

species of *Eulalia*, several feet in height, and in the north, as at Nikko; the country is mountainous and wooded. At Nagano (in the Shinshiu district) he had seen hills of chalk or plaster and described how hot had been the road cut along the face of those hills. In the south the ranges of hills were largely barren, sometimes formed apparently of coarse diluvial drift and conglomerate, at others largely of sand.

The rivers from the mountains frequently do great damage in the plains when suddenly swollen by the rains, or melting snows, and large sums of money are spent yearly on embankments and improvements in the channels. On some of the plains the rivers have been raised by the silt deposited by their waters, and the continual heightening of the embankments, until (as at Lake Biwa) the railway across the plain goes under the beds of the rivers by tunnels. When unusual floods, or earthquakes occur the embankments may be burst and much loss of property and life result.

The flora and fauna of the empire were described by Mr. Harrington as very rich in interesting species, and he had often thought how the botanists especially of the Field-Naturalists' Club, would have revelled in the scenes presented. Trees were very numerous, of great variety of foliage and often of very large size. Of conifers the most striking had been seen at Nikko, where the famous temples and tombs in honour of the first and third Shoguns, are embowered in magnificent groves, and the avenues and courts are lined with gigantic specimens, with trunks four, five, six or even up to eight feet in diameter. These trees are about 250 years old, showing that the growth of this species is rapid. At one of the shrines at Nikko stands a beautiful Koya-maki, or umbrella pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*), now several feet in diameter, which is said to have been a pot plant belonging to Iyeyasu, the first Shogun. The old highways of Japan were generally lined with fine trees forming veritable avenues, thronged by the travelling multitudes. Such an avenue of *Cryptomerias* (*C. japonica*) leads up to the sacred groves of Nikko, the last six miles being especially imposing.

It is a favourite habit of the Japanese to train out on supports the branches of one of the species of pines, until the extent of their spread is wonderful. Such a tree was seen at the Kurodani monastery (Kyoto) upon which, the priests relate, Nazarin hung his armour when, about