

Among the vices of the Japanese, the most prevalent appears to be incontinence.\* Though the law does not allow them to take more than one wife, they have the right to keep concubines, and all opulent people make use of this right even to excess. The bagnios are under the protection of the laws, and have their regulations, rules, and privileges. The owners of such houses are not, indeed, considered infamous, and enjoy the same rights as merchants, who deal in a permitted commodity with the consent of the government; but the Japanese avoid being acquainted with them. The lovers of such places generally visit them from sun-set to sun-rise.† The music plays and the

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\* The virtues of the Japanese will be found recorded in subsequent notes; but their national vices are not neglected by the earlier writers, who describe them as being arrogant; factious; vindictive to an excess; full of defiance, and ready to take offence; and in spite of the natural severity of their character, carrying their dissoluteness far beyond that of any other nation: yet the Missionaries found it not difficult to wean the Japanese from these vices. They found them virtuous through sentiment, naturally religious, and docile from being accustomed to use their reason. Lying was punished with death.—ED.

† The system seems universal throughout the Empire; for Thunberg states, that in all the parts where he stopped, great care had been taken to establish a sanctuary for the venal part of the sex, (and for the most part several,) even in the smallest villages—a fact, which goes far to stamp the character of the nation.