

freshments had been ordered, and we were invited to join; but my alarm was great when I saw what was spread before us—lacquer bowls, containing such odd mixtures: fish, raw and cooked; rice, seaweed and soy; slices of strange-looking materials, whether flesh or fowl, it was difficult to say; vegetables and saki. These dishes the pretty girls in attendance seemed delighted, with roguish fun, to press on us, apparently for the amusement our wry faces afforded them. It was a hazardous attempt at first, but, after all, some of the dishes were palatable enough.

By way of dessert, oranges, apples, pears, and sweets were brought in; so there was no difficulty in satisfying our hunger.

Pipes, tea, and saki were afterwards served by our fair attendants, and after the long walk we were glad to stretch on the soft matting for repose, while imbibing the pleasant-flavoured tea, and inhaling through a short pipe the fragrant tobacco of Japan.

Afterwards the dancers, the Geisha girls, with sam-i-sen, lute, and tom-toms, came tripping in; but they elicited from their musical instruments such discordant sounds that we were glad to take refuge in the balcony, from which point nothing could have been more picturesque than the landscape presented; the hillsides, dotted with temples and tea-houses, combining to form a scene of beauty that we could not fail to enjoy.