

HOW THE FARMER OF JAPAN LIVES.

WHILE there are many class distinctions in this country, Japan really consists of two divisions—the military and agricultural. Long ago it was decreed by the court that the well-to-do peasants with proper capacity should join the military class, but "all the weak and feeble should continue to till the soil." At the same time an edict was sent forth saying that merchants, farmers, women and artisans, by reason of their spheres, had no need for education.

Thus classified there was little inducement for any one to follow the occupation of farming if it were possible to enter the more favored class, especially as the tilling of the soil involved endless toil, because of the primitive methods of agriculture. When the ports of Japan were closed, and the country entered upon the two hundred and fifty years of the "reign of peace," it became necessary to adopt some measure that would induce men to take up farming, otherwise it would be impossible to find food supply for the rapidly increasing population. The plan was settled upon to elevate the farmer by placing him next to the samurai (the gentry) where he would outrank those engaged in other occupations, and up to the present

time the farmer has sustained that position.

Lofly mountains and very high hills cut the country into small valleys, where the farmer takes up his abode. As all the work is done by hand, or nearly so, it is impossible for one man to cultivate a large tract of land even if it were not for the lack of means to possess himself of more than two or three acres, or five at most. Instead of each one building his house in the midst of the field and alone all the settlers in a valley build their houses together, usually under the brow of the hills. Having little, if any, machinery to care for during the winter, and rarely a horse to stable—at most a bullock—little space is taken up by the dwellings. The houses are very small and the style of architecture so picturesque that they form one of the striking features of the landscape. They are one-story, with low eaves, built of bamboo, network, and plastered inside and out with a mixture of straw and clay. The roof is made of thatching two and one half feet thick, and where there are a number of rooms, which is not generally the case, they are partitioned off by window-frames intended for small panes of glass and are covered with rice-paper. Usually the front of the house is arranged in a similar fashion. Stoves are quite unknown, hence there are no chimneys to the houses, a fire-place being a luxury of which they

have never dreamed. Just beyond the entrance is a small space level with the ground. From this in all directions the floor is raised about one and one half feet, and the space, even among the poorest class, is covered with clean matting. The matting is woven in sections six feet long and three feet wide and is padded with rice straw about three inches thick. These mats are all neatly bound with heavy material and fit tightly together, covering the entire floor. The house is built to fit the mats, which are woven the same size. A room may be a "mat room" or a "ten-mat room." The poorer families usually have one room where all live in common, and such a thing as the smallest degree of privacy is unknown for either man, woman or child. In the sides of the house are built small closets that are shut off by a screen-like, sliding doors, but aside from these there is frequently only the one room.

Housekeeping is very simple, for there is little, if any, furniture. Bedsteads have never entered into their ideas of comfort, but the soft matting, always spotlessly clean and never stepped upon by shoes, which, if worn, are always left at the door, forms a common resting-place for the entire family. Little bedding is required, sheets and pillow-cases being out of the question. A very thick, heavily padded comfortable, called futon, is spread upon the floor, and one of equal weight, heavy enough to forever drive sleep from a Westerner, is used as a cover in cold weather. Frequently a small block of wood, upon which the head rests, serves as a pillow. In any case the head-rest is always hard and would mean anything but sleep to a foreigner. They have a great many times expressed their disgust at I cast

aside the block and rolled up my jacket, using it as a substitute for a pillow.

In this large room the family, in bunches of two or three, finds a general sleeping-apartment. In summer a great, square mosquito-net suspended by strings from the ceiling covers the entire space and protects the sleepers from that pest that does so much to make night lively for the wayfarer, one doing service for the whole family. During the day the futons and net curtain are put away in the closet and the sleeping place is used as a dining room. In well-to-do families the food is served upon a low table a foot high, the family surrounding it seated upon the floor.

Their manner of sitting is peculiar to the people of Japan, and in no other part of the world is the posture known. It is said by those who have made a study of the reason for the small stature of the people that this mode of sitting has prevented proper development of the limbs. Upon entering the house they drop upon their knees, turn the feet in until the great toes meet, and fall back the entire weight of the upper part of the body resting upon their heels. In this position they take their food, either from the table or from the floor, sew, read, study, and in fact spend the time indoors when they are not sleeping.

