

**The Quilts' Department.**

**SKETCH OF THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN.**

(Concluded from our last.)

The Kokansu or prison is here. The name means, in the Japanese, hell; it has 100 dungeons and cages. The history of these few cities gives a fair outline of the whole Empire. Their private dwellings are small but very neat, and ornamented with small gardens; in this they excel, as they are the very best of horticulturists. A few feet of ground are turned to the best advantage, as the Japanese understand perfectly the art of dwarfing plants, trees, fruits and flowers. They use neither tables, beds, nor chairs; but sit and sleep, like most Eastern nations, on mats.

Almost the first accomplishment learned by them is the art and grace of suicide; in fact, the whole nation from youth upwards revels in the luxury of suicide.

The trade at present is under great restrictions as they only trade with the Chinese and Dutch. The latter have always fostered, cherished and increased the prejudices of the Japanese against all other nations, particularly the French, English and Portuguese.

The mechanics and manufacturers in Japan excel in their different branches, and are even far superior to the Chinese. Their silks and cottons are excellent, and their Japan ware and porcelain unequalled. Their exports are raw and manufactured silks, iron, steel, artificial metals, furs, teas, finer than the Chinese, Japan ware, gold, silver, copper, medical herbs, roots, diamonds, pearls, coral, shells, ambergris, etc. Whatever goods the Japanese want they pay for in gold and silver.

The Japanese worship principally the two gods, Xaca and Armida. At Maccon there is a stately temple built to one of these gods; it is of freestone, as large as St. Paul's, with an arched roof, supported by heavy pillars, in which stands an idol of copper which reaches as high as the roof, and, according to a description given by Sir Thomas Herbert, his chair is twenty feet high and eighty feet long; the head is big enough to hold fifteen men, and the thumb forty inches in circumference. There is another statue, called after the god Dabio, made of copper, twenty-two feet high, in a sitting posture. This shows that the Japanese understand the art of working in bronze, and they are far ahead of Christian nations in this particular. They allow polygamy, and they often strangle their female children, but never the males. The nobility extract the two front teeth and supply them with two of gold.

The two principal rivers are the Ujigawa and Askagawa; the former so rapid and wide that a bridge cannot be built over it, and the latter remarkable for its depth and perpetual fluctuations. The chief lake is called Oltz, it is one hundred miles long and twenty one wide. A large valley exists in the interior, filled with carbonic gas, and called the valley of the Upas. It is covered with the skeletons of numerous wild and tame beasts and birds. The Emperor, it is said often sent criminals to the valley to bring away a precious gem of incalculable value, and the bones of men also whiten its deadly sides. Acidulated lakes and thermal springs are common through several of the islands.

Their great sources of opulence are their mines of gold and silver, but they have no antimony, calamine, sal ammoniac, borax, or cinabar, (quick-silver.) These articles are in demand, and bring a high price. Birds and every kind of duck and poultry are plenty; camphor trees are abundant, and the cedars are the finest in the world. Few countries open so fair a field as the Islands of Japan for botanical and geological research. It is not necessary here to enter into a detailed statistical account of the commerce of Japan. A direct trade to that empire would increase the commerce of this country about two hundred millions of dollars annually, if not more.

It has always been in contemplation with this country to make an effort to open a direct trade with Japan. Commodore Peiler, as far back as 1815, addressed a letter to Mr. Monroe on the subject. It was intended to fit out a frigate and two sloops-of-war and place them under his command, but subsequent events prevented the consummation of this design, but it has been revived from time to time, without being carried out; but a few years ago the undersigned drew the attention of the Hon. J. Y. Mason to the subject by the recommendation of a steam line to China, with a view of incidental commercial intercourse, and finally direct trade with Japan. It would require but small efforts to accomplish commercial intercourse with so shrewd a people as the Japanese, who are alive to commercial feelings. A steam line direct from New York to the Islands being already in existence, it is an easy matter to continue it to the Gallapagos, which Islands abound in coal; thence to the Marquisas, and on to Shanghai or Jeddo.

W. D. PORTER.

**Advertisements.**

**New Dry Goods Establishment AND MILLINERY SHOW ROOM.**

**J. & W. McDONALD**

WOULD most respectfully announce to the Ladies of Toronto, that the Millinery Show Room in connection with their

**DRY GOODS ESTABLISHMENT,**

No. 1, Elgin Buildings, corner of Yonge and Adelaide Streets,

was opened on the 27th inst. with a new and select display of the most Fashionable Millinery, which will be offered at prices unusually low.

