

so cleverly jointed as almost to avoid detection. It stands upwards of 50 feet in height. Its interior is hollow, and forms a temple, where are numerous gilt idols, chiefly images of Kunanon, with prayers and vows of worshippers, written on papers twisted together. A priest in attendance disposes of historical books and photographs of this great divinity.

The tea-houses in the vicinity are enjoyable places. There is always something or other to amuse visitors, either gardens with beautiful flowers or an agreeable view of the surrounding country, so as to tempt the traveller to enter and enjoy himself. The eatables, consisting of cakes and various sorts of fish and vegetables, and often sweetmeats, are usually far more agreeable to the eye than to the taste. Tea is the universal drink, but it is not in accordance with European flavour, tasting somewhat like an infusion of wood ashes; yet the Japanese consider it far more wholesome than that which we are accustomed to use. A favourite drink is also made from the peach blossom, which is even worse in flavour than the tea; for the flowers, after picking, are kept in salt, and, when required, a slight infusion is made; these, with saki, a spirit distilled from rice (which the Japanese are very fond of), constitute nearly all their refreshments.

Docking and refitting having been completed, we returned to the anchorage off Yokohama, and on the 10th May left for Hiogo. After passing through