

Close at hand a new temple had been reared, and was now to be dedicated to the service of Buddha, in whose honour theatricals and dances were onward. The entertainments presented were so peculiar, and so beautiful were the dresses and decorations worn by those taking part in it, that we could not fail to enjoy the spectacle thoroughly.

The ladies of the household, Noriko and Satshiko, two of our host's sisters, and other friends were present, to whom the strangers were introduced.

They were very pretty women. One in particular I may mention, whose jet black hair, ornamented with amber and tortoiseshell combs, was bound up into thick masses at the back of the head with flowers and ribbons, and further decorated with a number of gold and silver arrows, and similar ornaments. Her costume was very beautiful—pale grey crape, embroidered with gold and silver, and a profusion of flowers. It was lined with a bright blue silk quilting, which formed a train on the ground. Only a part, however, was visible, as the silken belt round the waist allowed it to open only very slightly. Over this she wore a broad sash of dark colour, embroidered in gold, and tied in a very large knot behind. This was the obi. The sleeves were long, and reached nearly to the ground. All the colours of the dresses worn by the company harmonised so beautifully that, although there was a most brilliant collection of tints, the aspect was most pleasing. The Japanese in-