

of the smaller ones, in all parts of the islands; have mingled in the crowds that assembled at Tokio and at Yokohama at the time of the reception to Togo and during the naval review; have ridden through the streets in day time and at night; and have walked when the entire street was a mass of humanity. I have not seen one drunken native or witnessed a fight or altercation of any kind. This is the more remarkable when it is remembered that these have been gala days when the entire population turned out to display its patriotism and to enjoy a vacation.

The Japanese house deserves a somewhat extended description. It is built of wood, is one story in height, unpainted and has a thatched or a tile roof. The thatched roof is cheaper, but far less durable. Some of the temples and palaces have a roof constructed like a thatched roof in which the bark of the arbor vita is used in place of grass or straw. These roofs are often a foot thick and are quite imposing. In cities most buildings are roofed with tile of a pattern which has been used for hundreds of years. Shingles are sometimes used on newer structures, but they are not nearly so large as our shingles, and instead of being fastened with nails, are held in place by wire. On the business streets the houses are generally two stories, the merchant living above the store. The public buildings are now being constructed of brick and stone and modeled after the buildings of America and Europe. But returning to the native architecture—the house is really little more than a frame, for the dividing walls are sliding screens, and the outside walls are taken out during the day. The rooms open into each other, the hallway extending around the outside instead of going through the center. Frail sliding partitions covered with paper separate the rooms from the hall, glass being almost unknown. The floor is covered with a heavy matting two inches thick, and as these mats are of uniform size, six feet by three, the rooms are made to fit the mats, twelve feet square being the common size. As the walls of the room are not stationary, there is no place for the hanging of pictures, although the sliding walls are often richly decorated. Such pictures as the house contains are painted on silk or paper and are rolled up when not on exhibition. At one end of the room used for company there is generally a raised platform upon which a pot of flowers or other ornament is placed, and above this there are one or two shelves, the upper one being inclosed in sliding doors. There are no bedsteads, the beds being made upon the floor and rolled up during the day. There are no tables or chairs. There is usually a diminutive desk about a foot high upon which writing material is placed. The writing is done with a brush and the writing case or box containing the brush, ink, etc., has furnished the lacquer industry with one of the most popular articles for ornamentation. The people sit upon cushions upon the floor and their meals are served upon trays.

Japanese food is so different from American food that it takes the visitor some time to acquire a fondness for it, more time than the tourist usually has at his disposal. With the masses rice is the staple article of diet, and it is the most palatable native dish that the foreigner finds here. The white rice raised in Japan is superior in quality to some of the rice raised in China, and the farmers are often compelled to sell good rice and buy the poorer quality. Millet, which is even cheaper, is used as a substitute for rice.

As might be expected in a seagirt land, fish, lobster, crab, shrimp, etc., take the place of meat, the fish being often served raw. As a matter of fact, it is sometimes brought to the table alive and carved in the presence of the guests. Sweet potatoes, pickled radishes, mushrooms, sea weed, barley and fruit give variety to the diet. The radishes are white and enormous in size. I saw some which were two feet long and two and a half inches in diameter. Another variety is conical in form and six or eight inches in diameter. I heard of a kind of turnip which grows so large that two of them make a load for the small Japanese horses. The chicken is found quite generally throughout the country, but is small like the fighting breeds or the Leghorns. Ducks, also, are plentiful. Milk is seldom used except in case of sickness and butter is almost unknown among the masses.

But the subject of food led me away from the house. No description would be complete which did not mention the little gate through which the tiny door yard is entered; the low doorway upon which the foreigner constantly bumps his head, and the little garden at the rear of the house with its fish pond, its miniature mountains, its climbing vines and fragrant flowers.

The dwarf trees are cultivated here, and they are a delight to the eye; gnarled and knotted pines two feet high and thirty or forty years old are not uncommon. Little maple trees are seen here fifty years old and looking all of their age, but only twelve inches in height. We saw a collection of these dwarf trees several hundred in number, and one could almost imagine himself transported to the home of the brownies. Some of these trees bear fruit ludicrously large for the size of the tree. The houses are heated by charcoal fires in open urns or braziers, but an American would not be satisfied with the amount of heat supplied. These braziers are moved about the room as convenience requires and supply heat for the inevitable tea.

But I have reached the limit of this article and must defer until the next a description of the Japanese customs as we found them in the Japanese homes which we were privileged to visit.

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### THE BRACKETT RESOLUTION

Recent revelations concerning Senator Chauncey M. Depew were so serious that it seemed necessary for that gentleman to sever his connection with a large number of commercial concerns. But when a republican member of the New York state senate introduced a resolution calling for Mr. Depew's retirement from the United States senate, that resolution was defeated by a vote of thirty-four to one—the introducer of the resolution being the only one to cast the favorable vote.

Democratic members declined to vote on the ground that, having had nothing to do with the election of Mr. Depew they should not participate in the recall. Men will differ upon this proposition. The Commoner believes that Senator Depew has given such offense that the democratic members of the New York state senate should not have hesitated to record their votes in favor of this resolution.

It is not a sham battle in which the people of the United States are now engaged. Party lines are growing dimmer and dimmer and great moral questions push themselves to the front. Mr. Brackett, the republican, was eminently correct when he said that his resolution demanding the resignation of Chauncey M. Depew involved a "moral issue." Senator Grady, the democrat, was wholly wrong when he said that "this is a purely personal republican question." Of course, the votes of the democratic members would not have changed the result, but democrats generally will regret that the democratic members of the New York state senate failed to place themselves on record in favor of Senator Brackett's resolution.

Senator Grady played in the basement of politics when, in referring to Senator Brackett's patriotic resolution, he said that it was "a republican affair," and sought to lower it to the level of a mere quarrel. Mr. Brackett certainly displayed great courage; he certainly made a brave fight and men of all political parties will give him credit. American public sentiment is hostile to those who betray public trust, and it is, indeed, regrettable that that sentiment has not, so far, been able to make itself as clearly felt as the sentiment against wrong-doing in commercial circles. It is regrettable that the public sentiment with respect to wrong-doing on the part of public officials is not so manifested as to drive from public office men who offend against the patriotism and integrity of the country.

### MAYOR DUNNE'S GOOD FIGHT

Mayor Dunne, of Chicago, delivered at Denver, Colo., an address which was substantially the same as that delivered in his name at Lafayette, Ind. In these speeches Mayor Dunne said, in effect, that the Chicago city council was under the influence of the traction companies.

Upon Mayor Dunne's return from Denver the members of the city council displayed their indignation in the presence of the mayor. In Chicago the mayor presides at the city council's meetings and the aldermen demanded to know if the mayor had been correctly quoted by the newspapers. Mayor Dunne evidently had no apology to make. He bluntly told the aldermen that he had been correctly quoted, and he reiterated that although the people of Chicago had repeatedly declared in favor of municipal ownership and against an extension of franchise for traction companies the aldermen had as repeatedly ignored these edicts.

These Chicago aldermen pretended that they were greatly offended and they did not mince words in expressing their opinion of Chicago's chief executive. But Mayor Dunne stood as faith-

fully by his guns in the presence of these indignant aldermen as he has by the pledges he made to the people.

We are told by Chicago newspapers that the galleries were crowded and it is a good sign that during the passage of all these heated words the galleries were on the side of the mayor. It is an old trick for men who have yielded to corporation blandishments to pretend great indignation whenever an honest champion of public interests speaks plainly, and for a time such expressions of indignation may avail these corporation controlled aldermen. But sooner or later the people of Chicago will rise in their might and give to their faithful mayor the support and encouragement which all too often is withheld from honest public officials. And then men with whom rests the power of carrying out the will of the people will not dare to interfere with the popular decree.

Mayor Dunne has made a gallant fight, and it is strange that while every intelligent man knows he is doing his duty as he reads it in the election returns, the Hearst newspapers are the only daily publications upon whose support he has so far been able to depend. It is no credit to journalism that outside of the Hearst newspapers the daily press of Chicago has made no effort to support Mayor Dunne, but on the contrary has done everything in its power to embarrass him and hinder him. These are things, however, to be expected by men who move seriously in an effort to bring about needed though radical reform. Mayor Dunne has made a good fight and in all the history of this country no one has done more than he has done by way of inspiring those who under great disadvantages wage battle for the public interests.

### A PERTINENT SUGGESTION

The New York American makes some very pertinent suggestions to Mr. Henry H. Rogers, who is just now showing a disposition to laugh at the courts. The American points out to Mr. Rogers that he owes a great deal to the courts, and is profiting, perhaps, more than any other man by the respect the people have for our legal institutions. His example of contempt is not a good one, for if the people should suddenly take a notion to treat the courts and the law as Mr. Rogers is treating them, pray what would become of Mr. Rogers and his elaborate system for the exploitation of the people. Mr. Rogers is comparatively secure in his position now because the people have respect for the courts and for the law. But if they lose that respect and follow the example of Mr. Rogers they might decide to seize all that Mr. Rogers has accumulated and snap their fingers at the courts which now protect him. Mr. Rogers should think for a while on what might happen to him and his millions if he should finally succeed in destroying public respect for the law. Mr. Rogers is treading on dangerous ground.

### FEARFULLY CONSERVATIVE

New York dispatches say that Attorney General Mayer of New York, has consented to postpone any proposed legal action he might have in mind against the New York insurance companies whose representatives have notoriously violated the law. It is explained that the attorney general having conferred with Governor Higgins has concluded to await the reforms alleged to have been set on foot by the reorganizers of these insurance companies.

Is it not strange that the authorities display so much patience in the presence of violations of law by powerful men? Even District Attorney Jerome, who was elected as a reformer, has so far made no serious move against these insurance magnates who have been exposed as common embezzlers. It will occur to a great many people that these officials charged with the enforcement of the law are altogether too conservative whenever it is suggested that powerful and influential offenders be called to account.

### REVISION

It is an old-time republican cry that "the tariff will be revised by its friends." Representative McCall of Massachusetts a republican, hit the nail on the head when in referring to this cry he said: "If the tariff can not be revised when two-thirds of the membership of both houses is republican, when is revision to come?"

Revision, through the republican party, is to come whenever the beneficiaries of a high protective tariff are willing to surrender the enormous advantages they possess; and this surrender will be made whenever human selfishness is destroyed.