

AMONG THE ORIENTALS.

A ST. JOHN MAN'S DESCRIPTION OF A JAPAN OUTING.

What They Saw in the Country—A Strange and Weird Legend—A Magnificent Temple Costing \$7,000,000—Rope of Human Hair One Hundred Fathoms Long.

A gentleman of this city, now in Japan, writes an interesting account of an outing in that country to a friend here, who has kindly given Progress permission to print it.

The letter, dated August 3, and headed Hiogo, Japan, is as follows:

"DEAR —: We have been looking each mail for a letter from you, but none have arrived, or at least none of later date than early in May. Fortunately Progress still arrives by each mail, so we can see that you still survive. We have not been around much lately, except visiting about among the shipping and going through the curio shops ashore; but early last month we had a trip up the country for a few days and enjoyed ourselves immensely. All the captains in port had been talking for some time about going to Kioto, making up quite a party, as there were five ladies in the fleet of nine ships, but it never amounted to more than talk, so we decided to start off by ourselves on the Fourth of July.

"One of the clerks of the office had given us a letter of introduction to a Mr. Penny, who is principal of a Commercial College for Japanese youths at Otsu, and told us that it was so seldom that any foreigners stopped there that Mr. Penny would be delighted to show us around and have some one to talk to, as he, his wife and two daughters were the only foreigners resident at Otsu.

"We took the train at noon and found the cars pretty comfortable, being like English ones. The train passes along the bay until we passed Osaka and then gradually ascended Kioto. On each side were rice fields, each having an embankment around it about two feet high, and being flooded with water from six inches to a foot deep, and all built in a series of terraces from the sea level to quite high on the hillsides, and here and there a clump of bamboo, just sufficient to lend diversity to the scene. All through the rice fields the peasants were wading through the mud weeding and caring for the young rice. At 1 p. m. we passed Osaka, and as we got higher up the land was more wooded, and we occasionally passed some large tea gardens, which are plentiful near Kioto, which we passed at 2.30 p. m. Shortly after we reached Otsu, and leaving the train, took rikshas to go to Otsu, but had hardly left the station when Mr. Penny met us and insisted on our driving at once to his house, and visiting him as long as we could stay. So we all went there together in our rikshas and had tea and a rest for an hour. Otsu is beautifully situated beside Lake Biwa, the largest lake in Japan, noted for fine scenery, and the numerous old legends connected with it. The Japanese instead of speaking of the eight wonders of the world, frequently refer to the eight beauties of Omi, which are—the autumn moon at Ishiyama; evening snow on Mount Hirasano; the evening bell at Miidera; a bright sky with a breeze at Awadza; boats sailing back from Yabase; the sound of rain by night at Korasaki; wild geese alighting at Katada, and the moonlight on Ishiyama as seen from Seta bridge; all in this neighborhood.

"Mr. Penny's house is in the sacred grounds of a famous old monastery, Miidera, was formerly the residence of the chief priest, and is still owned by them. It is approached by a long avenue, shaded by lofty trees and gradually ascending by short flights of stone steps to the principal temple high up the hill. The grounds cover a large space and have some smaller temples besides the priests' houses in them. After tea we took a walk through the grounds, and the first object of interest we were shown was a very large bell called, 'Benkei's bell,' and the legend in connection with it was told us as follows: On Mount Mikane dwelt a huge centipede, which was the terror of the neighborhood, and especially of Riugu, a wealthy submarine kingdom in which only women lived, and they were governed by a princess of great beauty. She and her people had been repeatedly frightened in their submarine palace by this monster and at last sent to Hidesatu, governor of Omi, and a noted warrior, begging him to kill it, which he undertook to do. So he set out, and found the monster with its body wound three times around Mount Mikane and its head reaching almost to Seta bridge, waiting for victims.

"Here Hidesatu resolved to attack it, and sitting on the bridge, took his bow, which five ordinary men could hardly stretch, and discharged two arrows at the monster without effect. Then an idea struck him and he moistened the barb of his third arrow with his spittle (as an Irishman would spit on his hands before fighting), and discharging it exactly at the spot where the other two had hit the monster, it penetrated the brain, and after writhing in agony the mighty centipede rolled over dead. Out of gratitude, the Princess gave Hidesatu many valuable presents, one of which was the bell from her enchanted palace. Hidesatu sent it to Miidera, and there it remained until about A. D. 800,

when the warrior priests of Hiyeshan coveted it, and tempted Benkei, the 'Samson' of Japan, to carry it to the top of Hiyeshan. Benkei said he would if they would give him as much soup as he could drink before starting. The priests agreed to this, and had a large iron pot cast and filled with soup for him. (We were shown the pot in a house near the bell, and I should say it would hold at least fifty gallons.) Benkei drank his soup all up, and then carried the bell up the hill without difficulty. But the bell did not like its new position, and all it would ring was 'I want to go back to Miidera.' The priests in a rage had it thrown down the mountain, and we were shown the scratches on the side of the bell as a proof of the story.

