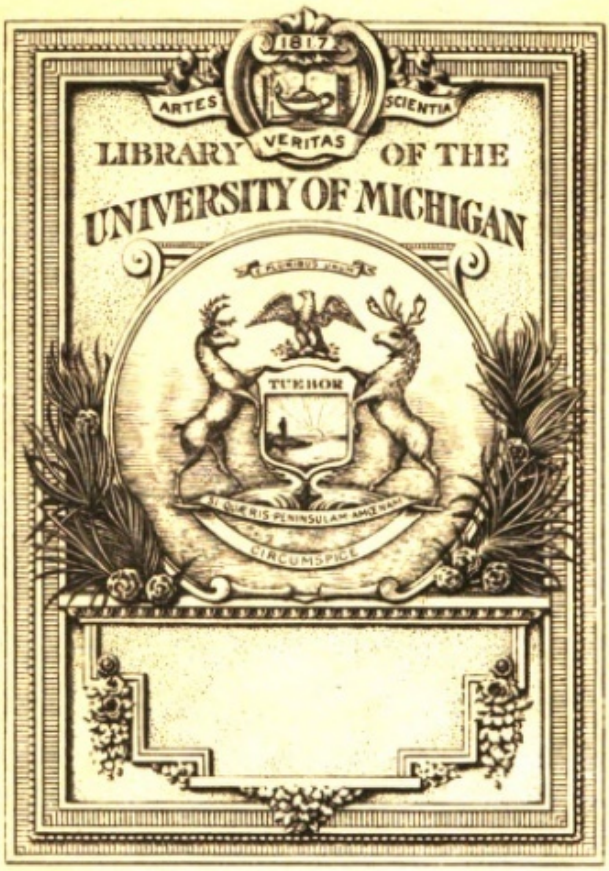
A 977,714

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Digitized by Google
Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

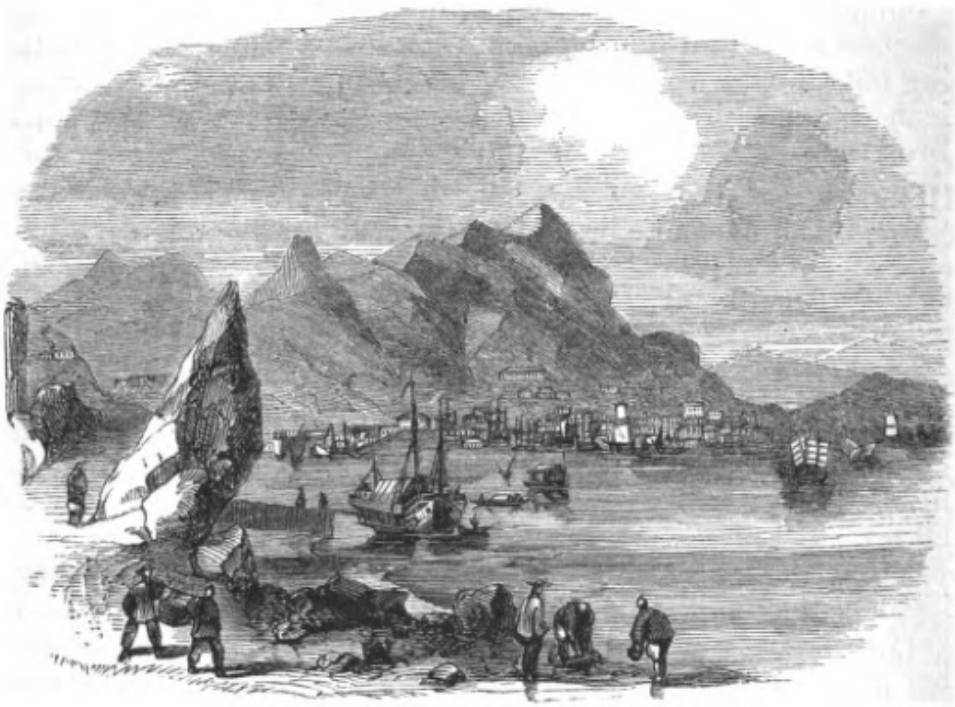
THE VILLAGE BEAUTY.

UNIV. OF MICH.

