

A GLIMPSE OF CHINSENP LAKE.

air is peculiarly damp, and the cold sea breezes seem to find their way to one's very bones; and in order to get warm the family must literally sit round the fire. A part of the household stock of "tatamis" are laid on the floor, on these the family sit, their feet all toward the fire in the centre of the circle, more "tatamis" are then laid over them; once in a while some fidget kicks the fire-place, over it goes, and the light built house is down in a few minutes.

The cost of a Japanese house is small; one of three rooms, (an ordinary size) can be built for a sum ranging between twenty-five to one hundred dollars, about fifty additional dollars being all that is required for furniture. There are no doors, their places being supplied by sliding partitions of not very strong or thick material.

The primitive religion of Japan is Shintoism, which was the worship of the Invisible by a simple pastoral community.

Buddhism, brought by missionaries from China early in our era, was eagerly received by Japan, and to-day the number and magnificence of its temples show the hold it took on the nation. Near the village of Hasemura, is the famous bronze figure of Buddha, shown in our illustration. This immense casting, called in Japanese "Dia butsu," although not in one piece, is so cleverly jointed as almost to avoid detection. It stands upwards of fifty feet in height, in the midst of beautiful evergreens. Its interior is hollow, and forms a temple, where there are numerous gilt idols.

Christianity was first introduced into Japan in 1549, by Spanish Jesuits, who in a short time counted their converts by thousands. But interference with things temporal, intriguing and conspiracy, brought banishment to the Jesuits, and the decree of 1587 with its edict of extermination of all Christians.

In 1853 two treaty ports were opened to foreigners, and before very many years were past, missionary stations were everywhere formed, and Japan was assiduously introducing western civilization.

Regarding the social condition of the Jap-

anese, the women, though they have more liberty than any other Asiatic women, are far from enjoying the privileges of women in Europe, let alone the United States. And that they are treated no worse than they are is due more to the inherent gentleness of Japanese manners than to any recognition of what is due to women.

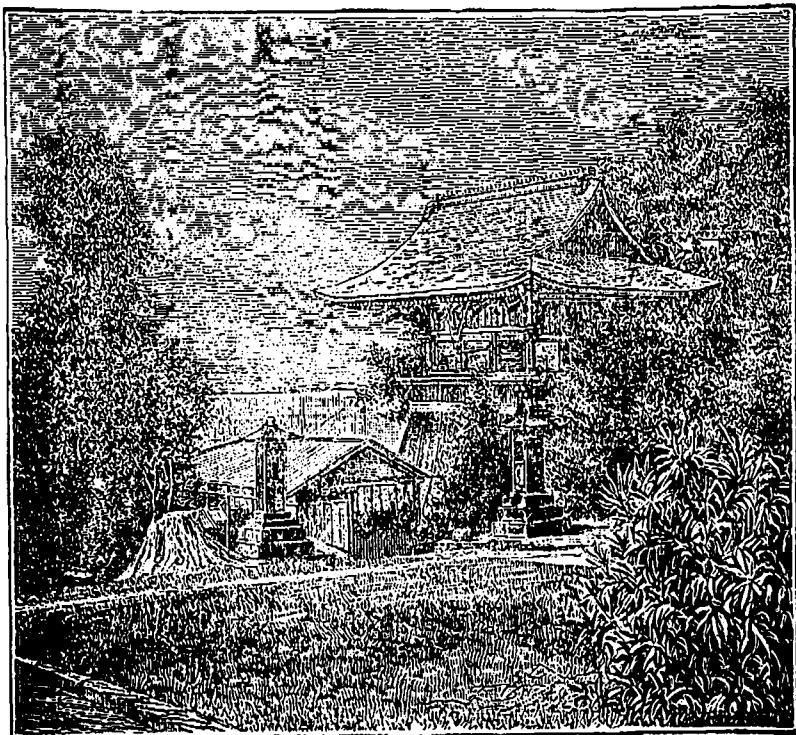
Except in the houses of native Christians, or Japanese who have lived abroad and become thoroughly impregnated with western ideas, a wife or daughter is merely an upper servant. In theory the wife of every man, from the Mikado downwards, performs the offices of a valet to him. Women of quite high rank keep their husbands' clothes brushed and mended, and see that everything they may require is to hand. It is the custom for Japanese ladies to make their own clothes and those of their children, and their husbands', too, when the latter do not wear European dress.

Except when she is exchanging hospitalities, a woman devotes herself to the care of her household, of her children, of her husband, and her husband's parents, if she is so unfortunate as to have them. For the Japanese woman the mother-in-law has terrors unknown in Europe. The nation is so given to patriarchal households that it is quite the rule for a son to bring his wife home to live in his father's household. There, especially if she be the first daughter-in-law, she may live a life of utter drudgery. She is expected to wait on every one in the house except the servants, to be a sort of housekeeper under her mother-in-law, and the old people often treat their daughter-in-law with all the severity and tyranny possible to their mild and philosophical nature. A wife has no redress unless she is in the station of a servant or has powerful parents. If the former she simply gets uneasy and goes into service again.

One of the earliest points of attraction to the visitor in Japan, is Yokohama, the commercial capital. It is a cosmopolitan city, almost all nationalities being represented, hence it is not the most favorable place to study Japanese life. The streets are wide and gas lighted, and the bay filled with shipping, a greater part of which fly the national flag of Japan, for besides a large coasting fleet, Japan possesses many war vessels, all manned and officered entirely by Japanese.

Seventeen miles inland is Tokio, the capital, a city of two and a half millions inhabitants. The city is interspersed with so many temples and groves that it occupies an area at least equal to London, England, with its 5,000,000 of a population.

The castle or citadel of Tokio (the third moat of which is shown in our illustration), is the largest in Japan, and is arranged on the general plan of Japanese castles (there are about one hundred and fifty scattered throughout the country), a triple system of moats and embankments, one inside the other, with a rugged hill in the centre. At Tokio the outermost line is ten miles in circumference, a large part of the metropolis being built between the first and second walls.



THIRD MOAT OF THE TOKIO CASTLE.