No. 1, Elgin Buildings. 23-

**MRS. HAMMOND, DENNISON'S AVENUE, QUEEN STREET WEST, TORONTO, Near Dalhurst Street.**

AS Mrs. H. purposes leaving Toronto shortly, she will teach the style of drawing mentioned below at the following reduced charges, viz:—

Indian Japoning, including materials, per 12 lessons	£1 10
Enamelling, do. do.	1 10
Grecian Oil Painting, do. do.	1 15
Monochromatic Drawing, do. do.	10

AND

Wax Flower-making, including materials,	£1 10
Leather Work, do. do.	15

Specimens to be seen at Mr. FLETCHER'S, Bookseller, &c., Yonge Street, near King Street.

Toronto, May 13, 1862. 23-

**SLADDEN & ROGERSON, AUCTIONEERS AND General Commission Merchants, YONGE STREET, TORONTO.**

April, 1862. 24-

THE Undersigned are now prepared to receive every description of Goods and Merchandise for Sale by AUCTION, on or private terms, at their Premises on Yonge Street.

SLADDEN & ROGERSON.

April 6, 1862. 24-

CASH ADVANCES made on all Goods and Property sent for immediate Sale.

SLADDEN & ROGERSON

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**Just Arrived and For Sale**

AT THE

**NEW BOOK STORE,**

**54, Yonge Street,**

A CHOICE assortment of the best editions of Standard Works, of which the following is a specimen:

- Killo's Daily Bible Exposition.
- Key's Synopsis of Biblical Literature, 2 vols.
- Popular Encyclopedia of Biblical Literature.
- Dr. Keble's Biblical Literature.
- Illustration of a History of the Church of Scotland.
- Manning's Kingdom of Christ.
- Whaley's King James of Christ and Frimas of Romanism.
- Jay's Morning and Evening Exercises.
- Stek's Lectures on Theology.
- Hill's Lectures on Divinity.
- Lik and Tr. of Calvin, 2 vols.
- United Free Willian Fathers, 4 vols.
- McKerrow's History of the Reformation Church, Josephine.
- Milman's History of Christianity.
- Taylor's I. gola and Jerusalem.
- Agassiz's Baptism.
- Kale's Koton with Notes, &c. &c.

CHARLES FLETCHER.

Toronto, 30 May, 1862.

**PIANO FORTES.**

THE Subscribers beg to inform their friends and the Public generally, that they have received and are now in possession of their Spring Stock of Piano Fortes, from the celebrated Manufacturers of

Stewart & Dunham, in New York, and J. Chickering, in Boston.

which comprises all classes of Six, Six and a half and Seven octave Pianos, from the plainest to the most highly finished.

A. & S. NORDHEIMER,

King-Street East.

Toronto, May 13th, 1862. 23-

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.**

MESSES. A. and S. NORDHEIMER have just received direct from Europe, a large assortment of every description of

**Wooden and Brass Instruments,**

which they are enabled to sell cheaper than any other establishment on this continent. They call the particular attention of

**MILITARY AND AMATEUR BANDS,**

TO THEIR LARGE STOCK OF

Saxhorns, Ophycloides, Cornopians, &c., which they offer at greatly reduced prices, and on liberal terms.

Best Roman and English Viols, Harp and Guitar Strings.

Toronto, May 12th, 1862. 23-

**REMOVAL! REMOVAL!!**

**J. CORNISH,**

**LADIES', GENTLEMEN'S, & CHILDREN'S BOOT AND SHOE MAKER,**

BEGS to return his sincere thanks for the very liberal patronage bestowed on him, and trusts that by continuing to manufacture Goods of the Best Quality, to merit a continuance of public support.

J. C. begs to inform his numerous customers, that in consequence of the Re building of his present premises, he has

**Removed to 78, Yonge Street,**

**CORNER OF ADELAIDE, ST.,**

Where he has a large assortment of BOOTS and SHOES, of every description and size, which he will continue to sell off, until he returns to his old stand, and in order to dispose of the whole, he has put them down to THE LOWEST PRICE. All orders promptly attended to, Toronto, March 27th, 1862. 18-