.

THE most fashionable foreign language in Japan at present is English. Probably much of its popularity is owing to the fact that it is the court language, the language of diplomacy.

So every ambitious Japanese must try to learn either it or German, which comes next in favour. Some of the most aspiring of the students have combined and issued a magazine published at Tokyo. The articles consist principally of translations from German and English into Japanese but occasionally a contributor sends in an original composition, either in prose or poetry, in one of these languages and it must be acknowledged that the result is not always happy. Mr. Chamberlain, the well-known writer, a short time ago republished a poem of four stanzas in which the sentiments, though slightly ambiguous, are doubtless very beautiful, and certainly are intended to be very laudatory of woman. It is entitled,

HER GLEE.

The purest flame, the hottest heat
Is Woman's power over earth;
Which mighty Black and pale down beat,
And made the Eden, place of birth.

Of what? of what? can thou tell me?
A birth of Noble, high value—
The station he destined for thee—
Of woman, Mother, Social Glue.

Let her be moved from earth to try.
What dark mist overwhelms human Race:

Let Lady claim with all the cry:—
"Can you still hold and hold your peace?"

How sweet, How mirthful, gay is Name!
What boon, thing, may exceed in kind?
Would She be praised, entolled—not Shame:
Tie pale, of Both, to bound to bind.

"Social Glue" is perhaps poetic license, and the idea intended to be conveyed is probably that it is woman who binds the world together into families. As to the meaning of the last line I plead entire ignorance; it may simply be "fine frenzy." The only person who could possibly unravel the mystery might be the youthful poet himself—if he knew.

In looking over the selections that have been published from time to time, it is curious to note what varied styles of writing have been considered worthy the labour of translation. Some of the renderings are remarkably good and show a new departure in Japanese poetry, that is the verses are rhymed. The list includes: "The Soldier's Home," "Bloomfield," "George Washington and his Little Hatchet," "The Charge of the Light Brigade," "The Three Fishers," "Ye Mariners of England," "Elegy in a Country Church-Yard," "Psalm of Life," "Wolsey's Farewell," "Frühlingslied," and the "Children's Hour."

Two scenes from "Hamlet" and one from "Henry IV." are among the most important selections. "George Washington and his Little Hatchet" has not only found a translator but also an illustrator. A year or so ago I bought in Tokyo a coloured print of the subject for about five cents. In it the father of his country, apparently about fourteen years old, is dressed in a light blue cut-away coat trimmed with gold braid and small gold buttons. His nether limbs are clad in a pair of white cotton stockings, and his footgear consists of a pair of ankle boots with gold buttons. His father wears a bright yellow coat, and looks more like some stage figure than anything else. They are both standing, George with the hatchet in his hand, contemplating the memorable cherry-tree, which is cut off perfectly even. Not a chip or shaving lies near it; there is absolutely no trace of anything of the sort. The artist either forgot these trifling details or it may be that he wanted to impress upon the mind of young Japan that while George was mischievous he was not lacking in that most respectable virtue, neatness. Now and then, among the native signs, an attempt at an English equivalent may be seen. One on a building near the Ginza, in Tokyo, puzzled me for a long time; it read "The Before Station." I asked a number of residents what it meant, but no one could give me any solution to the riddle, and it was only when I had a little business to transact that I learned that it was a laudable attempt to convey to the foreigner that this was the "Forwarding Station." Some Japanese employee simply looked up the word in the dictionary, and finding forward—before, made a wrong selection. Occasionally an enterprising tradesman, determined to keep up with the times, put up a notice in the fashionable language, and in consequence such signs as the following are to be met: "The Honourable Milk to sail her." "The honourable Meat," etc. In Japanese everything belonging to or used by the person addressed is honourable, while everything pertaining to the speaker is mean and miserable, therefore as these commodities are not for the shopkeeper's own use but for his "honourable" customers they too are "honourable." A very curious word that the Japanese have coined for themselves is the term for sailor which is universally and gravely employed at all the treaty ports. It is *damgyurais*, which is simply nothing more nor less than a corruption of Damn your eyes. Hearing this phrase frequently applied to each other by the sailors themselves the Japanese naturally supposed it was the name for a sailor. This is not an exaggeration but an absolute fact. Mr. Griffin mentions that the boys in the street, noticing foreigners say to their dogs "come here," concluded that this was the equivalent for dogs, and that often, when he went out with his own dog, young men, anxious to exhibit their acquaintance with the fashionable tongue, would call out "See how fast the foreigner's 'come here' runs." "Come here" in English and the rest of the remark in Japanese, thereby revealing as they supposed their intimate knowledge of the language.

The correct use of L and R is the great stumbling-block over which the native tongue trips continually. The missionaries, when christening converts or their children, do not always bear this in mind. For instance, a very nice Japanese girl of my acquaintance invariably speaks of herself as "Crawdia," and fondly imagines she makes you aware she bears the noble Roman name of Claudia.

