

As the evening was closing on us, we took leave of our friends at the tea-house, and retraced our way back to Shiba in a jinirikisha.

A tour through the business quarter of the city is of great interest, for at every step something new is to be seen. The streets are always filled with vast numbers of people, and run on for miles. The shops are filled with goods to suit every requirement: some are rich in specimens of Japanese ingenuity and perfection of work in lacquer, porcelain, basket-work, and bronze, fancy silks, and embroideries spread out in every tempting form.

Like every visitor, I had come with the intention of getting some of the many beautiful things in cabinets and lacquer ware for which Japan is so famed, but the variety on view is beyond my powers of description, for we see lacquer trays, oblong, round, and oval, of beautiful design and wonderfully cheap, boxes and cabinets, with every kind of gold tracery and design, some with birds and trees in raised gold and bronze relief, as rich as well as can be, of all prices, from one dollar to five hundred. Besides these were cabinets of many woods, inlaid, some of infinite ingenuity and perfection of form, opening out into a multiplicity of drawers and trays, of finished workmanship, embossed in silver and gold, such as could not fail to win the most fastidious of mortals.

The silk stores and book-shops are equally attrac-