Their food is very simple, consisting chiefly of rice, and in some sections of a sweetish, rather watery potato, said to be very nourishing. Some forms of their religion forbid the taking of life, and although they consume quantities of fish they rarely taste the flesh of sheep, swine or cows; thus there is little heavy cooking, the entire process being

free from bread-baking or any form of pastry.

The farmer is a man of toil in every possible sense, for he must perform the work of man and beast. In an interview with a farmer recently, who belonged to that large class known as "not very prosperous," there was a touching pathos in the hopelessness of some of his remarks. It was just after midday, and having had dinner he was about to indulge in the noon-hour rest. In this climate it is necessary to have an hour or two of repose at noon, as work begins at dawn and continues until the fading day folds the earth in darkness, which makes the working-hours about sixteen.

Stopping by the way to rest a little and gather some items concerning life on the farm, I encountered an intelligent-looking man about to take his noon nap. Upon inquiry concerning the higher thoughts of life, the reading of newspapers and those things that are apart from the steady grind the old farmer drew a long breath and said, "We get up before daybreak, work as hard as we can, pay much more than half we make to help support the soldiers so they will keep our country in peace, have what we need to eat when there is a good crop, have what we can get when crops fail, and just wait to die." This plainly expresses the situation in many and many a farm home in Japan.

Everything must be done by the farmer. The man who owns a bullock is well off, and his favored neighbor who is possessed of a horse is an object of envy throughout the entire district. All manner of burdens must be borne by the farm hands—grain handled, grass carried, manure carted upon their backs, and everything that in more ad-

vanced countries is considered work for beasts only is the common, everyday work of the farmer. Even the useful but primitive convenience known as a wheelbarrow has never been considered by this unfortunative individual as a body-saving method of accomplishing his daily task. With little beside a plow fashioned after those common in the Far East before the times of Christ, with simply this and his hands much of the land in Japan has been brought to a state of cultivation unknown in any other country. It is impossible to understand what the weary, ripening grain upon the terraced hillside or the even rows of growing rice in the flooded fields mean by way of expended labor to those whose hard toil has cast them far from the line of the world's progress.

Unless the farmer is of a deeply religious turn of mind, and it has been borne in upon his soul that he must make a pilgrimage to some favorite shrine, it often happens that he never leaves the valley of his scanty possessions so far as to venture to the nearest city, but lives his burdensome life to its last amid the scenes of childhood, youth and toil.

When darkness prevents continued hours of labor, weighed down with a load of grass for his tired beast, if he owns one, or carrying burdens of grain upon which to spend the strength of the next day in flaying from the stalks, the weary son of toil starts for the house that possesses so few of the elements of home, and after a hastily eaten meal, too weary to more than bathe his mud or dust stained feet, he throws himself upon his futon and is soon lost to all sense of toil, with no other hope than another long day of much harder work.

A few of the better-to-do farmers take newspapers, but the great majority are wholly uninterested in anything beyond the limits marked out by the borders of their rice-fields, or at most the borders of the nearest town. Politics is a matter of no interest whatever, and the physically drained farmer, requiring the few allotted hours of rest days work, can find no time in which to keep pace in thought with the ward march of nations and events, and his life becomes little more than that of his horse or bullock, knowing nothing beyond the natural demands of the body from day to day.—Jesse Acker, in Farm and Fireside.

COUGHS AND COLDS IN CHILDREN.

Recommendation of a Well Known Chicago Physician.

I use and prescribe Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for almost all ailments, constricted coughs, with direct results. I prescribe it to children of all ages, and am glad to recommend it to all in need and seeking relief from colds and coughs and bronchial affections. It is non-narcotic and safe in the hands of the most unprofessional. A universal panacea for all mankind.—Mrs. Mary R. Melendy, M. D., Ph. D., Chicago, Ill. This remedy is for sale by all druggists.

