

Something of the Domestic and Other Customs of a Race Occasionally Called the "Americans of the Orient."

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women, now in Japan, to friends, in this city, will be perused with interest by many readers of the "News:"

Tokyo, Japan. My Dear Friends-I am going to give you a "domestic" chapter first. I have given you an account of some of our experiences with Japanese food, and now I will give you some of our experiences with servants, etc. First we hired a rikisha-man, "kuruma," he is called, for \$7.50 per month, and he furnishes his own rikisha and boards himself, wife and two children. There is a house in the front yard for him, he lives in one little room about as large as our bathroom at home, and uses the rest of the building for his rikisha. Their last baby was born on the Sunday before New Years, and on Thursday the nurse left, they had no need for her any longer, the woman got up and took a bath in the shed just outside the door in what appeared to be cold water, and from then on took charge of her household affairs as usual, walking out with nothing on her head, and with her bare feet on-I can't say in-wooden shoes. She took the baby out the first time she went out, with nothing on its head, and the bright sun shining into its little black eyes. The other baby, about two and a half years old, is a queer looking little object, and runs screaming to his mother every time he catches sight of He is as frightened of us as our children would be of Indians. (1 wrote home that the dogs bark at us and the children cry at us.) But when his mo ther is near to protect him she can per-suade him to make us a Japanese bow. and it is amusing to see the queer little figure bowing nearly to the ground.

DELIGHTFUL WINTER CLIMATE.

We find the winter climate here delightful. It is quite cold with a damp coldness something like California, and we have hot fires in the house and w overcoats and iurs when we go out, and still we have had weeks of lovely sunshine, without a cloud or storm, when I have sat in my room up stairs with out a fire, day after day, reading and studying, and we have had camelias constantly, since early fall. We have a boquet always on the table, and the trees are loaded with buds now. On New Year's day I picked the last three roses from our garden, and many of the trees are green as in spring While there is a little white frost on the ground mornings, the vegetable gar-dens look like early spring, and have been so all winter. (Excuse me for "branching off" from my subject occasionally, but when I think of anything explanatory I must say it, and I shall be doing the same thing right along, I suppose.) I was speaking about servants. We have been doing our own work since we came here, but labor is so cheap that we thought we might afford a hired girl to do the scrubbing and dish-washing that we have been doing for six months. It was quite a lot of work, three times a week we have all the boys here, Sunday to dinner and supper, and Friday night when they to choir practise, and that make 12 at table, besides a Japanese friend or two occasionally; we ladies turns doing the work, and on Sunday it was quite a task, for we hold meeting and Sunday school in our large diningroom. We inquired for a girl and found that we could get a good one for \$5.00 a month. As there are eight of us a month. As there are eight of us sharing household expenses here, that would amount to 15 cents each per week, so we engaged the girl. One of our Japanese friends said that was al-together too high, she only paid her servant \$1.25 per month, and from that amount the servant paid for her own bath and for hering hot here own bath and for having her hair dressed. The public baths are numerous, and for 1% cents you can have a bath, and for $\frac{1}{2}$ cent extra you can have a "sanski" to give you massage treatment. I get this information from one of the missionaries. I have never tried it myself. It takes the hairdresser one hour to dress the hair in the elaborate and to dress the hair in the choorate and complicated way in which they do it, with strings, pins, combs, "rats" and glue, and the price is 2½ cents. To complete the beautifying process they have their eye-brows all shaved off. As the hair only has to be done once a

The following letter written by Utah 1 any of our food, it is as much of a trial for them to reat our food as it us to eat theirs. So she brought her own Japanese food, sea-weed, bean-pasto, etc., and eats it from her own dishes in her room, sitting on the floor.

She eats her meals about half way be tween ours, so that she is always ready o wait on us. And she is the most saving creature, we used to partly keep the "kuruma's" family, but "left overs" are all served up in some appetizing way, and the "kuruma" is neglected.

Japanese servants are very respect-ful humble, indeed. At Mrs. Nirayama's, where we visited not long ago, every time the servant came into the room she got down on her knees and touched her forchead to the floor. Ours esn't do this, though she would walt on us hand and foot if we would have her, but she has lived with foreigners where servility is not required, and we try to treat her nicely, too. And in this we get into trouble sometimes. You know there is no other country, perhaps, where class distinction is so marked as in Japan. Entirely different words are used in addressing superiors and inferiors, and if not different words "honorifices" as they are called, are placed before the words or they have different terminations. "Go" is the honorlifice placed before words of Chinese derivation, and "O" before words of Japanese. If you wished to ask your Japanese. If you wished to ask your friend if he is sick you would say "Go boyki de gozaimasuka?" To a servant you would simply say, "Byoki des ka?" When we call on our friends, they say: "Honorably deign to pass in, "Honor-ably deign to sit down." Then they begin to pass us something to eat, and keep this up all the time we are there nearly, and then say, "Excuse me for being so inattentive to you." We have had callers bow low to each one in the house as they come in, are very cere-monious all the while they are with us, and when taking leave say, "Excuse

PECULIARITIES OF LANGUAGE.

my rudeness."