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

service of danger and a trial of nerve. Half a dozen sharp prows are edged in contact with the companion-ladder—or thereabouts. You descend, and a moment's indecision is enough to cost you a ducking, if not your life. Nothing but a determined spring into one can save you; happy even then if no treacherous siren, with a grasp of iron, seek to turn you into her own which lies to the right or to the left, or some laggard, with a desperate thrust, does not send your selected boat six yards away, without exactly filling up the vacant space over which you see yourself taking a flying leap. These perils safely passed, you have then time to look and see what has become of your 'boy'—a corruption, I believe, of the Indian call for a servant—and, more important still, your bag and trunk. Most probably you have the satisfaction of seeing him with one foot still on the ladder, and the other in the air, vainly



HONGKONG.

seeking the boat beneath; while your boxes are passing over his head into another, and your bag, like the last horse in a race, is 'nowhere.' As, however, the same scene of utter confusion and despair takes place at least ten times every day, and travelers do, for the most part, reach the shore in safety, while 'boys' and trunks turn up after all, you resign yourself to Providence, take the rudder and steer to the shore, where the best

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

There is, perhaps, no chapter more curious in the history of nations than the chapter of blunders and their results. It is related of the Maréchal de Castries, one of the men said to have sought all his life to fix fortune by deep and learned combinations, that at the end of his career, he confessed with rare candor, to some one inquiring the secret of his uniform success, 'he owed much to accident and opportunity, and not a little to blunders!' Certainly the history of China in these matters, and of Macâo and Hongkong, the two rival European settlements on the borders of China, the one occupied by the Portuguese more than two centuries, and Hongkong only some two decades by ourselves, furnish striking illustrations. To look

MACÂO.

at Macâo, as the steamer heads into its picturesque bay, see its imposing buildings, its convents and cathedrals, its *praya* and its batteries, with green hills and tree-embowered villas, no one would guess that this was the home of poverty and long-departed prosperity—where bankrupt aliens find a refuge, and a mongrel race of Portuguese, Chinese, and Africans from Goa, all commingled, swarm, and breed, and live—God only knows how! Once great and wealthy (built up chiefly with the gold and the spoils of Japan), in the pride of triumphant rivalry with Great Britain in her Eastern trade, then only in its infancy, it had long fallen into the sere and yellow leaf of a gradual

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

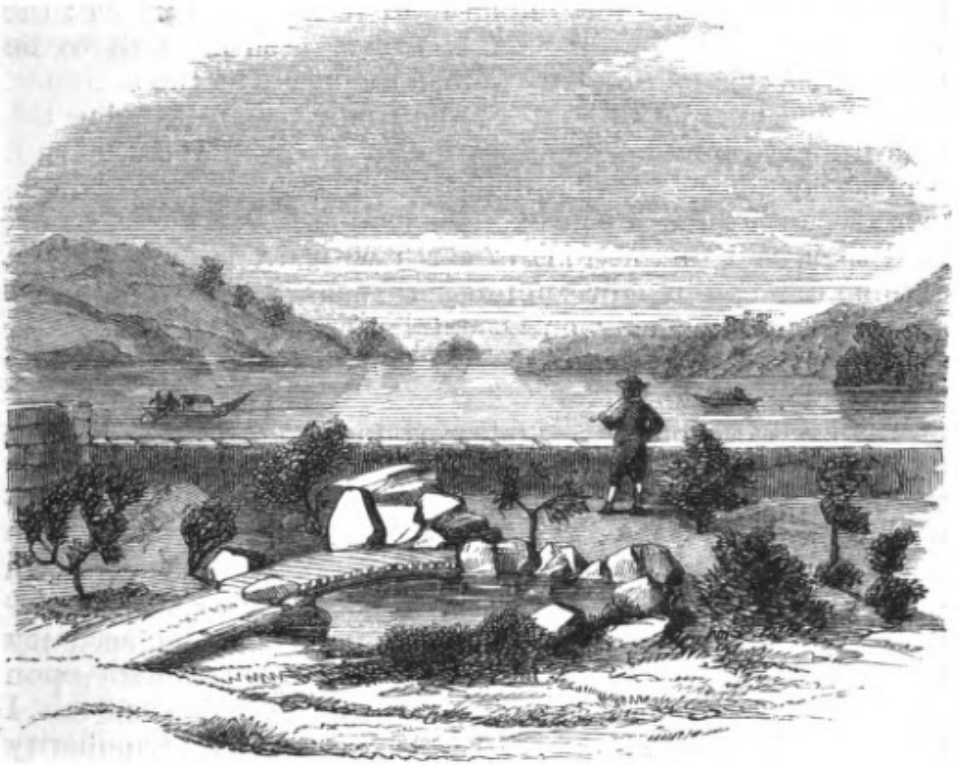
FOLLOWERS OF THE 'GREAT PEACE' DYNASTY.