An attractive woman thrives on good food and sunshine, with plenty of exercise in the open air. Her form glows with health and her face blooms with its beauty. When troubled with a nervous habit, she takes a few doses of HERBINE to cleanse her system of all impurities. Price, 50 cents. Z. C. M. I.

OUR ENTIRE STORE IS READY FOR HOLIDAY BUSINESS

We Are In Perfect Trim. Nothing Has Been Forgotten.

TOMORROW MARKS THE OPENING of the Holiday Shopping Season. Every Dep't is in complete readiness with the Grandest and Greatest Stocks they have ever had. The useful and more staple articles abound on every side. The fancy and ornamental are here in abundance, while our stock of High Class Novelties is bewildering in its immensity. And Best of all are the Prices, Lower Than Ever. We want to double our Usual Holiday Business this year, Hence Have Marked Extreme Low Prices on every article and fancy prices on none. Never had we bigger bargains in anything and in everything to please young and old. Come and see, you'll find

This Is The Store That Saves You Money.

Sterling Silver Novelties.

EVERY PIECE STAMPED AND GUARANTEED STERLING SILVER.

at 10c Each.

100 Dozen useful little articles, many styles to select from. These make neat, inexpensive little presents.

at 25c Each.

A large selection of heavy silver handled SHOE HORNS, NAIL FILES, LETTER OPENERS, PAPER KNIVES, BUTTON HOOKS, BLOTTER ROLLERS, CURLING IRONS, etc., each item worth 50 per cent more.

at 50c Each.

We are placing on sale a similar selection, but with much heavier, larger sterling silver handles. Every item useful as well as ornamental.

A superb variety of real and imitation Ebony Furnishes, with sterling silver Trimmings. At about one-half regular value. SEE THEM.

A HOLIDAY SALE OF

Handkerchief Linens.

ALL YARD WIDE, ALL PURE LINEN; values the best we ever asked you to become interested in. Prices that are not equal for littleness anywhere.

A 60c Quality on sale per yard	44c
A 80c Quality on sale per yard	65c
A 90c Quality on sale per yard	73c
A \$1.10 Quality on sale per yard	86c
A \$1.25 Quality on sale per yard	98c
A \$1.75 Quality on sale per yard	\$1.25
A \$2.00 Quality on sale per yard	\$1.60

Men's Furnishing Goods.

A few items in this department that are as interesting as the prices—no doubt they are lower than you have ever paid for goods of like quality—a purchase however small will prove this.

Men's Wool Underwear in Natural Gray, nice winter weight, well made and finished, non-shrinkable (each) \$1.00

Men's Hosiery, a decided novelty in Men's fancy hose, all the latest combination of colors, (per pair) 25c

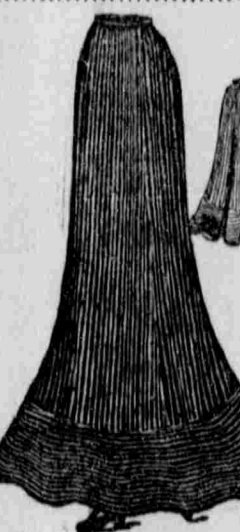
Men's Percale and Madras Shirts in great variety, light and dark patterns in stripes and dots, regular \$1.25 values (each) 75c

Men's Neckwear, a complete line of the latest novelties for winter, shades, Red, blue, Helle, green and black. In all the season's fashionable shapes, (each) 25c

CLOAK DEPT. Price & Inducements.



\$15 Suit for \$9.99.
A very heavy rabbit Cheviot Eton Suit with velvet girdle and satin strap, velvet piped flounce skirt, better than any suit ever sold for last \$10.00. While they \$9.99



\$4.50 Walking Skirt for \$2.69.
Another case of that famous Oxford grey mottos skirts with separate flounce, all lengths \$3 to \$4. While they \$2.69



\$1.75 Wool Waist for \$1.25.
50 dozen of the most elegant all wool, tucked and lined flannel waist ever sold in this city, all the good shades, Red, blue, Helle, green and black. While they \$1.25

Farrerback & Bro.

