

The extensive grounds surrounding the edifice are beautifully laid out with refreshing groves of laurel, citron, and peach trees; miniature bridges span little streams and fish-ponds, and the number of huge candelabra in stone and bronze present a most imposing appearance. Away in the distance are wooded hills, with spreading pines and sombre yew-trees, giving it an air of sheltered repose and secluded rusticity.

As we got farther in the country, the cottages became more scattered, but the scenes presented were equally agreeable, reminding us frequently of the lanes in Devonshire and some of the fairest portions of the Isle of Wight.

At frequent and short distances along the road were little stalls with fruit and tea, the universal beverage, always hot and ready, to quench the thirst of the weary pedestrian.

At length we suddenly came upon a little village embosomed in a wood. Here we stopped for refreshment at one of the tea-houses situated on the edge of a stream, the balconies of the upper room overhanging the water. Entering, we find, through the absence of chairs, sofas, and other requisites we consider essential to our comfort, that, if we would rest, we must seat ourselves, *à la* Japanese, on the clean matting; and joining a party of Japanese ladies and gentlemen, with whom my friend was acquainted, we soon became on the most excellent terms. Re-