originally opened under treaty in 1843, are such as can hardly be realized by any one away from the spot. Nothing more surprising has ever been seen in the annals of colonization or trade. When I first arrived in Shanghae in 1846, to take pos-

The above figures include opium and treasure in the imports; apart from these, the ratio of increase and the actual amount of the *import* trade is comparatively small. This summary is taken from the Custom-house returns published under the Foreign Inspectors; and it is but justice to say, that their completeness and general accuracy is not one of the least services they have rendered to commerce. See Appendix A for some additional details.

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The 4th of June, of pleasant memory to Etonians, opened the port of Nagasaki to our rain-drenched party. It has often been described by recent travelers, and even under a cloudy sky the entrance was not devoid of beauty. Island after island comes into view as the bay is entered, many very picturesque in form.



NAGASAKI HARBOR.

As the ship moves farther up the bay, the town of Nagasaki is seen lying at the farther end, clustering at the foot of a range of hills, and creeping no inconsiderable distance up the wooded sides. *Decima*, to the right, fixes the eye—a low, fan-shaped strip of land, dammed out from the waters of the bay, the handle being toward the shore, and truncated. One long wide street, with two-storied houses on each side, built in European style, gives an air of great tidiness; but they looked with large hollow eyes into each other's interiors, in a dismal sort of way, as if they had been so engaged for six generations at least, and were quite weary of the view. A conscious sense of the inevitable monotony of a life passed within its boundaries leaves one little disposed to admire even the trimness and cleanliness of all around. But the view from the Dutch Commissioner's residence, with its quaint Japanese garden and fine sweep down

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

to be evidence of an unconverted nature, and returned to the nakedness of our first parents as proof of their restoration to a state of innocence.' Now, whether the working part of this population are in the state of primeval purity and innocence or the very reverse, one thing is certain, that they are in a state very nearly approaching that of our first parents, and may daily be seen 'naked and not ashamed.' But if it should turn out, as has been asserted by those who have lived longest among them, that their women are not less chaste, nor their men more immoral than many of the best-dressed populations of Europe, it will be hard to avoid the conclusion that in this said article of clothing there is a great deal more that is purely conventional than is generally imagined.

When I first landed it was a holiday-time; many of the people were out, evidently dressed in their best, and exchanging grave and courteous salutations as they met, bending, with their hands sliding down to their knees, and uttering their

A JAPANESE SALUTATION.

greetings with a deep-drawn inspiration, the depth from whence it was extracted appearing to be in strict relation to the degree of respect they wished to manifest, as though the joy and satisfaction of such a meeting were something too deep for utterance! Banners and flags of fantastic device, and often graceful forms, were being carried about in procession, while others were hung on poles before many of the doors, with little mannikins, dressed in gaudy colors, swinging to and fro beneath. It was a great fête or '*Matsuri*,' held once a year for three days, to commemorate the births of sons and daughters; and

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

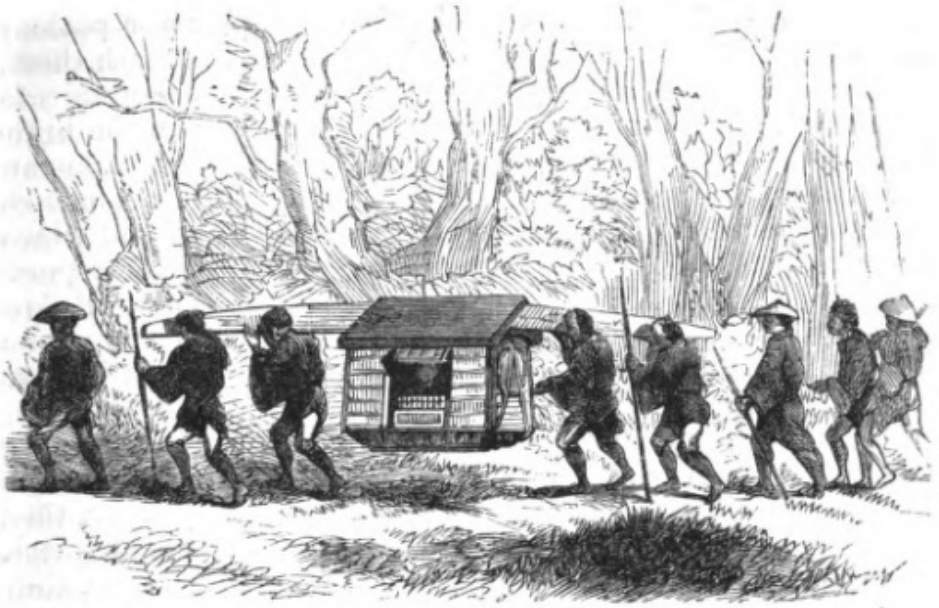
the little stuffed figures represent the accessions to the family during the year—two for a son and one for a daughter. Street musicians were about; not the respectable hurdy-gurdy of European cities, but a sort of lute and fife, played by an itinerant race. Some are said to be outcasts and '*Lonins*,' who some-

