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HOME AND SCHOOL

Do unto others
As Ye Would
That They
Should
Do Unto
You.

TORONTO, MAY 21, 1887.

[No. 11.]

Vol. V.]

Pictures from Japan.*

BY REV. SAMUEL P. ROSE.

(Abridged from Article in METHODIST MAGAZINE for April.)

OF the many books relating to Japan and the Japanese, few are more interesting than Mr. Maclay's "Budget of Letters." The range of topics covered by these letters is large. We get a glimpse of old feudal times in Japan. We are treated to a vivid pen-picture of life in the interior.

would be an excellent book for Sunday-school libraries.

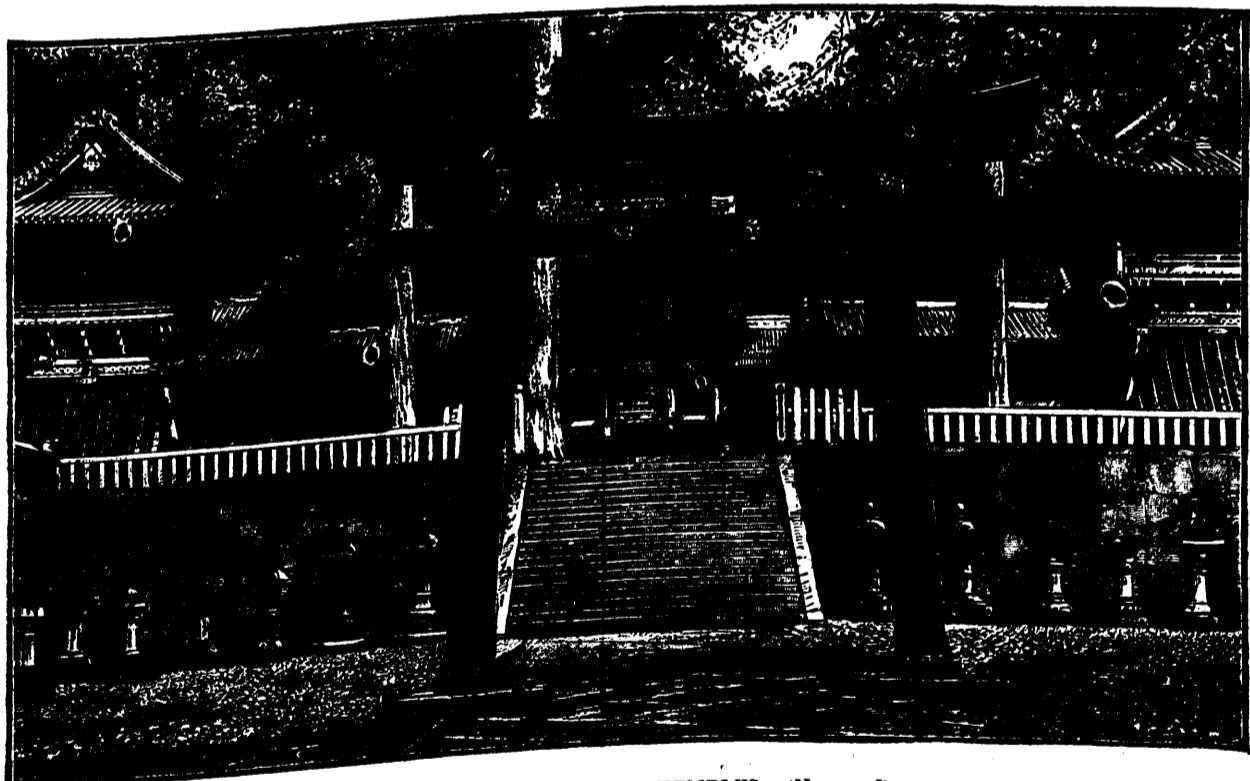
A Japanese house, as a rule, is but one story high, and, to our thought, quite small. The only covering of the floor are the *tatamis*, "heavily padded mats about seven feet long, three feet wide and about two inches thick. They constitute the principal feature in a native house, for, from their soft nature, they serve as beds, chairs, and tables. They are manufactured of

matter for surprize that one of the chief occupations of winter, with many of the natives, is the task of keeping warm; for while the thermometer does not often register a very great degree of cold, the air is peculiarly damp, and cold sea breezes seem to find their way to one's very bones.

Meals are served on small, square tables, about a foot in height, one table being provided for each person, who sits, of course, on the floor.

certainly the happiest little imps in the world; their parents fondle and spoil them most effectually, and, at the same time, never lose their control over them."

The liquor problem has not yet assumed the proportions in Japan that it has with us. The tame diet of the people, our author tells us, does not tend to produce violent appetites. It must not, however, be supposed that total abstinence is the rule; neither,



VIEW OF THE THIRD TERRACE, NIKKO TEMPLES.—(NATIVE PHOTOGRAPH.)

Some notion of school-teaching, its difficulties and characteristics, is imparted. Sketches are given of the principal cities and chief points of interest of the country. And, of greater moment than these, we learn of the social problems in Japan, and of the progress of missionary labour among this wonderful people. It

soft rushes, and are bordered with silken edges." Accordingly, in our eyes, a native house would seem very scantily furnished.

The cost of a Japanese house is small; one of three rooms can be built for a sum ranging between twenty-five to one hundred dollars, the furniture costing some fifty dollars additional. There are no doors, their place being supplied by sliding partitions of a not overly strong or thick material. The houses are heated by little braziers, or small square wooden boxes filled with ashes, upon which a few small pieces of red-hot charcoal rest. It is no

Frequent bathing, in water of a high temperature, is a habit of the Japanese. The bath is heated by a charcoal furnace, connected with one side of the tub. It is not always deemed needful to change the water for each bather, and guests at hotels find it difficult to secure absolute privacy during their ablutions.

Writing of the social condition of the Japanese, Mr. Maclay expresses the conviction "that, generally speaking, the Japanese men make kind and affectionate husbands, and the women make virtuous and exemplary wives and mothers, and the children are

when practised, that it is practised from principle. Public holidays, especially New Year's Day, are made the occasion of intoxication, and drunkenness is then common. Wine is not native to Japan. Beer, ale, porter and brandy have never been made. But the Japanese soon acquire a taste for these products of our civilization (?), and the need for prohibitory legislation will undoubtedly be felt in the near future. *Sake* is the native intoxicant. It produces drunkenness, mild compared with ours, but real enough in all conscience. But Mr. Maclay was not aware that *delirium tremens* was known in the

* A Budget of Letters from Japan. Reminiscences of Work and Travel in Japan. By ARTHUR COLLINS MACLAY, A.M., LL.B., formerly Instructor of English in the Keio Gakko-Rio, Tokio. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: William Briggs. 391 pages. Illustrated.