

It seems impossible to do justice to the beauty of the scenery here; talented writers have attempted the description, but the best have failed, and to my mind fall far short of the beautiful reality. Assuredly I cannot paint its loveliness adequately by any words of mine.

Amidst this beautiful scenery we remained for a week, occasionally dredging, but not with much success. At the close of each day we anchored off some pretty little village, and then made our way on again early in the morning, until reaching Matsu-hama, which is about halfway through, when our course was altered so as to return to Hiogo. There appears to be an extensive traffic, from the vast number of junks and coasting-steamers daily met with, and swarms of fishing-boats seem to abound everywhere, making quite a lively scene. All this, with the marvellous richness and fertility of the innumerable islands, leaves nothing to be desired. On the 29th we reached Hiogo, and once more anchored in Osaka Bay.

On the morning of June 2 we left Osaka Bay for Yokohama, where we arrived and anchored on the 5th. Swung ship for magnetic and azimuth corrections; coaled, and filled up with stores and provisions for a long voyage. Before finally leaving Yokohama, a large number of the European residents, together with many of the members of the imperial government from Tokio, Sir Harry Parkes (British