

in similar books prepared for the amusement of children with us. In one of the illustrations there is a quaint old shopman peering through a pair of spectacles stuck upon his nose, and made precisely like the double-eyed glasses just now so fashionable. A glass globe of gold fish, which have awakened the hungry instincts of a cat that wistfully watches their movements in the water, is among the pictures. A couple of chairmen, who have put down their sedan to take their rest, are engaged lighting their pipes; and a professor, seemingly of Phrenology, is standing amid the paraphernalia of his art, whatever it be, and is taking the measure with a pair of compasses of a bald-headed disciple. All these scenes occur among the illustrations of this little book. All show a humorous conception, and a style of treatment far in advance of the mechanical trash which sometimes composes the nursery books found in our shops. A people have made some progress worth studying who have a sense of the humorous, can picture the ludicrous, and good naturedly laugh at a clever caricature.....

There were no printing establishments to be seen either at Simoda or Hakodadi, but books were found in the shops. These were generally cheap works of elementary character, or popular story books or novels, and were evidently in great demand, as the people are universally taught to read, and are eager for information. Education is diffused throughout the Empire, and the women of Japan, unlike those of China, share in the intellectual advancement of the men, and are not only skilled in the accomplishments peculiar to their sex, but are frequently well versed in their native literature. The higher classes of the Japanese, with whom the Americans were brought into communication, were not only thoroughly acquainted with their own country, but knew something of the geography, the material progress, and contemporary history of the rest of the world. Questions were frequently asked by the Japanese which proved an information that, considering their isolated situation, was quite remarkable, until explained by themselves in the statement that periodicals of literature, science, arts, and politics, were annually received from Europe through the Dutch at Nagasaki; and that some of them were translated, republished, and distributed through the Empire."

Here it is obvious that effectual steps have at length been taken, for opening up free intercourse with an inquiring, sagacious, and highly intelligent, though suspicious, people. The Americans are justly entitled to all honor for their successful carrying out of an expedition which can scarcely fail to prove advantageous to the whole civilized world,—and not the less so that it is the result of peaceful and friendly negotiation, and not of a barbarous warfare against a sensitive but weak nation. When we consider, with the natural surprise of the members of the American Expedition, that the Japanese were found quite ready to converse intelligently with them about railroads, telegraphs, daguerreotypes, Paixhan guns, steamships, the Mexican war, &c., as subjects already familiar to them, we cannot fail to appreciate the intellectual powers and cultivation of this remarkable people. They have no such self-sufficient faith in their own intellectual supremacy as with the Chinese bars all further progress; and when we consider that in the fourteenth century they were not