LONIN READING.

times thus play the mendicant instead of the highway robber, with a hat completely concealing their face. Inside a half-closed shop might be seen a dozen musicians, squatted on their knees and heels (a heart-breaking and impossible posture to the uninitiated). I say musicians, but they make a most unearthly noise, a perfect charivari of drum, and fife, and stringed instruments, each performer apparently seeking with the greatest conscientiousness to drown the noise of his neighbor, and succeeding to perfection.

I have made some remarks on the nude Japanese: it is only

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



JAPANESE NORIMON.

We are often told that no man is so miserable but he may find some one in a worse state than himself—that, in every extremity of evil, there is still 'a lower deep.' Whatever satisfaction or comfort may be derivable from this source, I soon had the opportunity of trying; for numerous vehicles passed to and fro, carried from the shoulders also, but by *two* men, being evidently of much lighter construction, and only used by the lower classes.

JAPANESE CANGO.

It is made of light wicker-work, and consists of a bottom, back, and front, in the shape of a truncated 'V,' or a U with

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

the sides pulled out. Into the bottom the Japanese place a cotton quilt. Here, doubled up with their legs beneath them, looking as if they had been amputated at the knees, hundreds of men and women may be seen in the streets or on the highway, traveling for hours, and on a whole day's journey, apparently without serious fatigue or discomfort. Nothing, indeed, has ever seemed to me more wonderful than the way in which Japanese men, women, and children take their ease and repose, asleep or awake. A Japanese quite at his ease, and *sans gêne*, as naturally drops on his heels and squats, with no more solid support to his person than his legs or heels can afford, as an Englishman drops into a chair when he is tired.

As soon as the babe leaves its mother's breast, the first thing it learns is not to walk or to run, but to squat on its heels in this baboon fashion. If the Japanese are on ceremony, then they sink on the mats, resting jointly on heels and knees. And this attitude also, which would be torture to us, they maintain for hours apparently without serious inconvenience. Finally, the day's labor over, or the time for siesta in the heat of the day arrived, they throw themselves down full length on the mat, with a little padded rest, just large enough to receive the occiput or the angle of the jaw, and sleep as soundly as the most fastidious with a feather pillow and bed.

HOW JAPANESE REST.

JAPANESE PAGE IN ATTENDANCE.

As we slowly wended our way through the streets, I had full opportunity of observing the absence of all the things *we* deem so essential to comfort, and which crowd our rooms al-

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

HOW THE JAPANESE SLEEP.

most to the exclusion, and certainly to the great inconvenience of the people who are intended to occupy them, as well as to the great detriment of the proprietor's purse.

If European joints could only be made supple enough to enable their owners to dispense with sofas and chairs, and, *par conséquence*, with tables, and we were hardy enough to lie on clean mats, six feet by three, stuffed with fine straw, and beautifully made with a silk border, so as to form a sort of reticulated carpet for rooms of any size, the solution of that much-debated question, the possibility of marrying on £400 a year, might certainly be predicted with something like unanimity in favor of matrimony. The upholsterer's bill never can offer any impediment to a young couple in Japan. Their future house is taken, containing generally three or four little rooms, in which clean mats are put. Each then brings to the housekeeping a cotton-stuffed quilt and a box of wearing apparel for their own personal use; a pan to cook the rice, half a dozen lacker cups and trays to eat off; a large tub to bathe and wash in are added on the general account, and these complete the establishment!

