

illuminated with lanterns. Occasionally there was a halt made in front of the house of some magnate, when addresses were given, followed by theatrical representations and dancing.

The Japanese hold that one of the best means to propitiate the divinities is to be happy, and not seek to annoy them with incessant prayers and supplications, feeling assured that their gods take pleasure in seeing every one enjoying innocent recreation.

I was, of course, very eager to learn all I could about the country and people, but there was so much of interest, and such a short time to inspect it, that I was frequently almost in despair. These people have for centuries kept aloof from other nations, and retained their manners, customs, and ideas unchanged; these seemed so peculiar to us that it was with some anticipations of pleasure I made one of a party to visit the most important resident of this port, Moumagami, who is brother to the great high-priest of Honganji Kyota. Arriving in due course at his residence, which was situated on the side of a hill, we entered the vestibule, where were several attendants, who saluted us in their national style, which was by passing their hands down the knee and leg, at the same time giving a strong inhalation, indicative of pleasure. Our arrival was now announced to Moumagami, who came forward and welcomed us.