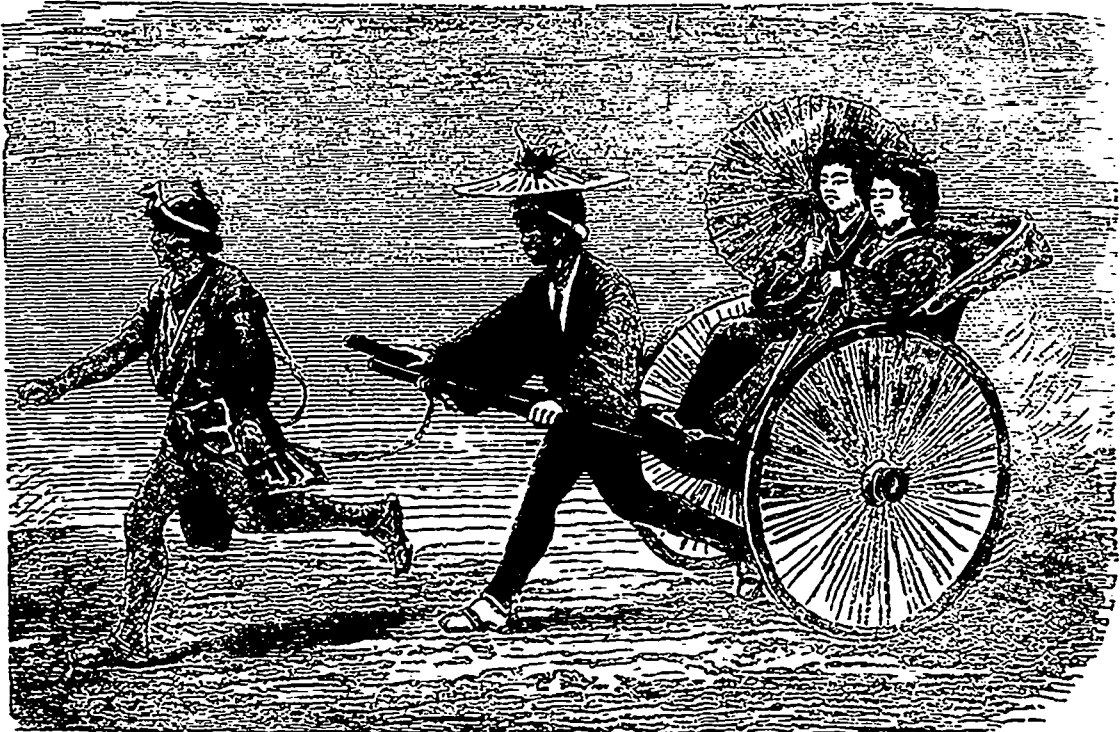


Young People's Department.



JINRIKISHA TRAVELLING IN JAPAN.

JAPAN.

IN another part of this magazine there is a letter from a Canadian clergymen who is working as a missionary in Japan. He says in that letter that the old customs of the Japanese are fast passing away and that people can travel now by railway instead of the queer old ways that they used to have for making a journey. One of those ways was by the Jinrikisha shown in the picture above. In that picture there are two men drawing two women in a vehicle of two wheels. It is all by twos with them. What fine sport it would be for two boys to give two sisters a trip like that in a cart of two wheels!

But we are told that such customs are only to be seen now in the country parts of Japan, for the whole Japanese nation are becoming very civilized. There are many traces throughout the country of their old idolatrous religion. You see a picture on another page of "A way-side shrine" in Japan. What a funny looking god he is to worship! There are a great many shrines like this in Japan. Travellers there come across them, and ruined temples as well, almost at every turn. We are told of one temple that is called Benton, because it was dedicated to a god of that name. He was a snake

god, and all round the ruins of the old temple are pictures and figures of snakes. Fancy worshipping a snake god! Almost the smallest Christian child knows better than that.

There is a place in this shrine set apart for people to walk round. And what do they want to walk round it for? Why they believe that if they walk round it a thousand times their god will think them very good and give them lots of fine things in return for it. So they take a number of tickets in their hands and round and round they go, putting down a ticket every time they go once or ten times round. And all the time they go they mumble over a sort of prayer that they have learned off by heart. This prayer is called Namu Amidabustu, and as they mumble it very fast they must say it over a great many times before they finish their thousand rounds. Now is it not strange that Christian people often want their prayers made so short, while the heathen will make them so long and say them so often?

There is a large mountain in Japan called Haiei. It is full of springs of very cool water. One of them is called Benke's spring. Benke was a giant who became very strong by drinking of the water of this spring. At one of the temples his foot prints in stone are to be seen, and they are two feet