Beautiful Fans.

AT EXTRAORDINARY LOW PRICES.

Special at 50c each.

Ladies' fine Gauze Fans, a large variety to choose from, decorated in hand painted floral designs, spangles and lace styles, worth up to \$1 each, at 50c

Special at 1.00 each.

The selection of handsome Gauze Fans shown at this price is almost endless in variety, the pretty designs shown you would never expect to purchase at less than \$1.50 each. Make your selection early and get first choice.

Special at 2.00 each.

Magnificent line of beautifully applied Lace Gauze Fans decorated in spangled and hand painted designs. Values ranging up to \$3.25 each. A superb line to select some of your Christmas gifts from.

HOLIDAY SPECIALTIES in our

Domestic Department.

We have on exhibition a grand collection of EXQUISITELY and ELABORATELY EMBROIDERED HEMSTITCHED and DRAWN WORK SHEETS and PILLOW CASES.

One sheet and two pillow cases to match, put up in a box and just to induce early gift buying, we offer them for this week as follows:

The \$4.75 sets, for this week only (a set) \$3.75

The \$5.00 sets, for this week only (a set) \$3.90

The \$6.00 sets, for this week only (a set) \$4.75

The \$7.75 sets, for this week only (a set) \$5.65

Our Boys' Clothing Department.

Is worthy of the attention of every mother. We want her to know about our big stock and about the low prices at which it is sold.

BOYS' TWO-PIECE SUITS, ages 9 to 16 years, in heavy, all-wool Tweeds and Cheviots, regular \$5.00 values. Our price this week is \$3.50

FOR THE LITTLE CHAPS, 3 to 8 years of age, a nice variety of suits, neatly trimmed, in Cheviots, Tweeds and Cassimeres, regular \$4.50 values. Our price this week is \$2.75

Boys' and Girl's Golf Caps in red, blue and plaid. A great variety in all sizes. SPECIAL this week for \$2.50

Handkerchiefs.



LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S TAKE TIME BY THE FORE-LOCK. DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING LEISURELY. SAVE MONEY BY SO DOING.

IN OTHER WORDS, ATTEND THIS SALE. OUR HANDKERCHIEF STOCK COMPRISES ALL THAT'S NEW AND BEAUTIFUL. OUR PRICES CHALLENGE COMPETITION.

Children's colored bordered Handkerchiefs, special sale values at—

2c, 3 1-3c, 5c and 7 1-2c.

Ladies' Lace edged embroidered Handkerchiefs, hemstitched or scalloped edge, these are worth one-third more, we are showing immense varieties at these prices (each)—

10c, 15c, 25c, 35c, and 50c.

All pure Linen Handkerchiefs centers, grand special value at (each)—

15c, 17 1-2c, 20c, 25c, and 35c.

Real Duchess Lace edged Handkerchiefs, beautiful styles in great variety, all specially reduced for this sale, regular prices \$1.35 to \$12.50 each, this week at—

95c to \$10.00 Each.

Men's Slippers.

WE HAVE THEM AND AT RIGHT PRICES.

Men's Good Slippers 75c to 1.00

Men's Fine Slippers 1.25 to 1.00

You can save money by buying your Men's Slippers of Us.

NEW ARRIVAL.

Ladies Fine Shoes and Slippers Just Received.

Dress Goods

Department.

DON'T Wait until the last week for your Xmas shopping, but come this week to secure the choicest goods and best values.

New

French Challies.

Thirty Styles in Dark and Medium light grounds in floral and dot effects, warranted all wool and best quality, 30 to 32 inches wide, special only (yard) 50c

Storm Serge and Henriettas.

Two good materials for present wear, both 38 inches wide, strictly all wool, 40 colors to select from, values up to 75c. Special only (yard) 48c

New Corded Wash Silk.

Importers' sample line of coming season styles of wash silk, choice stripes and checks, 25 pieces, 50c only (yard)

German Wool Batiste.

