

dress—I believe they are required to wear it, and the girls, too, in the normal school are adopting it. I think the schools are on the plan of German military schools. The teachers have their coats and pants heavily braided. The boarding departments in all the schools are much alike. Upstairs are the sleeping rooms. Each room contains five rough, plain, narrow wooden beds, and on the walls are guns and swords. Sometimes the boys, having been accustomed to sleep on the floor, tumble out. Down stairs are the studying rooms, each one containing a plain wooden table and five chairs. The goal at which all Japanese students aim is the Imperial University in Tokio. A sister of one of the students attends our Azabor school in Tokio, and he offered one Saturday to take us through the building. We entered the grounds through a massive stone gate, walked through avenues of trees past the museum, which is a large building three storeys high. We were first shown into a reception room, where we were met by the young man who was to conduct us through the building. We first went to the laboratory, then to the designing-room. The ceiling was between two hundred and three hundred feet from the floor. There were hundreds of designs, mostly for engines. I did not know that so many kinds of engines could exist. The third room was filled with models of all kinds of ships—war-ships, steamers, etc., and the walls were completely covered with drawings. We next went into the examination hall. It was perfectly elegant. It consisted of an immense room four storeys high from floor to ceiling, with galleries running round it. It had the most elegant pillars with gold and green stripes. The balconies were sixteen feet wide. The walls consisted of book cases, and round the railings were writing tables and chairs. The railings were iron, but were pure white, covered with green and gold ornaments. The ceiling was beautifully carved, and pure white. There were electric tubes for lighting the lamps. Electric light is used altogether. The stair-ways leading to the balconies were outside, of iron—white, green and gold. The geology room would have pleased Miss Waddell. Of course there were cases and cases and cases filled with specimens, all labelled, in both Japanese and English, and the walls were covered with pictures of stone formations. There was one room containing specimens of woods—mahogany, and every kind imaginable. In one room there were models of all kinds of bridges—but I could not begin to tell all the wonders I saw in that building. I was told that there were no school buildings to equal it in size and beauty in Ontario. The Japanese have thrown off their old religion, and education is their god now. I never imagined anything

like the magnificence of their temples. We visited some in Tokio, built more than three hundred years ago, and it must have cost millions and millions of dollars to build them. They have the most elegant designs in bronze, marble, and pure gold. But while there is so much refinement and culture in Japan, there is also much, very much poverty and degradation. Fancy thousands of men doing the work of horses. Some of the people have come to the decision that Christianity is the best religion, that it is well to have a religion, and one of their greatest men in Tokio wrote an article for the papers in which he proposed that some hundreds of the nobility should join one of the Christian churches, and thus gain the respect of the Christian countries of the west. He tells the people that religion is only a garment which men and nations put on to suit their interests. He says if they could only have a religion which would teach the morality of the Bible, and leave out the divinity of Christ, and the miracles, they would be quite satisfied. Although, he says, they need not object to Christianity on that account, for the miracles and this belief in prayer is really needed for the women and the lower classes. Of course no intelligent, educated man would believe such nonsense.

The weather is delightful, birds singing, trees coming into leaf. But although so fine, it is most depressing weather. Everything is so new and so strange. While there are many things to make life pleasant here, there are many things which would make it unbearable, if it were not for the thought that one is really needed here, to show those conceited men that the girls and women are just as clever as they are if they have the chance.

My school is increasing in numbers. I have now forty-two pupils, ten of whom are boarders. The house is full, and the school almost so. I hear that a number are coming after Easter. They are going to build a new school, with accommodation for one hundred pupils, fifty of whom will be boarders. It is marvellous the way they run up the buildings. Mr. Cocking has a new house, two storeys high, and it was built in seven weeks. Of course they are not substantial like the home houses, but they look very pretty. When I speak of foreign dress, I mean the dress worn in America and England. I am a foreigner now, and am quite accustomed to hearing myself called one. Wouldn't I love to go to a church where I could understand what is said. It is pretty hard to have no church privileges at all.

Shodzu-ka, Japan.

*

This is the time to commence experimentation with our own Labrador Tea, *Ledum latifolium*.