I think this the nearest approach to Arcadian simplicity that has yet been made; and I recommend it to the serious consideration of all who are perplexed with the difficulties of setting up an establishment upon a small income, and keeping it up afterward; often the most arduous part of the undertaking.

But not even speculations of such interest and philanthropic scope could prevent limbs aching with the cramped position which my cage imposed. Nor did the jolting motion of the bearers tend to make it less irksome. But what, perhaps, was more objectionable still, the range of the eye was quite as cramped as the rest of the body; for, in order to see out of the windows, it was necessary to risk a dislocation of the cervical vertebræ to get the head at a proper angle. So at last, these combined evils becoming intolerable, I determined, with

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

YEDDO FROM THE AVENUE.

peace, in a sense of security, I should have lost, and how wretchedly the two years preceding the first attempt at a massacre would have dragged on in this seemingly earthly paradise! It left nothing to be desired as a place to *live* in; and the real objection, that it was a very likely place to die in, did not strike the mind, though obviously enough a very bad location in which to defend one's self. From the end of the avenue, through which a midday sun could only pour a checkered arabesque of light and shade, the bay stretched far away a thousand feet below, basking in the full glare of sunshine, and making the deep cool shade of the terrace, with its thick screen of green leaves, all the more enjoyable by contrast. It is true it swarmed with musquitoes: this little disadvantage I perceived at once, but it was only later that I had the satisfaction of learning it was celebrated all over Yeddo for its breed! But, even with the place at my disposal, and it may well be supposed I did not hesitate in my choice, all was not sunshine with its priestly owners. I fancy they saw this intrusion of the *Tojin* (foreigner) into their sacred precincts with little satisfaction. The lay proprietor of the domain, the Prince of Xendai, had not the reputation of being very friendly to us; and I have never been able to discover by what tenure these temples are held, to be so entirely, as they seem, at the disposal

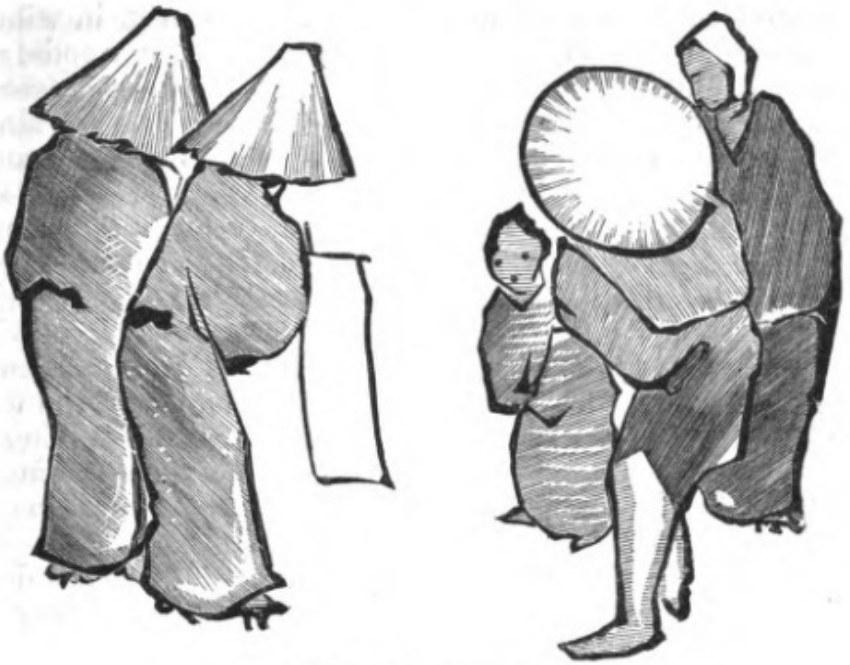
Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

A GROUP OF 'JOLLY BEGGARS.'

foreigner for less than a *tempo*, equivalent to a hundred cash! Here a party of jugglers may often be seen, too, collecting a crowd from the passers-by. Blondin and the Wizard of the North might both find formidable rivals here, for the Japanese performers not only swallow portentously long swords, and poise themselves on bottles, but out of their mouths come the most unimaginable things: flying horses, swarms of flies, ribbons by the mile, and paper shavings without end.

