

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT JAPAN.

In Japan there are no cows; the Japanese neither drink milk nor eat meat. There are but few horses, and these are imported mainly for foreigners; there are but few dogs, and these are neither used as watchdogs, beasts of burden, nor in hunting; there are no sheep, and wool is not used in clothing—silk and cotton being the staples. There are no pigs; pork is an unknown article of diet. There are no goats, mules, or donkeys in Japan.

Twice a year the adherents of the Shinto faith in Japan cut small figures out of paper

and throw them in the river, the idea being that with the immersion of these figures their own sins are washed away.

The Shinto priests of Japan scrupulously practice cleanliness in their religious service. Their garments are always spotless, and they even bind a slip of paper over their mouths so that their breath may not pollute the offering.

Japan claims the oldest wooden building in the world. It is a log storehouse in Yara, that is now used to shelter some of the mikado's art treasures. An age of one thousand two hundred years is claimed for it. Some of the logs are nearly worn away by weather.



Chinese Salutations, bowing and shaking their own hands.

A STORY OF THE BLACK FOREST.

Many years ago a worthy old pastor lived in a village near to the Black Forest. His life had been spent in doing good amongst his people, and now he was calmly waiting for the summons to come from his Master to enter upon his reward.

He was, however, anxious once more to see his sister, and place in her hands a small sum of money he had saved for her. He accordingly set out one bright autumn morning, hoping to reach her home by easy stages before nightfall. His path lay through a portion of the forest.

As he drew near to the end of his journey he was startled and alarmed on seeing himself suddenly surrounded by a band of fierce-looking men, who immediately demanded his money.

At once he gave up his travelling bag: telling them to take all he had. The chief of the band asked him roughly if he had anything more with him, and he answered, "No." On hearing this they let him go on his way, and he soon found himself on the outskirts of the wood, and near to his sister's cottage.

He had almost reached the door, when a