

two-thirds of the villagers had become Christians, the sons of the head man boldly cut down the sacred trees in the middle of the night, and they have been used to form the roof-tree of the church, while a sacred stone with an inscription has been inverted and made the threshold of the church.

The village was not without its troubles. The Japanese are extremely fond of lawsuits, and it is commonly said that each village considers it an honourable distinction to have been involved in a suit with her neighbours. Oyamada has been no exception. There was a bit of common land claimed both by it and by a neighbouring village. Their old maps differed from those of their neighbours, and both were of great antiquity. They had had a lawsuit for some years about it, which was carried through four courts, till at last, in the High Court of Tokio, they lost it. The bit of land was worth about \$1000, and the costs they had to pay came to \$8000, so Chancery suits and law expenses exist elsewhere than in England. Reluctantly we bid good-bye to Oyamada, and went down the hill to our kurumas.

In passing through Kurume I noticed the shop of a knife-handle manufacturer. He had an immense stock of horns and skins of the deer of the country (*Cervus sika*), which he told me was very common, of which I secured specimens. He informed me that there was another deer to be found in Kiushiu, much rarer, but of which he had at present no specimens. After an unsuccessful hunt after bronzes and lacquer,