On crossing the bridge, we traverse one of the most densely populated of the commercial quarters, through which, indeed, we can only ride slowly, and in single file, amidst pedestrians and porters with their loads. Bullock-cars, Norimons, and Cangos are all here, jostling each other in contending currents. Over a gentle hill, then sharp round to the right, through a barrier-gate, we approach the official quarter, in the centre of which, within three moats of regal dimensions, the Tycoon himself resides. But we are not yet near to it. We pursue our way down some rather steep steps, a Daimio's residence on one side, and the wall and trees of the Tycoon's Cemetery, which we are skirting, on the other. As we emerge from this defile, we pass through a long line of booths, where a sort of daily bazar is held for the sale of gaudily-colored prints, maps (many of them copies of European charts), story-books, swords, tobacco-pouches, and pipes for the humbler classes; and in the midst of which a fortune-teller may habitually be seen, seemingly finding plenty of credulous listeners and the few cash necessary for

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



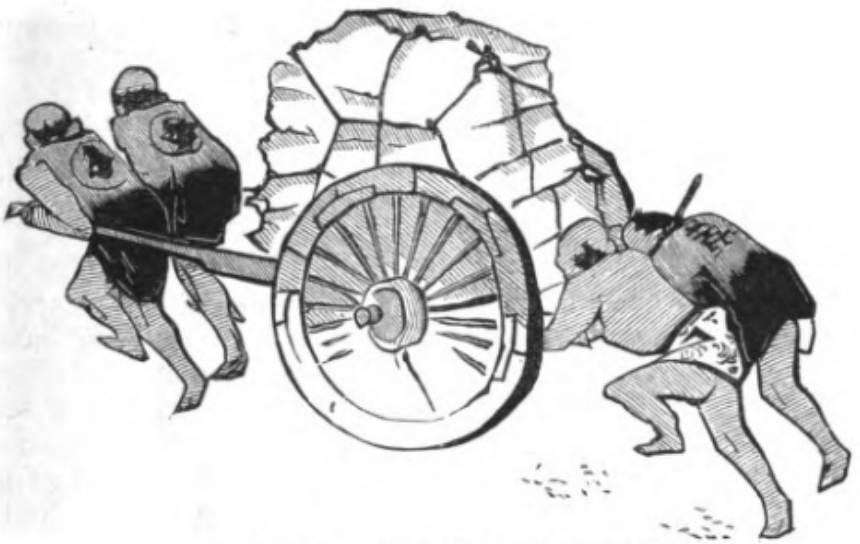
MENDICANT SINGERS.

tained. And the picture that bursts suddenly upon the traveler is very striking. The hill fronts to the bay, but with a couple of miles of valley intervening, thickly covered by streets and temples. To the left, and in a northeastern direction, another two miles' interval of plain is in like manner filled up with a dense mass of houses, until a range of hills is reached on which the Tycoon's castle stands. The whole enceinte of the official quarter, within a triple line of moats, is there; not only the official residence of his court, but the *yamaskas* of the feudatory Daimios. This range shuts out a still more extensive section of the city, which stretches away into the country on the other side, and may be traced from the point where the spur of the hill ends abruptly toward the bay, winding round the edge of the coast-line, and backward up the valley, until nearly lost in the distance. Behind, yet another large quarter of the capital is hid form view by a broken series of hills and dales, amidst which only here and there a group of temples can be distinguished; a Daimio's residence and park, or a few streets straggling irregularly over the crests and down into the broken hollows. Seaward the eye looks out upon the point which conceals Kanagawa, and across the line of batteries a couple of miles from shore, on to the distant line of coast and mountain some two or three leagues off, which form the boundary on the opposite side.

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

it, for reasons not very easily explained; but they were not sorry, perhaps, to point to such a use for *home consumption.*

It is nine o'clock in the morning. The city is up and stirring. The shops are opened, and the streets are filling with a swarming population. The street vendor with his ambulatory stock, the halting beggar, officers on duty with their retainers or serving-men, strings of coolies and porters, some dragging and pushing primitive carts laden with goods, all help to swell



MERCHANDISE IN THE STREETS OF YEDDO.

