

pendant gold tassels, was encased in a circular box six inches in diameter and three in depth, wrought of pure gold. Each of the documents, together with its seal, was placed in a box of rosewood about a foot long, with lock, hinges, and mountings, all of gold. On either side of the Commodore marched a tall, well formed negro, who, armed to the teeth, acted as his personal guard. These blacks, selected for the occasion, were two of the best looking fellows of their color that the squadron could furnish!"

It is much to be regretted that the narrative of the American Expedition to Japan could not have been prepared for us by the pen of the distinguished officer under whose able guidance it was brought to a successful termination. Whatever advantages may spring from the well-known learning and special acquirements of the editor, his work certainly lacks the freshness and vigor of personal narrative, and in the hands of the gallant Commodore, it may be presumed we should have escaped exhibitions of such questionable taste as the eulogies and laudations of the United States and its officers, here "compiled from the original notes and Journals of Commodore Perry and his officers, at his request and under his supervision," and "published by order of the Congress of the United States." This is the more to be regretted as it was so totally uncalled for in a narrative really creditable to the nation, and got up in the same liberal style as other works recently issued from the government press at Washington. At the same time it is only justice to the compiler to quote the statement in his preface, that "every word of the work was read to the Commodore in MS, and received his correction before it went into the printer's hands; every proof-sheet also was read by him before it was sent back to the press."

The illustrations are numerous, and, though in the case of the wood-cuts, careless and defective printing material detracts from their effect, many of them are curious and characteristic. This is specially the case with the colored fac similes of native drawings, which exhibit not only great freedom of outline, but also quaint touches of humor,—as in the "Crossing the Oho-e-ga-wa river,"—and strikingly contrast with the more familiar specimens of Chinese art.

One of the examples of Japanese illustrative art described in the "Narrative" is a Child's Book, purchased in Hakodadi for a few Chinese copper "cash." After commenting on the knowledge of perspective, and other proofs of advancement in art which its illustrations display, its contents are thus further described :

"On another page there is what appears to be some Tartar Hercules, or Japanese St. Patrick, clearing the land of reptiles and vermin, and the doughty destroyer is brandishing his sword in most valiant style. This is drawn with a freedom and humorous sense of the grotesque and ludicrous, that are rarely found