

cultivated valley at intervals, which render the place so beautiful that they might be transplanted to England without any violence to the harmony of our own scenery; for here many of our familiar plants flourish, and everywhere our common fern may be seen, and ivy covering the walls, while by the wayside the thistle is not wanting to complete the picture.

The visit to the capital, Tokio, was a most interesting treat. The progress already made by the Japanese in establishing railways removes all difficulties in reaching our destination. The seventeen miles between Yokohama and Shinbashi are run over in somewhat less than an hour, although we stop at three or four stations on our way; passing some pretty scenery through garden-bordered streets, and the open country, with rice and wheat fields everywhere, indicating, unmistakably, signs of skilled and careful agriculture. After reaching the city I made my way to Shiba, travelling in the new vehicle of Japan (the jinirikisha) to the residence of Mr. Harding, R.N., instructor in steam at the Imperial Naval University, with whom I was to stay for a few days. Merely telling my conductor, "Shiba ni iki nasai," off he ran along handsome roads, passing continuous rows of shops, which are open to the streets like stalls at a fancy fair, and which contained all those articles seemingly in common request among the people. Umbrella fan, and shoe stores abound, also eatables