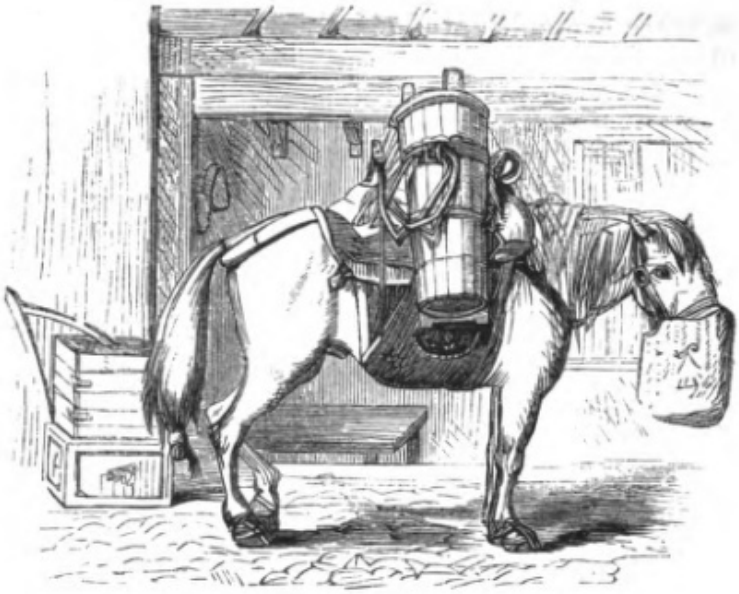
the tide of human life; shopkeepers proceeding with goods to show some purchaser, according to the inverse custom of the Japanese, where the shops go to the customer, not the customer to the shops. Our road takes us through park and garden-bordered streets and lanes, alternating over undulating hills, high enough occasionally to give glimpses of the open country beyond, with rice ground, black and fallow, in the lower levels, during part of winter. The growing wheat, of brightest green, carpets the uplands even in March, however; the rape-seed, with its golden flowers, catches the eye, and every where unmistakable signs of skilled agricultural labor and wealth may be seen. In all seasons of the year verdure and beauty of no common character clothe the hills, broken into a hundred winding vales for many leagues around Yeddo on all the land-side; for, unlike its population, the country never lets itself be seen naked, and scarcely *en déshabille*, even when stripped barest of its foliage. A few trees lose their leaves entirely, and stretch their naked arms to a wintry sky; but in close proximity will always be seen some full-leaved evergreens,

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

SHOPKEEPERS GOING TO A CUSTOMER.

often noble trees, and, like the oak, of several varieties. The cryptomeria, and a larger family of coniferæ than any where else in the world, perhaps, are here. The cypress, with its sombre foliage, contrasts well with the lighter hue and graceful branches of the feathery bamboo or the more stately palm. All are there to give marvelous beauty and variety to the scenery. A little later in the spring there is a lavish display of blossoms, which supply the place of leaves yet in the bud. A variety of flowering shrubs never yet seen in Europe fill the hedges, and *sometimes* scent the air, as well as please the eye; while acres of orchard ground are covered by pear, and peach, and plum blossoms, the branches trellised horizontally overhead for a hundred square feet and more. The orange-tree, with its fragrant white blossoms, is not wanting to grace the spring festival, while the bright yellow flower of the melon covers the poverty of the humblest thatched cottage or tool-house, and clothes each lowly shed with a robe of beauty. In the tea-gardens, scattered plentifully round the suburbs, the peach and

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



HORSE CARRYING LIQUID MANURE.

'scrimped' in the breadths. As I have already referred to this ungainly fashion, and would not willingly be supposed capable of 'setting down aught in malice,' or otherwise exaggerating a defect, pictures will be found in these pages drawn by the Japanese themselves, and I think it will be confessed that their own artists show severer outlines than any pencil of mine.

HOW MOTHERS DISPOSE OF THEIR INFANTS.

In the valley between the range of hills and the bay, leagues of continuous streets may be traversed, filled with a busy, but not overworked, and seemingly a very contented and good-humored people. Children and dogs abound every where. Until the former can walk, they are generally secured to the back of the mother, so that, while these pursue their daily occupations, their arms are left free. Unfortunately (so it seems to the looker-on), the poor babe's head is left equally free, the body only being supported by the sort of pocket in which the body is deposited; and

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

consequently, with every movement of the parental trunk, it rolls from side to side, swaying to and fro, as if a dislocation of the neck must inevitably be the result. Vain fear! The mothers know better. Children have been nursed through twenty generations in precisely the same way. The babies themselves may possibly, by use, grow to like it; and certainly they rarely cry, or give other token of dislike. What will not use reconcile us to in this life? But the mothers are not the sole guardians of the infant progeny. It is a very common sight, in the streets and shops of Yeddo, to see a little nude Cupid in the arms of a stalwart-looking father, nearly as naked, who walks about with his small burden, evidently handling it

(Summer costume.) (Winter costume.)

