

boxes in various parts of the building, where the pious worshipper fails not to contribute a few "cash," not as an act of charity, but to provide the means by which the priest may be enabled to feed the hungry demons.

At frequent and short distances along the road were little stalls with fruit and tea, the universal beverage, always hot and ready, to quench the thirst of the weary pedestrian...

A tour through the business quarter of Tokio is of great interest, for at every step something new is to be seen. The streets are always filled with vast numbers of people, and run on for miles. The shops are filled with goods to suit every requirement: some are rich in Japanese ingenuity and perfection of work in lacquer, porcelain, basket-work, and bronze, fancy silks, and embroideries spread out in every tempting form. The silk stores and book-shops are equally attractive. The carvings in wood and ivory, of groups and animals, are in the best style of art. Figures and vases in bronze are artistic and marvellous in their make. China and porcelain beautiful and delicate, with a thousand other articles, are laid out in tempting array. One can walk on for miles and see a repetition of shops of this description.

The street vendor, with his ambulatory stock over his shoulder on a bamboo pole, or pitched down at the corner of a street, is surrounded with a varied assortment of odds and ends. The acrobat and conjurer amuse extensive audiences collected round them. The story-teller, with his wondrous tales (after the style of the familiar "Arabian Nights"), delights an attentive crowd. Hundreds of officials (army, navy, and civil service), all in European costume, are decorated with gold lace, gilt buttons, and other insignia of rank; even the police and soldiers are often our own familiar models. Jinrikisha men, coolies, and porters dragging carts laden with goods, all help to swell the tide of human life.

Continuing my way, I paid a visit to numerous temples, and in describing the one at Asakusa, I shall nearly convey an idea of the whole. This is one of the largest and most celebrated in Tokio. On reaching the locality, we pass on through long avenues crowded with men, women and children. As we approach the Holy of Holies, a large bronze figure of Buddha is in view, and we pass on to the building, gorgeously decorated in gold and lacquer work, with elaborate and ornamental carved