

and quicker route by sea, by means of a regular line of mail steamers. I was surprised to find that, towards the middle part of the great road, where no open ports were near, we afforded in our own persons a gratis exhibition of very great interest.

I was especially worth seeing, since I had a reddish beard of some length. The Japanese consider beards and moustaches excessively ugly, and they even used to put false beards and moustaches, often red in colour, on the face-pieces of their suits of armour, in order to assist the warriors in terrifying their enemies.

It was amusing to watch the faces of the people in some of the towns as they glared at us. I saw one woman look as if taken suddenly ill, on meeting me unexpectedly at a corner. Others burst out into fits of laughter. Everywhere, the idea uppermost in the minds of parents, was, that we were a sight which the children should on no account be allowed to miss. Mothers darted into the back premises and rushed back with their children, and often when we were halting, came and planted them in front of us, and pointed out to the children, with their outstretched hands, the various points of interest in the Tojins.

I was, as Mr. Dickins said, a first-rate Tojin. "Tojin," originally meaning Chinaman, the only foreigner the Japanese knew, now means foreigner of any kind, and it is also at the same time a term of reproach, like the well-known Chinese "Fan kwai," "Aboriginal Imp." Impudent small boys shout "Tojin, Tojin," at an Englishman in the streets.

The Japanese being a race invariably black-haired, and with a tolerably uniform tint of skin, are naturally somewhat astonished at the great diversity in appearance of so mongrel a race as the English, whose hair is of all possible colours, often irrespective of that of the parents, and whose skin varies in colour through so many different shades of brown, red, or milky-white.

The Japanese believe very strongly in the efficacy of natural hot-springs, and also of certain cold-springs. At some springs chapels are erected, and the patient combines the curative effects of prayer with those of the cold douche. I saw a number of bathers near Yokohama, standing one by one under a small intensely cold waterfall, coming direct from a spring. They were shivering and quaking, and half gasping, half bellowing out with pain the prayer which had to be repeated a certain number of times before they came from under the spout. A stout healthy priest stood by to direct the ceremony and take the money.