When Brother Grant had lumbago a while ago a young friend on meeting him said, "I heartily regret that you are not well, and I ardently desire that you may soon be entirely recovered." When you want to say you are hungry, this is the phrase you would use:"Honrable inside has become empty." which n Japanese is, "O naka gasukimashita legoziamasu."

We always offer our visitors fruit. etc., but we got nervous waiting for them to take it until we learned recently that it is considered polite to refuse three times and then take what is offered. One Japanese gentleman who has traveled considerably says our customs are quite different. In America the first time they passed him the furkey he politely declined it, and they took it away and never brought it back again prought it back again.

To go back to the language. There the really three different languages guage of the middle class and the lan-guage of the servants. We have had to use for the first as yet, and would perfectly satisfied to let the second answer for all; we do not object to using the same words to say to a set "Sit down," etc., as we would in speaking to the people who visit us as equals such as officers in the army, our teacher, etc. But if we do this we offend our friends; they say if you use he same words in speaking to sera level with servants It is rather hard on us, it is had enough to learn one set of words to express our meaning, but when we have to keep thinking all the time of being polite or too polite, or not polite while I am on this subject I must tell you some of the funny mistakes we have made. So many of the words sound alike and are so nearly alike that we get confused. For instance: Kikû, is crysanthemum, also the verb to hear; Kiki, is air, also mountain gorge: Kaka, is mother, and we also have for mother, haha, okka-san, bodo, ofukuro, according to the degree of respect.

DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1905 sunshine is "nikko," which is also the name of a beautiful mountain resort

name of a beautiful mountain resort that we visited last fail, where the emperor has his summer residence, "Nikko, the city of temples," And last-this very night, I wanted to tell the girl that we would have four extra to supper, (our boys) and I told her we would have a dead man for supper! Four in the Chinese numerals is shi, and in the Japanese nu merals it is yotsu.

We have to learn both, for they are used indiscriminately, it seems to me, and instead of using the contraction yo nin for four persons I said shi nin, which means a dead man.

A BURGLAR SCARE,

By the way, our servant's name "Haru," which means spring. Mrs. Nirayama's name is "Yuki," snow, and her younger sister's is "Yaye," cherry-blossom, and to be polite you place O before the name and san after it and you have 'the honorable Miss Spring, etc. I am afraid I have wearled yo with such a Japanese letter, but I feel as though I were steeped in Japanese. It runs through my head night and day, and Mary talks Japanese in her sleep sometimes. The other night she sat up in bed and said in a loud voice, 'Nan des ka?'' We had had a burglar scare the night before and I thought surely a Japanese had got hold of her and she was asking him what was the matter, so I joined in, rapped on the wall and had everybody in the house awake. The night before, though, some of the rest thought they had the burglar. The 'kuruma.' was awakened first; heard a man trying to open his window; then the "kuruma" woke Brother and Sister Ensign, who are downstairs, Alma came out of his bedroom, which is in the Japanese quarter, and finally Brother Nakazawa, our Japan-ese convert, who lives in the Japanese part, also appeared on the scene with a lantern and a sword, but the burglar

PLEASANT FRIENDS.

was nowhere to be seen.

You may wonder if we have anything

but Japanese acquaintances over here, and I will tell you of a very pleasant visit we had Christmas eve. We were visit we had Christmas eve. We were invited to Yokohama to visit Mrs. and Miss Bagnall, the later having come over on the "Kaga Maru" with us from America. They are very wealthy peo-ple, their house was a curio shop in it. self almost, it seems they have been collecting oddities for years, and while I should not feel easy with so many dragons all over, they certainly had everything that wealth could obtain, and it was quite a favor conferred on us, we thought, and appreciated it very nuch. There was a large party, and a "hristmas tree with a present for each much. one, but the "Mormon" colony were the favored guests, being the only ones invited to dinner. Mrs. B. is a charming lady, and made us feel perfectly at home from the time we first entered her They returned our call a week to ago, and while we could not door. or two entertain them as they had us we were very much pleased to have them come. We asked them to have "tiffin," as it is called here-luncheon-with us, and they said, "Now, don't go to a bit of trouble, just a cup of tea!" Now, we missionaries, although in Japan, have not had a speck of tea in the house since we came here, and there was just

momen'ts embarrassment on both sides, but we soon came to an under-standing, and everything was on as cordial a footing as among out own intimate friends.

JAPANESE THEATERS.