32-in. wide, all wool fine Batiste cloth, in most beautiful evening and street colors 45c

Special Offering

In handsome new single pattern dresses, all late arrivals, no two alike— \$13.50, \$18.50, \$22.50, \$27.50, and \$32.50 a Pattern.

Our New Silks

A most complete and charming line of the most correct styles in both imported and domestic makes. You cannot fail to make a selection.

OUR GLOVE SECTION.

BRIGHTLY READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS. STYLES ARE RIGHT AND UP TO DATE. PRICES ARE FAMOUSLY ATTRACTIVE.

Ladies' Superba, at \$2.00.

They are just received direct from France and represent the most exquisite style in Gloves, made of finest best selected kid with 3 pearl clasps and beautifully embroidered back, all sizes in the latest colorings, specially adapted for nice and useful Christmas presents.

The Star, \$1.50.

All sizes and colors, P. K. sewed, 2 clasp wrist, Paris point embroidery made of fine pliable kid, these gloves have no superior for wear, we guarantee every pair.

The Treville, \$1.25.

A fine 3-clasp kid glove, perfect fitting, in all the popular colors, equal to any \$1.50 glove in the city, make your selection while colors and sizes are complete.

The Sorosis and Famosa at \$1.00 a pair.

Represent the very best ladies' kid glove values in the country, make your selections this week while stock is complete in colors and sizes. Every pair warranted.

NOW FOR BIG BUSINESS IN

Hemstitched Table Sets.

Prices that'll surely accomplish big selling. Hemstitched Linen Table Cloths and Napkins to match; each set put up in a box for less than actual worth.

A TRADE CHANCE ENABLES US TO DO THIS.

Matched white Linen Damask Table sets, silver bleached, cloth and napkins finished with one row hemstitch work—

3-4 sets with 18-inch napkins, value \$6.00, go per set \$4.20

3-4 sets with 18-inch napkins, value \$7.50, go per set \$5.45

10-4 sets with 18-inch napkins, value \$7.00, go per set \$4.95

10-4 sets with 18-inch napkins, value \$8.50, go per set \$6.20

12-4 sets with 18-inch napkins, value \$9.50, go per set \$6.70

12-4 sets with 18-inch napkins, value \$10.50, go per set \$7.90

12-4 sets with 18-inch napkins, value \$11.50, go per set \$8.95

DOLLS.



LAST WEEK'S EXTRAORDINARY PRICES BROUGHT A GREAT RUSH OF DOLL BUYERS. THE SAME TRADE INDICING PRICES HOLD SWAY DURING NEXT WEEK. MAKE YOUR DOLL SELECTION NOW—DON'T WAIT UNTIL ASSORTMENTS ARE BROKEN.

Kid body dolls, with fine French bisque head, movable eyes, shoes and open worked stockings at each—50c, 65c, 80c, \$1.15, \$1.25, \$1.70, \$2.25, \$2.75, \$4.50.

Dressed Dolls.

In all the different sizes and styles, fully dressed with full suit of underclothing, beautifully designed dresses of silk and satin, bisque head with movable eyes, beautiful styles at from—

65c to \$5.00 Each.

A SPECIAL SALE OF RUFFLED AND FLOUNCED ORGANDY, DOTTED SWISS AND FRENCH NET.

Bed Sets.

We make a specialty of these for metal beds, showing newest effects in valance finish and lace trimmings. Each set consists of spread and bolster or pillow.

IN ORDER TO REDUCE OUR STOCK BEFORE JANUARY 1ST, WE HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING SWEEPING REDUCTIONS ON ALL THESE GOODS FOR NEXT WEEK.

Ruffled organdy bed sets, formerly \$5.00, now— \$3.40

Ruffled dotted Swiss bed sets, formerly \$7.00, now— \$5.20

Floenced Bobbinet bed sets, formerly \$10.00, now— \$7.60

Floenced French net bed sets, formerly \$11.00, now— \$8.40

Floenced Irish Point bed set, formerly \$15.00, now— \$11.50

Brussels net Bed set, formerly \$18.00, now—