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## VISIT YOKOHAMA, JAPAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST ATTEND ENGLISH CHAPEL

P. C. Wolcott's Write Interesting Description of Japanese Cities and Customs. Leave for Nikko

Sunday, August 21, 1921

We got up early this morning and walked up the hill to "the Bluff" which is the foreign residence district, and went to Christ Church, the English chapel, where we attended a reverent and beautiful service, for which we were especially grateful as we have spent the past three Sundays at sea, and while church service at sea is in a way impressive, it has none of the beauty of service in a well appointed church. There is a large English colony here and an important naval station with beautiful grounds, also an American naval hospital, all on the Bluff. The British chaplain conducted the service most acceptably and there was a considerable congregation. It was very homelike and seemed to bring us nearer to our dear friends in the church at home.

It is very hot today and the sun is blazing fiercely, so that we are spending the rest of the morning in our room at the hotel by the open windows through which a breeze from off the sea is blowing. The harbor upon which we look, is a constant panorama of interest, with the big ships swinging at their mooring buoys and the harbor craft darting to and fro. The Japanese sampans are very graceful boats with sharp, high prows and beautiful lines, they are always unpainted wood, as are all the Japanese wooden houses, the wood weathers to a beautiful soft color and seems to resist decay. The sampans are put together with mortised joints and wooden pegs, no nails or screws being used, they are propelled by long sweeps or oars which men work with a motion like that of a fish's tail, standing upright as they do so and facing ahead. They also have single square sails, hung from a yard attached to a mast set amidships, just as one sees in Japanese pictures. We passed some large sampans fishing well out at sea, and some of them seemed to have gasoline engines. On these larger fishing and cargo boats and harbor lighters we see whole families, with women and children engaged in their domestic occupations, indifferent to the observation of people ashore or on shipboard, and encumbered by the least possible amount of clothing. The curious old junks which I used to see here thirty years ago seem to have disappeared, but I believe they are still to be seen on the China coast.

We spent the most interesting day yesterday at Kamakura and Enoshima. We took rickshaws to the station and then eighteen miles by rail to Kamakura. The railway is owned and operated by the government and has good service, the engines are of the English type and there are second and third class carriages, first class only on through trains. The second class carriage in which we sat had an aisle from end to end with broad cushions on either side lengthwise of the car, the Japanese passengers sat tailor fashion on the seats, their wooden shoes on the floor below, they wear white stockings or rather short socks, with a pocket for the great toe so that they can catch hold of the cord of the sandal or wooden shoe to hold them on, the clatter they make on the concrete platforms is deafening. Men and women alike smoke in the trains and they use cigarettes much oftener than the dainty little metal pipes which one always used to see, cigarette advertising is evidently pays. We were almost the only foreigners in the trains and trams we were on yesterday, although they were all crowded, the people were universally quiet and well behaved and we met with no rudeness or incivility of any sort. We noticed at times that they eyed us with interest and curiosity but it was no more than we did to them. We were in the midst of crowds of Japanese all day, one is impressed by the density of the population everywhere, we saw few people in foreign costume, except that most of the men wore straw hats of western pattern, but many of them wore little else. In this hot weather, men and women wear few and loose garments, but one gets no impression of immodesty in the uncovered bodies and limbs one sees everywhere.

Kamakura is one of the ancient capitals of Japan, and has many famous temples and shrines, but is chiefly famous for the wonderful colossal bronze statue of the seated Buddha which stands in a park near the town. It is one of the impressive sights of Japan and is well worth going a long way to see. The temple enclosure is entered by a monumental gateway, with gigantic and hideous images of the guardians of the gates on either side. Under the archway is the following notice, which I remember to have heard was written by Sir Edwin Arnold, "Stranger whosoever thou art and whatsoever thy creed, when thou enterest this sanctuary remember that thou treadest upon ground hallowed by the worship of ages. This is the temple of BHUDDA and the gate of the eternal, and should therefore be entered with reverence."