We have some entertainment in . a, theatrical way, too. I will tell you of one we went to last fall, and then you will know why we have not been to one 6 since. We went to one of the public parks and there were several theaters along near together. The curtains are what you see first, for in this "topsy-turvy" land they are at the back of the stare and right on the stage, and right on the street, part of the front wall, so to speak. There were drums or some kind of instruments that made a noise to attract atention, and every minute the ple curtain rtain would go up and the street could see in ine players-their backs at least, long enough to excite their curiosity, and then the curtain would go down again. The theaters here have all women or all men actors, just hever both together, and we were told that the women were best, so we selected our theater and went in a door at the side of the curtain, past the stage and back to a sort of gallery where the and everybody smoking. The perform-ance had been going on for some time, in fact they continue from 11 a. m. to 11 p. m., and after you have paid the price of admission, one and a half cents, you are at liberty to stay till you can't stand any more. If you are inclined to be particular and want a reserved seat, you can have it—a mat to sit_on and a hibachi to light your pipe for five cents ovira cents extra. cents extra. We faced the stage, after we had gone clear to the back and turned around, but there was no curtain in front of it, the curtain was at the back of the stage and going up and down all the time, so that we could see past the performers out into the night and see the crowd out in the street. the crowd out in the street. At the close of an act the players walked off, and the stage was rearranged, and even during the act if any change were needed a "super" would walk right on and perform the necessary act. Of course we could not understand a word that was said, but the gestures, flacial expressions, and peculiar tone of woice expressions, and peculiar tone of voice which I can not describe, were not like anything we had ever heard before. While it was not quite like having a box in the Salt Lake theater with Willard or some other of our favorite actors on the stage, it was an experience-which we have never had the courage

Now I want to say one thing more that will make you envious. We have a dressmaker, a Chinaman, that comes to the house with samples, takes your neasure, and no matter what pattern ou show him from a fashion book he says, "Can make," or "Can do." We were in doubt at first about trusting him, but gave him one or two things to try him, and found that he could copy anything just to a thread and gives the best satisfaction, and never troubles you to try on anything. I have not had to call on him for anything yet but a shirt waist. I have never had on half the clothes I brought with me yet. His prices are just about one half of what we would pay at home. I have left my letter for a day or two, it is now the third of February, and we are in the midst of a very se-

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vere snow storm. I hope we are not going to have much of it, they don't isually have much snow in Japan. MAKING GOOD PROGRESS.

Now a word or two about our work. and I am finished, and I think you will be also. We put in nearly all of our time studying and have three lessons week lasting about two hours, and e practise on the natives every opportunity we get. We can ask the blessing on the food in Japanese, and have all been able to bear our testi-mony, though some of us have not said very much. That is all except Brother Grant, he was told by the brethren at home that he need not continue the study, but put in his time with those who could speak English, and with for-eigners. Some of the boys are making remarkable progress, it seems to us, and can speak for 15 minutes or more. They have learned all the Japanese haracters and have commenced on the 500 Chinese characters, but you will know what a mountain is before them when I tell you that it would take the brightest among them 10 years to be able to read the little book that Mr. Takahashi Goro has written for us. I have just room to sign my name.

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There was a big sensation in Lees-ville, ind., when W. H. Brown of that place, who was expected to die, had his life saved by Dr. King's New Dis-covery for Consumption. He writes: "I endured insufferable agonies from Asthma, but your New Discovery gave me immediate relief and soon thereafter effected a complete cure." Similar cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchilis and Grip are numerous. It's the peerless remedy for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c, and \$1.00. Guaranteed by Z. C. M. I. Drug Store. Trial bottles free

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ble, that most dangerous and painful disease can be cured Kidney Trou

week, it is not so very expensive. SERVANTS RESPECTFUL THERE.

We have found our new servant a "jewel" so far, but there is no teiling how she may turn out, so many of the people are so unreliable. We didn't in-tend to have her cook at first, we preferred to do our own cooking, but she took charge immediately, surprised us with a new dish occasionally, and waited on the table and served the food very nicely indeed. We found that she had lived with the family of an American missionary for two years, and was a good cook, and really competent in ever way. There was a room in the house for a servant, and we began looking around for some bedding, etc., for her before the one bedding, etc., for her before she came, but we were try servants furnished their own bedding, so we are saved inat expense. And she tore saved that expense. And she boards herself, too, for she won't eat

Kiko, is climate;

Kiko, is commate; Kika, is geometry; Kaki, is oyster, persimmon, fence; Kiku, is riffe-target, rank or sta-tion, a guest, corner, horn, a blow with both heels given to a horse, a disease of the stomach, and so contin-uing for a whole column in the dic-tionary, and you have to index be

thorary, and you have to judge by what you are talking about as to which meaning is meant. The first week we were here we had only learned about three words or phrases, good morning, good bye, thank you and when you thank you, and when we were out thank you, and when we were out shopping and quite stired a woman of-fered Mrs. Ensign a chair and as she sat down she said with a pleasant smile, "Good bye." We were out of tice one day and one of the young men were out to a shop and asteried the tice one day and one of the young men-went out to a shop and astonished the dealer by asking for "some first class dict." "Rice" is "kome." "dirt" is "gomi," and they sound very much alike to beginners. My turn next; it was my day in the kitchen, and when the butcher boy came I very glibly or-dered "two and a half pounds of sun-shine to boil." Meat is "nikn" and shine, to boil." Meat is "niku," and I to repeat.



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