"It was a most comical looking old priest that told it to us, and although we could not understand him, we were kept laughing all the time by his amusing manners. After dinner that evening Mr. Penny told it to us in English and read us some other interesting legends collected by him in the neighborhood and from his scholars. He has quite a number which he intends publishing in book form soon.

"The next morning the ladies of the family went with us in rikshas about three miles down the shore of the lake to Karasaki to see an enormous pine tree there which is said to be over 1,000 years old. It is not very high, but its branches spread out in all directions to a distance of over ninety feet, and are supported by props which keep them at a uniform height of about fifteen feet from the ground, thus forming a sort of circular summer house about two hundred feet in diameter. It looks quite fresh and healthy, and some of the branches are fully three feet thick.

"In the afternoon we went over the old temple and grounds. This monastery was founded A. D., 675, and takes its name from a well, the water of which was used in early days to wash the future Emperors after their birth.

"The next day we took a small steamer and went down the lake to its outlet at Ishiyama passing under the Seta bridge where Hidesatu killed the centipede. The scenery here was magnificent, and it is said to be one of the loveliest spots in Japan. We took our lunch at a small Japanese hotel, scrupulously clean, and sitting there we could feast our eyes with the lovely view while we ate fried eels and rice with chop sticks. We also had delicious salmon, fresh from the lake. After lunch we explored another old monastery, dating from A. D., 750, beautifully situated on the side of a hill overlooking the lake. In it was an idol which had the power of curing any pain or disease. All a sufferer has to do is to rub the part of the idol corresponding to the part of their own body afflicted, and if they rubbed long enough they would be cured. It is needless to say that old image was very smooth. The little steamer waited and took us back, and all it cost us six for the whole day's outing, lunch included, was two dollars and eighty cents.

"The next morning we took rikshas again and went to Kioto, seven miles. It was a pretty hilly road, but we went in about an hour, with only one man to each riksha. When we got into Kioto we first called at a large pottery and saw the whole process of making fine porcelain vessels, etc., from the first mixing of the clay to the painting and baking rooms. Then we went through their ware rooms and were shown some very beautiful things in porcelain and Cloisonni ware. In the afternoon we went through a silk and embroidery shop, where we saw so many beautiful things that we could hardly tear ourselves away. It was the same in a place where they dealt only in Cloisonni. Then we went through another large temple, and after dinner went to a theatre and saw some acrobats and gymnasts who surpassed any I had ever seen. Mr. Penny got quite angry with the doorkeeper for overcharging us; he wanted us to pay two cents for each of the best seats, instead of their usual charge of one cent. After the performance was over the Pennys went back to Otsu, and we to the Hotel Ya-ami, kept in European style, and where everything was just as nice as anyone could wish. The Duke of Connaught stopped here on his way through.

"In the morning we went through a new temple they are building. It is to be the largest in Japan, and has already cost over seven millions, besides a great deal of work that has been done for nothing by people who were too poor to give money. Here we saw four large ropes each about nine inches in circumference and over a hundred fathoms long, made of human hair. We were told that that is the only kind of rope used about the building, hoisting beams, etc., and is all made with the voluntary contributions of the people. The pillars were all made of magnificent hardwood highly polished, and some of them over three feet in diameter and a hundred feet long.

"Leaving here we went to the station and took the train for home, and when we got on board, found it had been raining ever since we left, so we had hit upon a very good time."

G. W. D.

Do You Eat Fruit? The season for Strawberries, Currants and Raspberries is now over and Figs, Plums, Rock Cranberries and Blueberries are at hand, and persons wanting to preserve any of the above fruits should leave their orders with J. S. Armstrong & Bro., Grocers, 32 Charlotte street, for what they want.

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To Cure Dyspepsia and Indigestion, don't keep K. D. C.,

or money refunded, send to K. D. C. Co., New Glasgow, N. S.

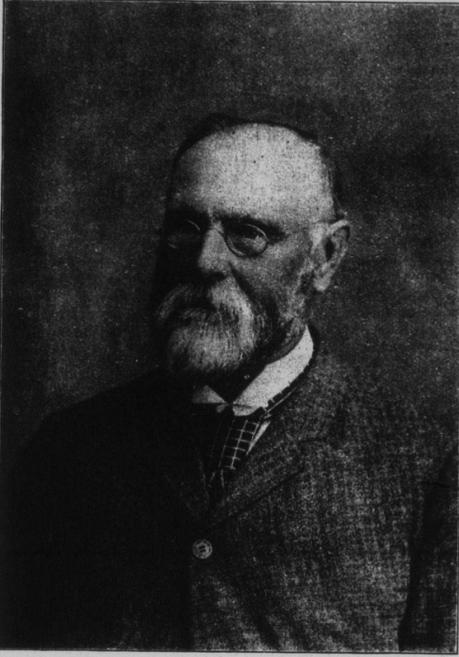
PRESIDENT C. A. EVERETT

ELECTED AT THE START AND CONTINUED IN OFFICE.