THE PATERNAL NURSE.

with all the gentleness and dexterity of a practiced hand. It does not seem there is any need of a foundling hospital, nor has any intelligence reached me of infanticide—save in exceptional cases — though so common in China, especially in the case of female children. Abortion in the unmarried is said, upon good authority, to be not unfrequent, and there are female professors of the art.

It is impossible to ride through the streets of Yeddo without noticing one of the most striking and constant features of the city, no matter what the season of the year—large gaps where charred timbers and rubbish mark the scene of a recent fire; and often, standing alone in the midst of smouldering

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

TYPE OF THE 'DANGEROUS' CLASSES.—(*From a Japanese wood-cut.*)

the other short, like a Roman sword, and religiously kept in the same serviceable state. In the use of these he is no mean adept. He seldom requires a second thrust with the shorter weapon, but strikes home at a single thrust, as was fatally proved at a later period; while with the longer weapon he severs a limb at a blow. Such a fellow is a man to whom all peace-loving subjects and prudent people habitually give as wide a berth as they can! Often drunk and always insolent, he is to be met with in the quarters of the town where the tea-houses most abound, or returning about dusk from his day's debauch, with a red and bloated face, and not over steady on his legs, the terror of all the unarmed population and street dogs. Happy for the former when he is content with trying the edge of a new sword on the quadrupeds; and many a poor crippled animal is to be seen limping about slashed over the back, or with more hideous evidences of brutality. But at other times it is some coolie or inoffensive shopkeeper, who, coming unadvisedly between 'the wind and his nobility,' is just as mercilessly cut down at a blow. This does not quite accord with Kœmpfer's or Thunberg's account of the perfect order and respect for the law maintained throughout Japan, nor with the first impressions of later writers as to the universal respect for the canine race; but a long residence in the Capital revealed many things still more opposed to the generally received accounts. And that I may not be supposed to

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

WOMAN OF YEDDO IN WINTER DRESS.

Digitized by Google

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

THE SAMOURAI.

crowded thoroughfares of the commercial quarters, it is still farther suggested on emerging from these into the Daimios' quarter, circling between broad moats round the Tycoon's castle. Here are fine open spaces, great causeways or glacis, not less than fifty feet in width, lined on one side with the outer buildings and great, massive-looking gateways of the Daimios' residences, and those of the high officers in the employment of the government; and on the other by the large, deep moats, fed by tributary rivers, in which, at this season of the year, thousands of wild-fowl live undisturbed. It being death to molest or shoot them, they are so secure that it is almost impossible to get them up; but if for a moment they are startled, they rise like a dark cloud from the water, in immense numbers. In the more shallow parts, the sacred ibis of Egypt solemnly picks his way and his food, enjoying, as an emblem of happiness and longevity with the Japanese, quite as much sanctity as in the land of the Pharaohs. With the agriculturists, the whole race of storks, cranes, and paddy-birds, of which there are great numbers, are in much favor (partly, no doubt, for their useful qualities); and they may often be seen in twos

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

mons and led horses, easily recognized as the escort of a Daimio, proceeding to the palace to pay his obligatory visit to the Tycoon; or some more modest train, forming the suite of an officer attached either to the Tycoon or a great feudatory prince, in his costume of ceremony, called *Kamisima*, with its projecting wings of gauze, is proceeding to his destination, gravely and solemnly, as is the wont of his order. He is perched on the top of a break-neck saddle, his bridle of silken folds is held one in each hand, and wide apart—by it, indeed, he seems to hold on—sawing at a small snaffle, to the destruction of his horse's mouth. A groom walks at his stirrup on each side, to defend him if attacked, or assist him to keep his seat if he should be in danger of falling, while two more lead the impetuous animal! More rarely some official sent on urgent business presses his steed into a sort of shambling gal-

OFFICER ON URGENT DUTY.

lop, to the peril of both man and beast, to all appearance, both being equally unaccustomed to such a pace. It is *vulgar* and *low* to ride fast in Japan, consequently a furious pace in a Japanese means either drunkenness or mischief, generally both, or unquestionable urgency on the Tycoon's business. Farther on, scattered here and there as if designed to fill up the picture, are divers groups of Yeddites, citizen and peasant, with a certain proportion of *valetaille* and feudal retainers of all ranks. These give interest to a foreground of grand proportions and bold outline; while beyond, and on a much lower level, glimpses of the city appear, stretching away to the blue waters

Digitized by Google Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN