

6 ft. long 12 in. wide and stands on four little feet flat on the floor. Of course she kneels to play upon it and makes all sorts of pretty pictures which I shall paint bye and bye. She is getting very fond of me and takes good care of me.

When I come home from school, she and Masa(for now we have our good maid back again), both kneel at the door and take my things, bring me a glass of cold water and fan me. Then Chisato follows me up stairs and helps me in various ways to get comfortable.

I have plenty more things to tell but can't give more time to this letter. It is the hour for my Jap. lesson.

July 6,

To Miss S--,

I was very glad to get your nice letter July 4; it was the only event of the day which reminded me of America; and the weather--cold and pouring rain did not in any way suggest our hot haymaking, noisy holiday. H-- and I went shopping in the morning and I had the felicity of sitting before a counter filled with most beautiful white silks from which I selected one and the color I desired, and presently it is coming home from the dyer's. When it comes and I see how many of these narrow widths I need for a dress, I am going to order another. I wished I could send you each one, undyed, to make up for yourselves.

It has been rainy season in earnest this last week; perfect torrents of rain and cold--but any day now, it may clear up and the hot weather begin.

I have been shopping several times lately; one day with my teacher of Japanese, Miss Ishigame, who helped me to buy

articles for the kitchen. Such funny things! A flatiron which takes apart in the middle and has a chimney in front; you put coals inside. I should think one could not see the cloth being ironed for the chimney! My other purchases were a vegetable knife, a garden hoe, a tin dipper for the bath-room, a small closet surrounded with wire netting, to put away food in. It is made like a bird-cage and even has a handle on top to carry it about with. In one store I found a French coffee pot and a Dover eggbeater and secured both. Neither the storekeeper nor my escort knew what the latter was for.

We have a new servant; she knows not a word of English. This will be a great help to me in speaking Japanese, and I like her better than the one I have had. She is said to be perfectly trained; when she sees me in the morning, she gets down on her knees and bows and serves us at table kneeling. This is easy because we sit on the floor ourselves to eat. I have refused to change for the present, but next fall we shall have a fine carved dining table, chairs and a maid for the dining-room; then I shall take time and trouble and can, I hope, know enough Japanese to train her properly. We shall do with the present efficient one until we go away to Okayama etc. Chisato is coming on the 10 to stay a while. I am growing very thin, from the difference in food, I suppose, no butter, no milk to speak of, and very little meat; but I am as well as I can be.

Tomorrow I am to have a children's party. Eight from one family, from the 16 year old girl to the 1 year old baby. It will be great fun. They are the Neiwa family, very nice children whom H-- has known for some time. We shall blow soap bubbles and they will eat funny Japanese cakes with brown bean paste inside, which looks like chocolate, but is

disappointing!

If the sun shines I can finish my roll and get it developed and then send you a few photos, of my house etc.

I forget to say that twice when we have been shopping we have been offered tea, and when we go into the large shops we don't take off our shoes but have things like bathing caps put over our shoes.

We took luncheon in a sort of 2nd class restaurant the other day. On the lower floor is a shop where all kinds of raw foods are set out prepared for cooking, looking very inviting; the vegetables washed and cut and the meat on little platters ready cut into the thin shavings they use. We took off our shoes at an inner door and went up some spotless stairs and found a room with many small tables standing about and some people eating at them. The floor was clean matting, each table about a foot high and oblong, and at one end was a small square place with ashes, made to build a fire in.

Soon the maid brought lighted charcoal to make a fire, then brought the materials for our luncheon which we cooked ourselves. A plate of beef cut in thin slices, appetizingly arranged, and on a tray a small dish of sliced onion. A round saucer in compartments, each one holding a different article--red pepper--powdered saffron--and a kind of grated horse-radish--two rice bowls, two pairs of chopsticks and a little pot of shoyer, their meat sauce.

There was another tray with a teapot and a round lacquered box with a cover which turned out to contain rice. We poured sauce into the little flat pan which was set over the fire and then added to that with the aid of our chopsticks, meat, seasoning, or tofu, a kind of bean preparation of which I am very fond, a volonte. There were also on our tray,

large boiled beans--cold--which some like but I do not.

We ate from the dish over the fire or from our rice bowls. There were no plates or knives or forks or napkins. No water, bread or butter or dessert. I had a fine time and did not miss anything. The cost was 15 or 18 cents for both of us.

July 14

To E-- and R-- in Paris,

Your letters come so much quicker than those from Boston, that I wish you were going to stay in Paris. . . . I hope E-- has not lost all the June loveliness of Paris through her injured ankle.

Chisato Fugiwara is staying with us now. She is very sweet and pretty and has a good deal of character, I think, but we can't talk much together, she knows very little English. The second week in August when our school is over, we are going down to Okayama to visit her father and mother. Mrs. F-- is H--'s sister. They have sent us most pressing invitations with cordial messages, and are anxious to see me.

. . . . I have been very busy the past week helping the boys of the Y.M.C.A. get up an entertainment for H--'s Sat. night. It was a great success. We had a wigwam in one corner of the room and an Indian who told fortunes. I made the costume and you can't think how like a real one it looked with a pair of old corduroy trousers with oiled paper fringe sewed on, a breastplate with fringes of the same improvised leather, and a head dress of pasteboard eagles' feathers and the red strings of our mosquito netting hanging from it.

We had also a picture gallery made of pictures cut from magazines and advertisements, nicely mounted. They fished for these in a fishpond with real water and toy fishes. The young men here have so few sources of amusement that it is the best thing one can do for them to provide healthful entertainment.

Amongst the excitements of the last busy week we include the entrance of a burglar. He got in at night into the room where Chisato sleeps; took all the clothes she had taken off including a charming crimson satin obi, our camera and H--'s best shoes. My new brown ones close beside them, he left. The police think they can get back some of the things, and we hope for the camera which had a roll just filled. I don't know where we could get a good camera like that, again.

Our new maid--a jewel--became ill and had to go away for a week and we had to go back to one whom we dislike cordially.

August 11,

Dear K--,

All is excitement in the Omori family! We are going on our vacation next week and are to visit H--'s relatives. There will be great festivities for which preparations are being made at both ends. We hear from Okayama that nothing but our visit is being talked of even in the midst of the winter washing, whatever that may be, and the giving and receiving calls incident to the second new year, for they celebrate here the full moon of midsummer in the same way they celebrate the new year.

It appears that H--'s brother is thinking of a grand reception for us, a ceremonial affair, at which H-- and I

will drink the cup of sake together which in Japan belongs to the wedding ceremony.

We shall visit both at his brother's and his sister's. We on our part think of nothing else. I am working like mad to get new summer clothes and my "ceremonial clothes" are hung up to get the wrinkles out. I am getting a pair of black satin slippers made without heels, to wear in Japanese houses, and shall dress my hair and train my face to wear a smile.

Apart from this excitement there is no special news. We had an earthquake last night which lasted at least five minutes. You felt as if you were being shaken at the end of a long pole. But earthquakes here are taken so tranquilly that nobody can be afraid. We have had a three day's rain to mark the end of the "dry season"! and yesterday as I stood at my window I saw, opposite me in a little valley a small whirlwind which took off somebody's roof and sent tiles whirling through the air at such a height that for a moment I thought they were a flight of birds. Another house in our neighborhood was unroofed also, and a wooden shutter sent up into the air in the same way. This is what it is to live in a volcanic country!

A family has moved into the house next door, mixed Chinese and Japanese. We think it must be a boarding house for students. They are noisy but remove our fear of burglars.

August 9,

To R--,

. My classes at the school are very interesting; the young men are so individual and original and I get information and opinions on every subject. I see a

great variety of them, from quite ordinary lads in school to students in the Imperial University who are making special studies of sociology, political economy, or law. One charming fellow whom I met this week, is going with some friends, to start a kind of settlement house here. Sometimes they come here sent by a friend, sometimes brought by another young man, sometimes they ask permission to call, of one of us. We are giving up our Sunday afternoons to them now, and I think by the end of the year, a great many will come here. Of course this is what we want. Some are especially H--'s friends and some are mine; but his friends think the world of him.

We have some new neighbors and are very much pleased. Since the Oda family moved away we have been much isolated and we thought too attractive to burglars; yesterday a large family with many servants has come into the next house. They are Chinese and Japanese, I can't tell you more except that one young man, Chinese, seems to be constantly attended by his native servant.

Masa is proving a jewel of a servant. She gives me an infinite variety of Japanese dishes, each more mysterious than the other, but I like them nearly all. Last night we had egg plant cooked with a kind of bean sauce which was very good, some string beans fried in batter, very good too, and some delicious fish, and a queer sort of salad all quite new to me; tonight she seems to be composing wonders because H-- is bringing home a man to dinner, a war veteran, I understand.

Have I ever written you how they build houses here? They are only partially composed on the spot, a bird-cage effect is made first of corner posts with a lattice of small

bamboo in between. On this bamboo netting the plaster, a curious kind of earth, is laid. The outside of the house is almost always of wood, even in the heart of Tokyo.

Each side is put together at the carpenter's, and then brought vertically, by 4 men to the house and set up. Two men support the two lower corners and two others with long poles hold the thing upright and I suppose the four finally fasten it to the side of the house.

The tiled roofs are first shingled with very thin shingles, then are covered with a layer of plaster or cement, and then the large heavy tiles are laid on. The roofs are very good looking.

Just returned from our school and had lunch which this time was Indian corn roasted over a charcoal fire and then dipped in choyu the Japanese sauce, very good!

We had luncheon Saturday at a Japanese restaurant; soup in little bowls which you drink but you eat the macaroni, fish etc. therein contained, with chopsticks. Rice was brought us in a lordly dish, a lacquered box with a cover; and we had meat omelet, pickles and some other things I have forgotten.

I have on now my first pair of tabi; I don't think they fit very well but they look very nice and feel better than stocking feet.

Next Sunday or Monday we start on our vacation. We are both quite worn out with summer work and school, H-- especially who never has a moment to himself. Sunday, even, is filled with calls and lectures, and calls again of the young men, so that there is no repose for him.

Kioto, August 19,

To K--,

I have such a quantity of things to tell you that I am afraid you will not have patience to hear it all. We are now on our journey to Okayama, and it is H--'s vacation. Chisato has gone to spend two weeks in the mountains and we have left our house with a caretaker and one of H--'s young men is going to stay there.

It is like our second wedding journey and I have been much excited to see the real Japan for the first time. We started at 7 in the morning and travelled until 9 at night but all was so interesting, the day so perfect, and the car so comfortable that I didn't mind.

We stayed last night at Nagoya, a large city half way between Tokyo and Okayama and came on here(four hours) this morning. We travelled second class and I thought I had never been in such a comfortable second class carriage. On one side of the coach there were seats holding two as usual(each), and on the other side one continuous seat like a street car. As the car was not crowded we could change from time to time, which was quite restful.

We went past all sorts of beautiful places and saw great mountains and lovely seashore. Only Fujiyama was hidden although we went close to it. Along the coast were hundreds of children in bathing. They must pass all their time in the water. There were boat-builders, net-makers and fishermen all at work; the little villages were very neat looking, each small house with its tiny garden swept clean, and its clean floors showing through the open shoji.

We went through many rice fields. They are a very bright

velvety green at this time of year and are divided into many small patches by tiny raised paths. You know the rice plant grows in the water but the owners of the different fields get together by these paths. They never waste that strip of land however. It is a foot or so wide, and they either mow it or as those of yesterday, plant it. Those we saw were planted with a kind of bean, and the grey green of the bean against the bright yellow green rice was very pretty.

Then we went through a great tea raising country and saw people picking the leaves; the tea plants look like box; as they are picked (all the new leaves taken off two or three times a year), they become very compact round bushes, and a field of tea plants looks like some arrangement of decorative plants. The workers in the rice fields and the tea gardens wear, to protect themselves from the sun, hats made of the outer sheath of the bamboo sprouts.

On their backs they wear a strip of straw matting which sticks out on either side and reaches from their neck to below the waist. The effect--when the man's legs are down in the water and only the back and hat can be seen moving a little between the rows of rice as the man bends over--is very curious, like some great insect walking there.

When luncheon time came we were at a large station where lunch was being sold. We each had two wooden boxes of food; these little boxes--about 9 in. long and 6 or 8 wide and an inch deep, are daintily made of the thinnest wood with a cover. A paper napkin and chopsticks--or hashi as we say--done up in white paper. The hashi are made, two together, just a thread of wood not cut through unites them; they are used once and then thrown away. As they are all made by hand

and are used by thousands daily, one would think it must be quite an industry.

We also got a teacup of hot tea and with a teacup turned down over the top. One of my boxes contained cold boiled rice; the other had several small fishes,--a specialty of that place--, a mushroom, a few pieces of vegetable including lily root, and ginger etc.

The next day's luncheon was in a box divided into little compartments each containing a different thing, like bits of chicken etc.

We had also a basket of grapes. These were very prettily done up in a bamboo basket, the ends of the bamboo being left loose and the grapes put in with a few small bits of cedar and then the ends tied together making a charming effect.

Many of our fellow passengers took off their geta or their shoes if they wore them, and sat cross legged on the seats; not one but had his pot of tea on the floor beside him. When our lunch was eaten we threw the boxes out of the window, and soon arrived at another large station.

Here on the covered platform, was a large octagonal washing place of stone, about as high as an ordinary table and with a raised edge. In the centre stood an immense bronze bowl for water, shaped like a lotus flower with a large long handled dipper of wood floating on the water. I think this must have been a flowing spring for the basin was perpetually full of water. All around on the stone table were set, tin wash basins.

As the day had been warm and everybody had lunched, everyone on the train rushed to wash. Men washed their heads and necks, hands and arms and I dare say some took off their

kimonos and washed their shoulders and the rest of the body, although I did not see this done. One carries one's towels always in Japan; H-- brought a basin of water to the car for me and I washed my hands; the toilet room of our car was as daintily clean and nice as anything need be.

At last we got to Nagoya, the last hour very tired and sleepy. We went to a Japanese hotel near the station. Here we were at once served with tea. Our room was a pretty one looking out on a garden with tall trees, A vase of flowers adorned the corner place or toku, where such things are put. But I will not describe this hotel which, although a good one, is not equal to this where we now are; but will go on about Nagoya. It is a large city and has a great many factories. The streets are straight and wide and cross each other at right angles and in many respects it seems very modern. It has a wonderful old temple containing three things most precious to the emperor; a sword, a mirror, a jewel! The mirror stands for purity. The sword is very famous historically. When we arrived alas! the temple was closed to profane eyes and we couldn't see it. However H-- chartered an omnibus standing near, and in this funny little vehicle we made the tour of the town, seeing another temple which was very beautiful and then going to the castle. This is a fine medieval structure (Old Castle of the golden dolphins) surrounded by a system of moats, very formidable in effect they must have been in the ancient days, but now the terror is lost.

Our little horse took us around it in great style and to the astonishment of people who had come to the street corners for the purpose of taking the 'bus. We had two dri-

vers, one who sat on the seat and held the reins which he jerked in the wrong direction from time to time, and one who ran a little ahead of the horse, egging him on, so to speak, to further effort. This man held the end of a rope, attached to the horse's bit. Once we collided with a mounted officer at a narrow street corner, and the officer on his horse had to fly before us a bit, before he could get out of our way. Such was our mad progress through Nagoya.

Note from H-- to K--.

Kioto, August 20(?)

. I am writing in our charming hotel room. This hotel is a dream! As you whirl into the tiny front courtyard in your kuruma, you see a wide open door with a square screen standing before or rather behind it. This screen is painted with fine decorative design in rich colors with a gold background. At the door you take off your shoes and are provided with slippers. On entering you perceive a garden in the middle of the front hall. It has trees and shrubs growing, and a large pool where a number of fishes are playing about. There are corridors leading off in various directions and at the end of each is a garden effect to be seen. Our rooms are on the ground floor--there are two floors.

We have two rooms which open onto a really lovely garden. I wish you could see it. I should think it about 30ft. square, perhaps more. The ground is mostly covered with mossy rocks, but there is a large irregular pond extending the whole length of it where red fishes live and jump at night for flies. There are three or four trees higher than

the house, one of them having branches of lovely crimson flowers.

A rose-of-Sharon bush with great white flowers is near us, and a mossy stone well with a bronze bucket hanging over it under an odd little roof of its own. There is a trickly stream playing all the time into a stone basin making a cool sound and a bronze bowl of great size with a constant stream of water. In addition to these main features the whole place is covered with a variety of shrubs and grasses trained to make the most beautiful effect and doubtless all flowering in their season.

Little birds and butterflies come in here and our whole room is wide open to it, so that it becomes a part of the place where we live.

There is a stone lantern 5 or 6 ft. high and another somewhat smaller. On the other side of our parlor there is a tiny courtyard, paved, with water in a stone basin and a fine tree which grows cheerfully through the large opening of the roof into the sunshine and air above.

Beyond this place other rooms, unoccupied and therefore wide open, and beyond them I see another garden. Our rooms are lovely. In the smaller which we use for dressing etc. there is no furniture except a mirror two feet high, on a low stand. It is on the floor and I must sit on the floor in front of it to do my hair. In one corner is a sort of clothes horse to hang our clothes upon; in another is a beautiful screen.

In front of the screen all the apparatus for making tea; a large bowl or jar filled with ashes on which to build a fire, a basket of charcoal beside it and a little stand which

contains a box of tea, teacups and a teapot.

In another corner there is a shelf in a recess and a small closet under it, while on it stands a large heavy and handsome lacquered tray. H-- says this is to contain my Japanese clothes after being neatly folded by a maid.

The next room has in one corner a pretty screen and on the opposite side from the entrance are the two ornamental features of a Japanese room, the toko and the taua. They form two recesses; the first is the sacred spot where hangs the kakemono and where a small ornamental table a foot or so high, is placed to receive flowers; the pot with the ornamental tree or whatever is used there for decoration. The recess is raised 6 or 8 inches from the floor and the walls are often differently finished from the other parts of the room.

In this hotel the floor is formed of a single piece of board beautifully grained, shading from gray and brown. It must have been cut from an immense tree for it is fully three feet wide. It has a very fine surface and a high polish and H-- says it has been brought to this perfection simply by rubbing with the hand, no oil or varnish or stain being used.

Between the toko and the taua there is a wall finished by an ornamental post, sometimes a simple square post of fine wood, sometimes carved etc. This one is made from the straight pine trunk of a small tree and the bark is left on, a dark brown color; the post is 6 or 8 inches in diameter. The taua are very pretty here, made of fine wood, and the upper shelf shut with sliding panels to make a little closet. These sliding panels are of gold and between the upper and lower are attractive paintings on gold ground. The floor in this recess is like that of the toko, a wonderful piece of

wood.

In this room we have for furniture a rather handsome table a foot high, furnished with writing materials and two flat square cushions to sit on with elbow rests to lean upon. On the balcony stands in solitary state a European chair.

When we enter the hotel we are at once served with tea and some kind of cake. Then the maid brings two kimonos and says the bath is ready. She helps us put on the kimonos and would help us bathe if desired. The bathroom is quite different from our kind, but I like it better.

On one side is a raised place where there is a looking glass and place to hang clothes etc. and beyond is the space devoted to the bath. Here is found a large jar of cold water and a faucet for more if wished and two basins set beside it on little wooden stands, shining clean.

In one corner is a large wooden tank filled with very hot water and a cold shower bath near by; there is a dipper also of wood.

With these appliances the Japanese proceeds to get clean. He scrubs with soap and hot water, then gets into his hot bath, then the shower bath. After that he is ready for dinner.

Okayama, (about Kioto)

This letter was begun at Kioto and in it nothing has been said so far, about the city itself, the treasure house of Japan, containing great numbers of most beautiful temples, adorned with bronzes and wood carvings and precious old paintings.

Two places seemed to me especially beautiful. One was

a monastery connected with the largest temple. The latter was being repaired and invisible. The monastery, the part we saw, was not at all like San Marco, for instance. The main building was an oblong, like the temples, perfectly simple in form and divided into rooms or chapels.

These chapels have for walls the most beautiful karakami or screens, painted by famous artists, the whole room being either of one design or of related subjects. Always one entire wall was one design; like a great branching pine tree on a gold ground, with perhaps a dark blue river.

Above the screen part which was about $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high, was a wide frieze of wonderfully carved wood painted and gilded, but never heavy enough in effect to spoil the screen, and the ceilings were practically of one design, coffered, made of a fine dark brown wood which has never known stain or varnish but has grown dark with age.

The beams were a foot square; or more, the space between filled with smaller squares.

Some of the rooms had nothing in them except the wall decoration but one of them had a very magnificent altar and a priest was chanting there, very beautifully. Across the end of the building were two superb large rooms with a raised dais which had been used by the Emperor. Apparently he was not provided with furniture.

The sides of the rooms towards the balcony were entirely open and the balcony itself was wide and beautiful with carvings and fine smooth wood. The effect of these rooms lighted in this soft way, entirely from outside the balcony was indescribable, this soft yet glowing gold background, these pure simple colors of the painting and the obscure ceiling. The

floors were mats like every other floor. Beyond the balcony was a charming garden with water and trees.

To describe the temple we saw the day we left, would be tiresome to you, because it was again a dream of golden painted screens and carving of bronze vases and bells and strange altars. It was just as fine outside as in. I shall send photographs sometime which will give you a faint idea and with my descriptions you may be able to know a little about them.

I have seen nothing in Italy more beautiful than this temple, although one's personal taste might incline to one, more than the other.

Another group of temples stood on a high hill at one side of the city. I send a card of a bronze fountain from there. Here I saw people bathing in a sacred fountain, letting the water pour down on their heads from a great height. We bought a prayer and a god for a few sen, and I send them to the family; they protect from fire, water, and disease, so are a sort of insurance policy. The god should be worn in a little silk bag about the neck.

While we were in this treasure city of Japan, we devoted one day to the country going out in the morning to a lovely river which runs between wooded hills, almost mountains.

We walked along a shady path up the river a half mile to some tea houses where we took a room for the day. It was very hot while we were in Kyoto, and this was a refreshing day. The tea houses were in a row climbing up the mountainside and are only roofs with paper walls and mat floors, all open on the river side and a hotel with kitchen supplies the attendance and food. There were also baths, one house for men,

one for women. They provide you immediately with clean kimonos and tell you the bath is ready. Most people spend the day in this cool light kimono, but I did not wish to change again. In the cool of the afternoon we climbed further up the mountain to a tiny little "temple of sorrow" perched on a very steep spur of the hill, which has a fine bronze bell under a charming carved canopy. Of course you know these bells are rung from the outside.

After that, we walked down the river, got a row boat and rowed on the clear mountain stream in the midst of lovely mountain views.

September 2, '08

To C. S. S.,

We are just back last evening from Okayama, where we have been visiting H--'s brother for a week. Of course this is the great event for which our plans were laid and in which our hopes centred, and I meant to have written you from there; but the heat and the fatigue of state functions prevented.

The visit seems to have been a great success, and a great pleasure to H--, in every way, and I never had a more interesting time in my life. Of course pleasure of a certain kind I am debarred from, as no conversation is possible except through an interpreter. All the customs are so different but Brother Gisaburo and all of them were very kind indeed, and I enjoyed myself vastly.

Okayama is a beautiful spot with a river and mountains and rice fields, a castle and a park. The old house at Okayama is black with age, very large for Japan, and rambling

and interesting; three gardens etc. but you shall hear of that later as I wish first to describe in great detail all our visit.

When we arrived at the station (at O--), we were met by 4 or 5 dependents of the house headed by an elderly aunt, and it was very amusing to be received in such state, all of them standing in a row and bowing. We all went in (jinrickshas) kurumas, one person in each, a long procession, to the house which stands in the old quarter of the town near the river, on a narrow old street.

The entrance is through wide wooden gratings and shutters which slide back and forth and it has a look-out window in the old style. Once through the outer doors, you find yourself in a large square covered courtyard, from which the real entrance opens at one side. Beyond the first gate is another, opening into another earth paved court of the same kind, with another entrance into the house.

After taking off our shoes we made our way through mysterious dimly lighted places to the parlor (as we say), a good sized room opening into a garden. From this room other rooms open on the street side and some stairs go up. We were taken up the stairs to the room overhead where we were given cushions to sit on and tea and cakes were served; kimonos were brought and we were helped to undress and were told that the bath was ready. As the customs of the house are old Japanese, H-- took his first and I mine afterwards.

All the family use the same tub of water; but as honored guests, we were served forst, happily for our western sensibilities. The tub is a great iron boiler set into the wall with cement and the bath is perfectly boiling hot. One is expected to dip out water into a basin and scrub one's self,

and then get into the tub; so that the custom of family bathing is not so horrid as you would think.

On coming out there is cold water for a finish if one desires. A wooden bottom is put into the tub so that it is not uncomfortable to stand upon, and the tub has a thorough scrubbing every day. The bathroom is always down stairs in some remote corner and this one had a stone floor.

After the bath and dressing we were informed that dinner and Brother were waiting so the crucial moment came and I made Brother's acquaintance counting three when I made my best bow (on my knees). He was very kind and polite and made elaborate conversation, (through H--) all during dinner.

We began with sake the drinking ceremony which is a bond or token of friendship, and he certainly has kept the bond, as far, doing everything he possibly could to show his friendliness while we were there.

The sake was brought in a little iron or bronze teapot, and the sake cup, a shallow red lacquer one, was also brought on a tray. It was all done with precise ceremonies, no mere taking and drinking.

Brother took the cup and held it in both hands, the maid poured in the sake, he held it up and bowed to it and then drank it in three swallows. The cup was then wiped in a particular way and taken to H--, and the same thing done again. Then to Brother again and then to me. This part was interspersed with bowings to each other.

After that we had dinner together (we three), served by various people including the aunt and sister-in-law. The latter I thought very good looking and she seemed also entertaining; at least she talked with vivacity and they all seemed

to enjoy it.

It is not usual in a Japanese family for all to dine together. If there are guests, one member of the family is selected to eat with them. Brother ate mostly with us, but sometimes we ate by ourselves, with different persons coming from time to time to entertain us, and once or twice, when H-- was away I ate alone, with sister cutting up my peaches beside me, or aunt bringing tea.

Of course we ate sitting on cushions on the floor, from a table a foot high; but you would be surprised if you could see me picking up a large mouthful of rice or several hard round beans at once, with my chopsticks, or cutting a whole fish into pieces and eating it. Once I was given a fork, but they all watched me with anxiety, thinking it must be so difficult to use, and wanted to cut up my fish for me with chopsticks first!

It rained for two or three days after we got there and I didn't go out, but was sufficiently entertained within. I wish you could see some of their things! You would be wild over them. There are two storehouses in the yard filled with things.

I went into one and was shown a few articles, but of course there was no time for seeing much. They are all old family treasures, and there seems to be no end to them. Not much of it is furniture, there are boxes and boxes and boxes full of things for ceremonial tea, hundreds of years old and precious beyond words. Quantities of wonderful old sword-hilts and other ornaments for swords, made of bronze or iron and inlaid with gold. Hundreds of kakemonos; illuminated books in the choicest handwritings, tea cups--each so precious

that it is kept in box within box, with little silk bags. One tea caddy I saw, so precious that a box for it, was made and painted by a famous artist, and this box is now priceless.

They say there are few private collections now in Japan, equal to this, many, perhaps most of the old families having disposed of their things; I presume some day this will form a rare collection in some museum.

All the treasures are carefully labelled and perfectly cared for, and are the apple of Gisaburo's eye. The house too, is full of wonderful things, all put away of course.

We had a ceremonial tea among ourselves, one day to show me how it is done. Not many have kept the traditions enough to know all the parts of it now-a-days. There is a special way of doing every single thing, from the instant you enter the room until you leave it.

There was a bronze fire box for boiling the kettle, a lacquered table (red), beside it with three shelves and tassels. The water was boiled in an iron kettle of unheard of age. It had no handle nor nose, but was of a square shape and there were large iron or bronze rings which were to be hooked into the holes on the side to lift it off with. The cover, these rings etc. must be used in the exact way.

The tea was bright green and finely powdered, and was in a black and gold lacquered box which they said was about 300 yrs. old. Ceremonial tea is made, one cup at a time, in the cup, and you drink it grounds and all.

All these things are by the way; the great ceremony of the visit was the dinner given for us by Brother to show us to the immediate relatives of the family. This would have been the wedding ceremony if we had not been married already,

and although we had been in Okayama 4 days, the near relatives didn't come to see us until the dinner came off. This function was as ceremonious as possible. We talked over my clothes, which they were all interested in, and they wished us to wear evening dress, although it began in the afternoon, as that is *de riguer* for ceremonious functions.

So I wore my black lace evening gown putting some lace over my neck and a black velvet ribbon around, not to look too unbecoming at 3 P.M. H-- was in his dress suit, kneeling more or less cheerfully in it for so many hours!

I received careful instructions as to how to hold the dishes and how to kneel, and we set off for the beautiful Okayama park, where there is a garden house whose rooms can be rented. This park was the old garden of the castle and has been carefully preserved just as it was; the garden or tea house was originally there too.

We were the only people there. "Sister" and I were taken into a room apart and were waited on by attendants, who fanned us and held our looking glass etc. and we waited until we were called into the dining hall, where Gisaburo, H--, the father and the brother-in-law and another Issizu were already assembled, with the steward of the estate.

Two other relatives were to have come, but something prevented. These were all sitting on the floor in a large circle, on cushions--kneeling--, and our cushions completed the number, not however an entire circle for one end was left open to admit attendants.

The room was entirely open on two sides, a long large room quite charming in effect. The ceremony opened with the sake drinking. Two attendants appeared, one bearing the