Passing through the beautiful park through which a stream flows into pools filled with the sacred lotus flower, one comes to the majestic figure seated upon a stone platform under the open sky, surrounded by ancient cryptomerias and pines with a lofty hill rising behind it. No other image gives one such an impression of dignity and repose, with head inclined forward, eyes half closed and hands joined together in his lap the Buddha seems lost in contemplation, brooding upon things eternal and has so sat for nearly nine hundred years. The image is of bronze and is fifty feet in height above the platform upon which it rests, but is so perfect in its proportions that it is hard to realize its great size. Formerly a temple fifty yards square covered the image but the temple was destroyed by a tidal wave in the year 1495 and has never been restored. I for one, am glad that the statue stands under the open sky, where it seems to belong.

Leaving the Daihatsu, as it is called, we strolled through the narrow streets of the town and along the seashore where multitudes were bathing in the surf, until we came to the Kaihin hotel, probably the best seaside hotel in Japan, for Kamakura is a fashionable resort, and here we had an excellent tiffin, as the midday meal is called throughout the east. The food was deliciously prepared and was served by maidens who might have stepped out of the opera of Madame Butterfly, and incidentally, it cost about as much as a similar meal would cost in Chicago, if it were possible to procure such a repast in Chicago. Living prices are vastly higher now in Japan than were ever before known, one can live at moderate cost if one avoids the fashionable places, but even then the prices are several times what they were before the war, for instance, I used to pay a rickasha man seventy five sen, or less than forty cents a day, for his exclusive services, whereas yesterday we had to pay ninety sen apiece from the Yokohama station to our hotel, a distance of about three miles. Of course they demand more of foreigners than of natives and one learns never to give the asking price for anything. Speaking of money, the currency of the country is entirely of paper. I have not seen a silver coin since I landed. There are five and ten sen pieces of nickel, though one sees but few metal ten sen. There are copper small coins, but all the rest of the currency is what we used to call "thin plasters." The reason for this is that when the price of silver rose so sharply a year or two ago all available silver coins were bought up and sold in India and China as bullion for about twice their face value, whereupon the government properly abandoned silver coinage.

After tiffin at the Kaihin hotel yesterday we took an electric tram to Enoshima, about four miles along the shore. The tram was crowded almost to suffocation, but we managed to hang on until we got to the station. You pay in Japan when you leave the car and receive a ticket which is demanded at the gate as you pass out and so it is easier to get on than to get off.

Enoshima is a little island renowned in Japanese song and story—the "picture island," they call it—because it is so admired and so often pictured by native artists. It is only a mile and a third in circumference and is reached by a long wooden pile bridge which looks so flimsy that one imagines that the first storm would wash it away. The island is high and rocky and covered with pine trees and dense shrubbery. It has many picturesque shrines and waterworn caves and yesterday it swarmed with holiday makers, bathers and fishers. The paths are so steep and narrow that no wheeled vehicles can pass along them. One must walk or not go at all, and yesterday we were so tired and hot from our walk that we did not go far but sat in a tea house overhanging the water and watched the picturesque crowd. Except in the hotel we saw only three or four foreigners during the day.

From Enoshima there is a fine view of Fujiyama in clear weather, but we have not had a glimpse of the mountain since we came ashore. Clouds and mists have concealed it. There is half a mile of fascinating little shops from the village of Katase where one leaves the tram, to the wooden bridge to the island, the bridge itself must be about a quarter of a mile long and so narrow that only two can walk abreast on it. These shops are for the sale of holiday toys and trinkets and every variety of sea food and native lollipops. There are curious lanterns made of the distended skins of balloon-shaped fishes, wonderful junks and sampans for the children and a bewildering variety of toys and knicknacs, one would like to take a trunk full of them home, but as we could not do this we resisted the temptation and bought nothing. We were chiefly interested in the crowds—such a good natured happy lot of people, no pushing or roddiam such as one would almost inevitably see in such a crowd at home. I am more and more of the opinion that the stories we heard at home about the insolence of the Japanese and their hatred of foreigners and of Americans in particular, have very little truth in them; certainly we have so far met with nothing but friendliness and good nature. I do not doubt that the militaristic party in control of the government is insolent and aggressive in their dealings with China and Korea, but the people themselves are friendly. The democratic element in the nation is fast gaining power and unless I am

mistaken will before long demand a reduction in the expenditure for military and naval purposes which now bears so heavily in taxes upon the people.

We are about ready to leave Yokohama and go to Nikko, where it is cooler. We have had no letters from home since we left San Francisco, and are eagerly awaiting the next mails.

P. C. WOLCOTT.

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