

of the Shinto religion, the ancient State religion of the country, of which the Mikado, descended from the gods, is the supreme head.

In one large town, which we reached at night, all the inns were full of pilgrims, and we had to journey 10 miles farther to find a resting-place. It was a curious sight to see a string of blind pilgrims on the road, travelling on foot, holding on one behind the other, and led by one man who could see.

In Osaka, I spent much of my time in the booksellers' quarter, where there is nearly a mile of continuous book-shops. I bought here a large collection of illustrated books. The shops of each kind of wares are mostly placed together in the city.

Most interesting are the shops for articles used in religious worship. Here rosaries, of the forms proper to the various sects of Buddhism, are manufactured by the gross, religious pictures are sold, and small shrines of the various gods are supplied for domestic worship, with miniature altars, candlesticks, and incense-censers. To these also the family god can be sent, when shabby, to be re-gilt.

Beautiful miniature lacquered shrines are also made at the shops, containing the goddess Kanon or some other popular deity. The shrines close with a pair of small doors, and are sold in great quantities to pilgrims at the temples, which they visit; as, for example, at the Moon Temple near Kobe.

At one temple, that of Tennoji, near Osaka, was a children's shrine, which was hung inside with great quantities of the finest toys of all sorts, and bright holiday clothes, placed there as offerings by children.

From Osaka, the road to Kioto leads all the way along the summit of the great embankment of the Ogawa (great river). These earthworks rather reminded me of the great embankments of the ancient tanks of Ceylon. At intervals, there are sluice-gates to let the water in upon the rice-fields. The sluice-gates are at the bottom of wells, sunk in the centres of the embankments. In the ancient Cingalese embankments there are similar wells sunk through the middles of the embankments to meet the outflow channels from the tanks which traverse their bases. I was shown such an arrangement at Anuradhapura, by Mr. Rhys Davids, who told me that its use was not understood by engineers.

The land along the road is in the very highest culture. A great deal of it was covered with yellow-blossomed crops of rape, whilst here and there were wheat crops. The straightness of the lines of planting, and the regularity of their distances