Here are a few specimens of Japanese English given me by a teacher, a Scotch gentleman. They are extracts from some composition sent him for revision:—

1. Gunpowder is a most useful thing for the civilized war. It is most necessary thing in the world because it is elements of cannon ball which is most useful in for flight and all other thing.

2. "It is necessary that the people living in around volcano before hand would imigrate other country. I suppose the reader beare memoy last year's explosion has aroused a gleet caramity." Since this was written volcanic eruptions have aroused greater caramities.

The next is by a young man who seems to have a very keen appreciation of the benefits of telegraphy and wisdom.

3. "If we did not have telegraphy we should never had on advancement and improvement of our society at present time. Knowledge is a superior thing it was constructed by way of a iron line."

We are all willing to grant that knowledge is a superior thing, but the proposition that it was constructed by way of an iron line does not appear to be supported by good evidence.

A composition on tobacco addresses a mysterious and terrible warning to the deprived victims of the noxious habit.

4. Tobacco.—"It injures our lungs and it is cutting gradually our head too."

Here is a little gem on the subject of the switchback railway, which the author, however, prefers to call the Switchback railway: The switchback railway was invented by a American and that is to go up by strength which get down to under from the up, therefore it is appropriate to use in the mountain this fact is joyful for progress of phisic." It is sincerely to be hoped that an American who invented anything so ingenious as this obtained a suitable reward.

Volcanoes seem a favourite subject, and there are strange facts concerning them not known to the general public. "There are many volcanoes in the world, many of these are the bald mountains and there is not a tree or shrub on them. They covered with the burned sand mixing many brimstones or ashes. Sometimes they rupture themselves." "A few years ago remember large blow up Bandai San which is most useful to the student." Of course volcanic eruptions may be useful to students in the way of furnishing them themes for compositions, and the frank expression of the above sentiment shows that there is no cloud without a silver lining, though it required considerable ingenuity to find it in the case of these much-dreaded convulsions of nature.

The construction of a sentence in Japanese is so entirely different from the English method that it is small wonder if pupils sometimes make mistakes. The articles both definite and indefinite give them a great deal of trouble as there are none in their native tongue. As an example look at this paragraph and compare it with the literal construction given side by side:—

Ordinary English Construction.	Literal Construction.
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At the present day Buddhism has sunk into being the belief of the lower classes only. Few persons in the middle and upper classes understand its <i>raison d'être</i> , most of them fancying that religion is a thing which comes into play only at funeral services.	This period at having arrived, Buddhism that say thing as-for, merely low-class-people's believing-place that having become, middle-class thence-upwards in as-for, its reason discerning-are people being few, religion that if-one-says, funeral-rite's time only in employ thing's manner in think.
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After this sample the reader will not be surprised to hear it is a current tradition in Japan that if a missionary studies the language too assiduously he is liable to have his brain affected. But this is not all, for in reality there are two languages to master—the colloquial and the written; the latter, which is classical and artificial, is used exclusively in correspondence, advertisements and books.

The Japanese show a remarkable and most commendable perseverance in learning the new language, and if the result is sometimes funny and we feel inclined to smile we should do so only good-naturedly, and bear in mind that the fun is not confined to our side alone. I once visited an English lady who tried to order persimmons three days in succession and each time had oysters served instead, because the words for oysters and persimmons are a good deal alike and she could not pronounce the one she wanted sufficiently clearly.

A long, hot ride in a *jinricksha* caused by my own deficiencies in the tongue Japanese is one of my most vivid impressions. It was my desire to purchase two of the little tobacco pipes in common use, but unfortunately the term I employed meant stove-pipe and the *Kurumaya* scoured half Tokyo looking for a European stove shop, and was dreadfully worried and puzzled, when after much trouble he discovered one, to find that this was not what I wanted. Seeing a woman smoking in a little shop I went in and borrowed her pipe to show him; I made him understand, but the poor woman was speechless with terror. Japanese women are so tiny, so shrinking and retiring, that foreign women who hold themselves erect seem to them some fierce, ghastly, red-haired monster, for our locks are not of the orthodox raven blackness nor have we the proper healthy, amber-coloured complexion.

HELEN E. GREGORY FLESHER.

THERE is probably nothing made by man that is as thin as a sheet of gold leaf. It is nothing more than a film, and is almost as light as air. The softness and tenacity of the metal, two opposite attributes which it possesses to a remarkable degree, render possible an operation that would reduce any other metal to powder. The thickness of the leaves varies. Some say that the thinnest have the thickness of but 1-250,000 of an inch. So thin is the film of metal in the leaves that they are transparent. But instead of the beautiful golden yellow colour which gold is believed to possess, when held to the light they appear to be of a rich deep green. Every one of the thin square inches of gold that the beater begins on makes sixteen pieces of gold leaf. Including the waste, each inch is beaten out into leaves sufficient to cover an area of 400 square inches, which is larger than a gentleman's good-sized handkerchief. A gold bar, when beaten out, will carpet a ballroom.—*New Orleans Times-Democrat.*