

junks and boats; while stretching out below us lay the richly cultivated plain, dotted with white roofs, amongst the bright colours of the cornfields and the sober olive of the surrounding foliage.

During our stay we visited Osaka, which is about 30 miles from Hiogo. There is a railway between the two, and trains run frequently during the day. The trip is most enjoyable. Nearly the whole way lay along slopes and through villages, valleys intervening between the sea and mountain ranges. An hour's run and Osaka is reached. This is one of the five imperial cities, and is most pleasantly situated in a fruitful plain near a navigable river, which is spanned by upwards of a hundred bridges, many of extraordinary beauty of design.

The streets are, as in all Japanese towns, very narrow; still they are regular, and cut each other at right angles. The internal arrangements of the shops are simple and uniform, though somewhat modified according to the business of the occupants; still there is a great sameness in every town.

The buildings are not of a very imposing character, with the exception of the temples, many of which are splendid specimens of art, rich in gold and lacquer work; particularly the one at Tonagee, with its grand and stately pagoda, from the top of which a fine view is obtained all over the city.

A week was spent at Kobe, and on the 25th May we left for a cruise through the inland sea.