

Mission is near the east side of the city, we had to go almost all the way across it to get to this West Gate, the road running close to the wall part of the way. From the gate we had to go on quite a distance to get to the place where the Fair was held, the vicinity of a large temple, almost the prettiest I have seen. It seems that the people from the surrounding country, to avoid paying the city market fee, bring their wares here, and for about a month continue to sell.

A number of acres are covered with trees, shrubs and flowers, each seller having his own little plot. A great many of the things were purely Chinese, but I also noticed small pansies, marsh marigolds, honeysuckle, cactus, primroses, rose bushes, nasturtiums, Chinese pinks, bleeding heart, begonias, peonies, and, what I appreciated more than all, two or three geraniums, the sight of which almost made me home-sick. I don't know where they could have come from, for the owners themselves say they are not native to China. There were also some beautiful orchids in bloom.

In one place there were piles of trays and small boxes made out of their pretty dark and light brown mottled yin, or sassafras wood. This is highly perfumed when new. Other boxes were made from the white "bay nub," or cedar, and painted with the native "chē," red or black. This "chē" is got from a kind of tree, and somewhat corresponds to the Japanese lacquer. There were wash-tubs and basins and pails made from the bay, and also from the pretty red wood, which much resembles the red oak at home; and little bowls carved from the trunk of the palm tree. Almost every variety of article possible was made from the bamboo—tables, chairs, baskets, benches, stools. There were tables, chairs, beds and stools made from hard wood, and beautifully carved; the beds were especially pretty. One whole court was hung with scrolls, the painting on some of which was not so bad. The birds, butterflies, and many of the flowers, were quite true to nature.

Restaurant stalls were sprinkled here and there over the entire grounds; and the tinkling of the temple bells could be heard above the hum of buying and selling.