

SOME ACCOUNT OF LIFE IN JAPAN.

A correspondent of the New York Times writes from Yokohama, Japan, that the port of Osaka is virtually the port of Japan. The harbor affords a fine anchorage for all sized vessels. But the town is mean and small, and in general appearance not unlike the majority of Japanese cities. One long, tortuous, and not over clean street, wide enough to accommodate a horse and carriage, and lined by little low shops, where oranges, dried fish, and vegetables are vended. At the northern end of the town, the Japanese are building a mole and breakwater. The custom-house and several European buildings are approaching completion.

Leaving the town, a fifteen minute walk inland, past neatly cultivated fields, exhibiting a surprisingly thorough system of agriculture, brings you to the foot of a range of steeply wooded hills, which rise in unbroken succession as far into the interior as the view from the loftiest summit can extend. Every available space of ground is cultivated. In many places the hill sides are terraced almost to their summits.

Either from a proper regard for their own interests, or an unusually generous appreciation of our own, the authorities attach a guard of one or more two-sworded officials to every party on landing. This guard follows closely behind the party, and reaches the shore until he leaves it again, never for a moment losing sight of those under his care, or allowing them to straggle away. Just now, however, they are becoming more careless in this respect. But a system of espionage will continue to obtain in Japan as long as Japanese affairs remain in their present uncertain and troublous condition.

The American officers seldom carry any arms, unless it is a small revolver in a breast pocket. But it is amusing to see the English officers with huge pistols strapped about the waist, bulging through the skirts, and frequently small "maddies," who have grown too large for their short-sleeved jackets, with side-arms as large as their own.

Cows are used as beasts of burden. They shoe them with a straw sandal, not unlike those worn by the people, and guide them by a ring passed through the nose. Occasionally you will meet a high official on horseback, his armor-bearer trudging behind him with some insignia of his rank. And a long line of these animals, winding up through the hills, on their way to the interior, laden with bags of rice, with a bell tinkling from the saddle, and a bareheaded driver in odd costume, encouraging them with low vociferations, is a sight picturesque and interesting, and reminds one of those Eastern pictures of the "Tianking through the hills."

The city of Osaka is situated on a small river which empties into the bay of that name. It is thirty miles from the Kioto, the capital of the Mikado, or spiritual head of the empire, and only twelve from Hiogo. It contains a population of nearly four hundred thousand, and is one of the first cities of Japan. The streets are broad and clean, and laid out with great regularity. Canals intersect the city in all directions, crossed by over two hundred bridges, many of them of elegant design. There are one or two rather interesting temples, not unlike some of the finer places of worship to be seen at Canton, China. But the Tycoon's castle is the most interesting feature of the whole city. It is built of granite blocks of immense size, and one is impressed with the mighty power exhibited in raising them to their present elevated position. These stones are said to have been contributed each by a separate prince, and the castle itself is over three centuries old.

HOME-MADE ICE.

The New Orleans Bulletin gives an interesting account of how ice is made in that city. It says: "You may stand in the sun, with the perspiration pouring from your forehead, a stiff umbrella in your hand, perhaps, to protect you against the heat, and at the same time look upon ice and snow forming within twenty feet of you, and the fact is, though you were standing in a valley and looking at the snow clad top of a mountain. By a chemical process, too lengthy and too scientific to describe to the general reader, a large basin of water strongly impregnated with salt, to keep it from freezing, is deposited below the freezing point. Into this basin are inserted cases made of tin, air and water tight, the bottom and sides, filled with water; these cases are covered on top, and in less than two minutes the water inside is frozen, and you may take out a cake of ice, some three inches thick, twelve inches wide and three inches long. The rapidity with which the water is congealed gives the ice a milky appearance, and thence some persons have been led to believe that the ice contained ammonia and was not pure. The truth is that the water used for the manufacture of this ice is Mississippi river water, pumped a long distance from shore, and then distilled, hence the purest kind of water, and as it does not in any way mix with the water impregnated with salt, and to a limited degree with ammonia, the ice manufactured is the purest kind imaginable. There are now two machines in operation capable of making each twelve tons of ice per day, and four more machines are in process of erection. The company can now furnish ice at the rate of three-fourths of a cent per pound, and the price will only paralyze the establishment, the price can be reduced to one-half cent per pound."

FAST MEN OF ENGLAND. Much of the gliding in which the golden youth of England shines has been peiced off within a few months, leaving several ugly spots. The young Marquis of Hastings, a descendant of the Lord Rawdon, of Revolutionary memory, although but twenty-five years old, has managed to squander since his majority, the greater part of his patrimony; and instead of leading the turf, he has been compelled to sell his stud, mortgage his estates to a ruinous extent, and probably settle down for the rest of his life on a

not yet twenty-three, who rejoices in the title and name of the Earl of Beauchamp. He is the son of the late Earl of Beauchamp, who was killed at Eton, where he was a member of the school. He was a member of the school, while yet under age, to the amount of over half a million in our money. When he reached his majority he was seized with the ambition of owning the finest stud of race-horses in the Kingdom, and not possessing as long a stud as the Duke of Devonshire, he was obliged to buy horses in a manner almost beyond belief. In less than two years he has become a bankrupt. The Duke of Devonshire, who bears a great historic name, quarters the royal arms of France and England, and was once a member of the Cabinet, can hardly be called a youth, as he is a man of forty-five. But his experience of the world and shapers for a quarter of a century has not sufficed to save him from ruin, and he has sold his horses by auction and retired from the arena.

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