A Good presiding Officer with Plenty of Executive Ability, He Gets Through a Deal of work in Directors' Session—The Responsibility of His Position.

President Charles A. Everett of the Exhibition Association has had a good deal of important work in connection with the first annual exhibition. He was one of the citizens who went forward at the start and lent his time and counsel to the organiza-

tion of a live association. He was chosen president of the association and being once re-elected has held the position to the present time. He has made a good president—a good presiding officer. It is of greater importance than many fallen upon President Everett's shoulders. He is really general manager, for nothing of consequence can be done without his approval. The position is one full of responsibility, but so far Mr. Everett has filled it to a nicety.



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HE WANTED TACKS.

A Wax Makes it Unpleasant for a Stammering Friend.

A hapless youth in a maritime province town was afflicted with an incurable stammer for which he had faithfully tried every "infallible remedy" known to science or to quacks. After each application of cure he was generally a good deal worse for a time, but just as his friends and relatives had made up their minds that he was rapidly growing dumb and that one more scientific experiment in the way of cures would land him safely in an asylum for mutes, he would gradually get back to the spot from which he started, settle down to his normal stammer and be quite himself again. He was a great favorite in spite of his infirmity and "amongst his many friends" as the social correspondents say, there was one who was an incorrigible wag and who poked fun at the un-cured Demosthenes, whenever he got a chance, which was not often.

One day our waggish friend was strolling along the street in all the blissful idleness of Saturday afternoon, seeking whom he might devour, when chance sent the stammerer across his path. "Halloo Jack!" he called out cheerfully, "Where are you bound for?" "I'm g-g-g-g-gug, going d-d-d-down to mum-mum-mum, Millers, to buy some g-g-g-g-gold h-h-h-headed t-t-tut-tut-tut—" "tacks sir?" suggested the clerk kindly. "Yes sir, plenty."

"W-w-w-w-well, th-th-th-then g-g-gug go and sus-sus-sit on them!" chuckled the victim of impeded speech, gracefully backing out of the shop. "The next gibbering idiot who comes stammering around this store," said the clerk, addressing the errand boy, "I'll fire him out of the door before he has time to open his mouth—good afternoon sir, anything I can do for you?"

It was the genuine Demosthenes who entered at this critical juncture, and after a few struggles and contortions, began mildly: "Have y-y-y-you-g-g-g-gug-got any g-g-g-g-gug-g-g-g-gold h-h-h-headed—" "I'll show you whether we have or not, you gold-headed parrot," yelled the clerk, skipping over the counter with the agility of a monkey, "I'll teach you to make fun of your betters," and the next moment the astonished customer found himself seated with unexpected force upon the sidewalk, with the shop door banged and locked behind him, while a German band in the distance played softly: "Out in the cold world, out in the street." And just around the corner a sound as of stifled laughter floated softly on the air.

will think or allow, that the man as the head of affairs should be a good presiding officer, and better still if he is possessed of executive ability. Mr. Everett has both of these qualifications; he can get through with more work in a given time than nine out of ten chairmen, and he has a well nigh perfect idea of how to plan work. Besides this, he has had a good deal of overseeing, of watching to see that nothing goes wrong and that all things go right. The repairs to the buildings, the erection of new ones; the decision in many minor matters that required prompt action, have

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F. E. CRAIBE & CO., Druggists and Apothecaries, 35 KING STREET.

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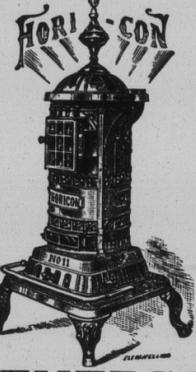
Try one bottle and be convinced that it is the best remedy known for Rheumatism.

Price 50c. per bottle; Six bottles for \$2.50. For sale by all Druggists.

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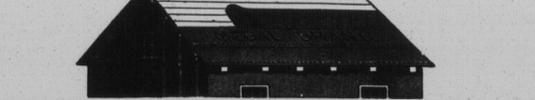


We think we have them both in the Goods we are offering for this Fall's trade, and solicit a careful inspection from those who require any goods in our various lines, whether a Cooking or Heating Stove, a Mantel Piece and Grate, or something in the line of Tinware and Household Hardware, of which we have an immense stock, in great variety. A careful inspection of our stock will pay all buyers who are interested in securing the Best Goods at the Lowest Possible Prices.

