

tive. The carvings in wood and ivory, of groups and animals, are in the best style of art. Figures and vases in bronze are artistic and marvellous in their make. China and porcelain from Kiota, Satsuma, and Nagasaki, beautiful and delicate, with a thousand other articles, are laid out in tempting array, puzzling the visitor to decide what to select. One can walk on for miles and see a repetition of shops of this description. Wherever we go, the city is full of life and excitement, with a swarming population.

The street vendor, with his ambulatory stock over his shoulder on a bamboo pole, or pitched down at the corner of a street, is surrounded with a varied assortment of odds and ends. The acrobat and conjurer amuse extensive audiences collected round them. The story-teller, with his wondrous tales (after the style of the familiar 'Arabian Nights'), delights an attentive crowd. Hundreds of officials (army, navy, and civil service), all in European costume, are decorated with gold lace, gilt buttons, and other insignia of rank; even the police and soldiers are after our own familiar models. Jinirikisha men, coolies, and porters dragging carts laden with goods, all help to swell the tide of human life.

Continuing my way, I paid a visit to numerous temples, and in describing the one at Asakusa, which is situated in one of the most populous quarters of the city, I shall nearly convey an idea of the whole.