

# BELFORD'S

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## AN ADVENTURE IN JAPAN.

THE contributions of Japan to the American Centennial Exposition have familiarized the minds of a large number of Canadians with the physiognomy, the dress and the arts of the Japanese. In the engraving on the following page many will recognise the curious night lamp or lantern, the little low table, and especially the screens or partitions presenting those ever recurring storks or flamingoes on the wing, the sketchy, struggling vegetation and the conventional pyramidal mountains; but the bed may surprise some whose notions of a Japanese couch are derived from that wonderfully elaborate carved bedstead which was one of the marvels of the exposition. The bed here shown is the common one found everywhere in Japan. The sleeping arrangements are heroically simple, requiring no extra rooms, the bed and sleeping apartment being improvised anywhere with large screens, a thin mattress of rice straw and a wooden pillow—the latter a sort of guillotine-block with a hard cushion on the top covered with many sheets of white paper. These sheets are turned or changed as they become soiled. This strange head-support, the same, we are told, as that used by the ancient Egyptians, preserves an elaborate coiffure, like that of the Japanese, from all danger of derangement during sleep.

The illustrations of this paper are from sketches made on the spot by a French gentleman, M. Collache, who was one of the corps of American military officers sent to Yeddo, in 1868, to instruct the Japanese troops in the art of European warfare. On one occasion he was received by some ministers of a provincial prince in a tea-house (*otchaya*). His description of the dinner is very interesting. Hot *saki*—a fermented liquor made from rice—was passed from hand to hand in a delicate