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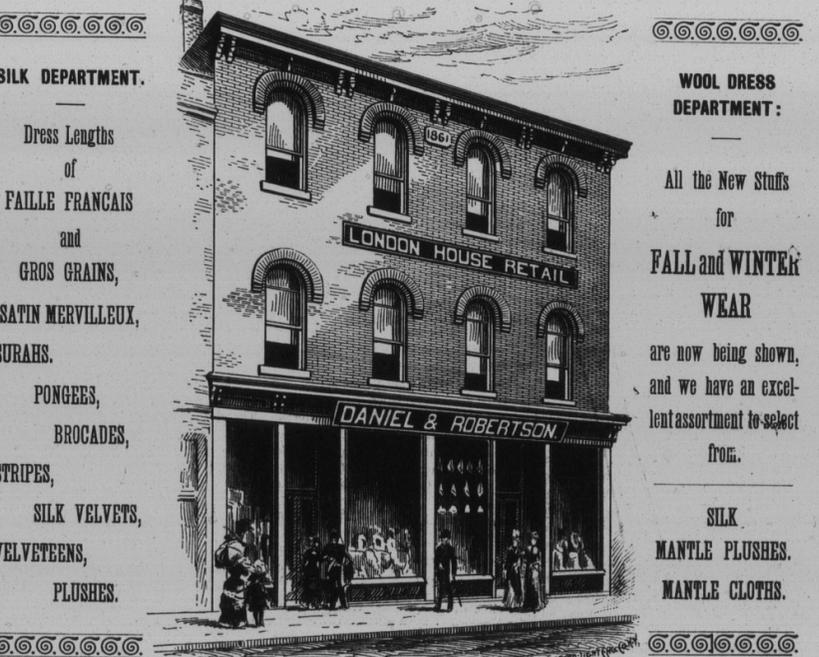
THE MEDAL BRAND OF ASPHALT ROOFING

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MADE of Felt Flies, treated with natural asphalt, or solid bitumen, with layers of waterproof mineral composition, practically unchangeable in the atmosphere, and uninjured by the greatest alternations of heat, frost, and thaw. IT MAKES A CHEAP ROOF. IT MAKES A MOST DURABLE ROOF. IT MAKES A SPARK-PROOF ROOF. IT MAKES A BETTER ROOF THAN TIN. And the large repeat orders lately received prove that it is giving the best of satisfaction. Send for samples and prices. T. McAVITY & SONS, - - SAINT JOHN, N. B.

All our Departments are now well stocked with a very large variety of First-Class Goods, for which we ask an inspection.



SILK DEPARTMENT.

- Dress Lengths of FAILLE FRANCAIS and GROS GRAINS, SATIN MERVILLEUX, SURAHs, PONGEES, BROCADES, STRIPES, SILK VELVETS, VELVETEENS, PLUSHES.

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All the New Stuffs for FALL and WINTER WEAR are now being shown, and we have an excellent assortment to select from. SILK MANTLE PLUSHES. MANTLE CLOTHES.

VISITORS to the CITY DURING EXHIBITION WEEK will find the LONDON HOUSE RETAIL

—a desirable place to do their shopping.— 1, 3, and 5 CHARLOTTE STREET, Cor. UNION.

THE FISHER

THE COMMITTEE BY MR. J. DE No Fish Hatchery... When the official laying their plans counted upon the belonging to the and now stationed were all right but

with them, and the pointed when they le ery could not be had. The chairman of th was appointed to co exhibit of the fisher provinces, is Mr. J. president of the St. J.

BRIGHT CHILDR

Two Little Boys W Talk and As If the boy is really there is little danger future ever having to far as clever men go, few boys growing up press us hardly in the perhaps win the prize gling for all our lives power to grasp the stories of three year of feet are already plant of Mount Parnassus.

Jack is a brown-laddie, who is an on large fund of the cu little lone birds seem very busy one day w amongst which was a guileless either of co mightily prized by it acquisition. Jack's p table near by, and quiet. Suddenly the piped up, "What's papa?" "Nothing," respond want some?"

With an indescrib saucy appreciation of fellow grasped his be and answered without tation "No! I got a w

Lawrence, is another who has an irreligious defined genius for aski is a prime favorite with grave and reverend with a strong sense of half hour has the ha tete-a-tete with his gra

A short time ago the cussion happened to be of God, and many a questions showered up fenceless head. "Is God everywhere, "Yes, Lawrence, e you can't see Him, H time."

"Is He up there on th "Yes. Even on the "Is He in the shoe cl "Yes, He is there, to "Right among all t bers?"

It was getting dic rector, but he answe Lawrence, all places are You cannot be too partia you use. When you need a you get Ayer's Sarsaparil, mingle with purity, and blood in your body. It mak Adet.