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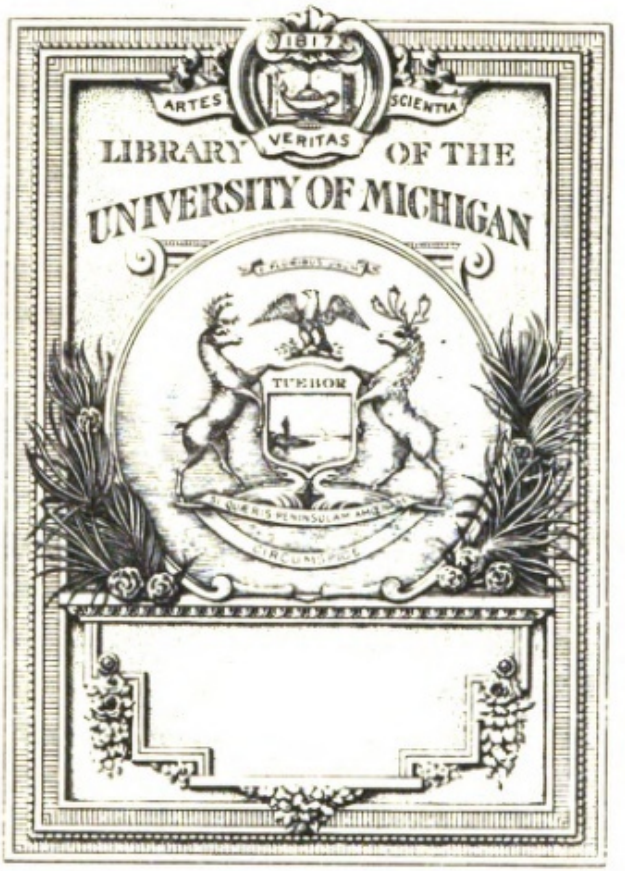

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HALT BY THE WAYSIDE NEAR PALHIWA.

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yama was announced. Nor should I have thought it worth mentioning now, but that after-events seemed to prove he had

DUTY UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

some good and tangible reasons for his proceeding, and that he knew a special danger menaced us on the way, which was only too likely to cost us our lives. But this is one of the evils inseparable from their system of pretexts and mendacity, and a reticence which will never let them speak out and tell the whole truth. It is impossible to know when they are merely giving warning of danger, as a pretext for objecting to a diplomatic agent's giving effect to the treaties, or exercising any privilege which might enlighten him as to the true state of affairs; and when it is given in good faith, because they know danger of a specific kind does actually exist which it behooves him and them to guard against.

The Governor having in vain sought to turn us seaward by the general warnings of danger, sent his good wishes; and although we set off under a lowering sky, the clouds lifted for a

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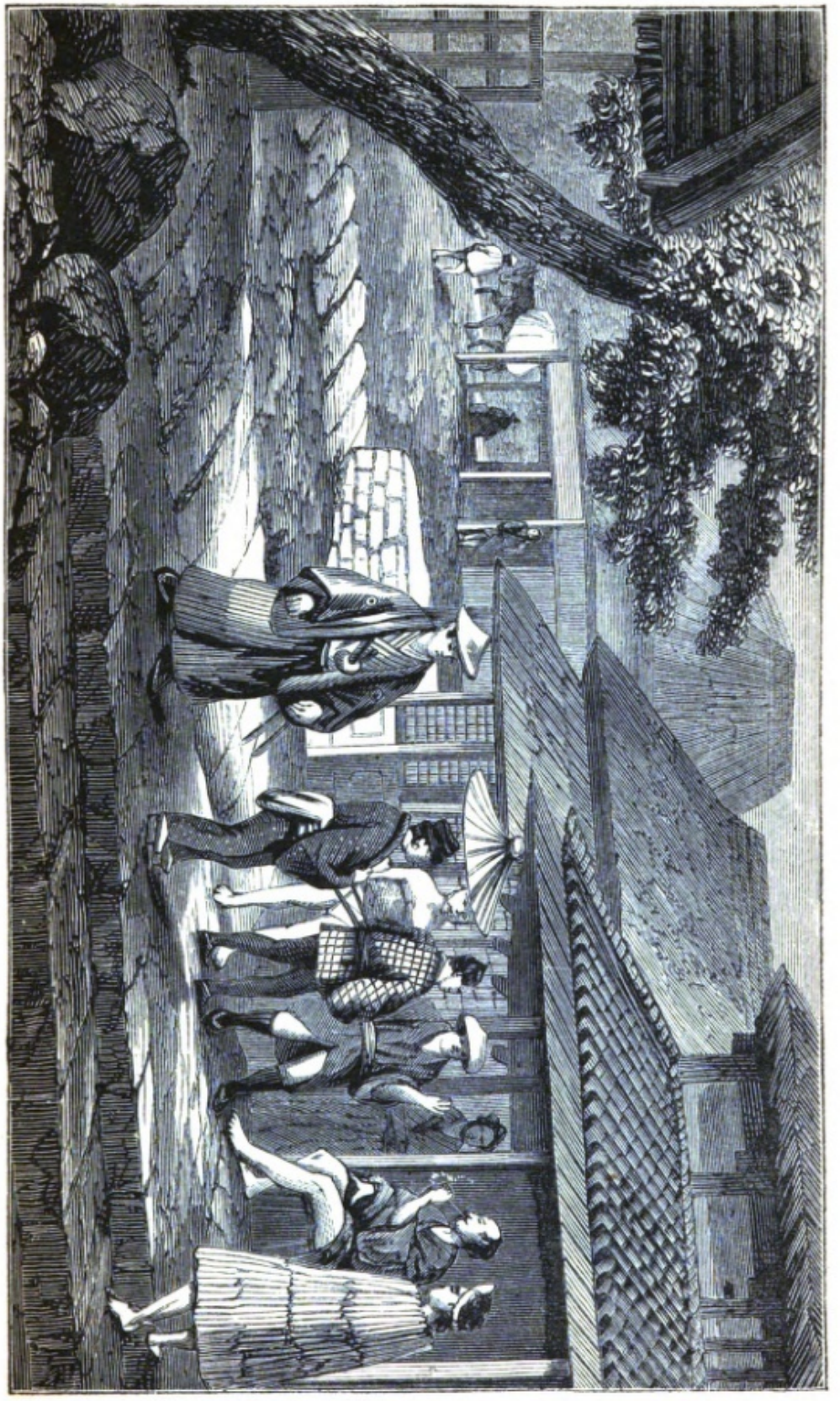

WAYSIDE INN NEAR NAGASAKI.

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farther variety, and a whole family of coniferæ clothed the hill-sides with a dark mantle. In some places the nakedness and poverty of the sandy soil could not be entirely concealed, and pure sandstone cropped up so divested of soil that it seemed a marvel how trees of any kind could find sustenance in their vicinity. Often, however, along the roadside, what little earth had ever sustained them had been completely washed away, and the roots, striking downward, and stretching enormous distances horizontally, made a perfect network of gnarled and twisted timber, bare of all earth, sometimes embracing a huge boulder or rock, until they seemed to grow out of it, as though, in the hungry search for something to cling to, even the sapless stone had been clutched with a loving embrace. One has seen something not unlike this in the world, where men and women both, with natures as hard as the nether millstone, and with as little feeling as any granite

HOW PINES GROW.

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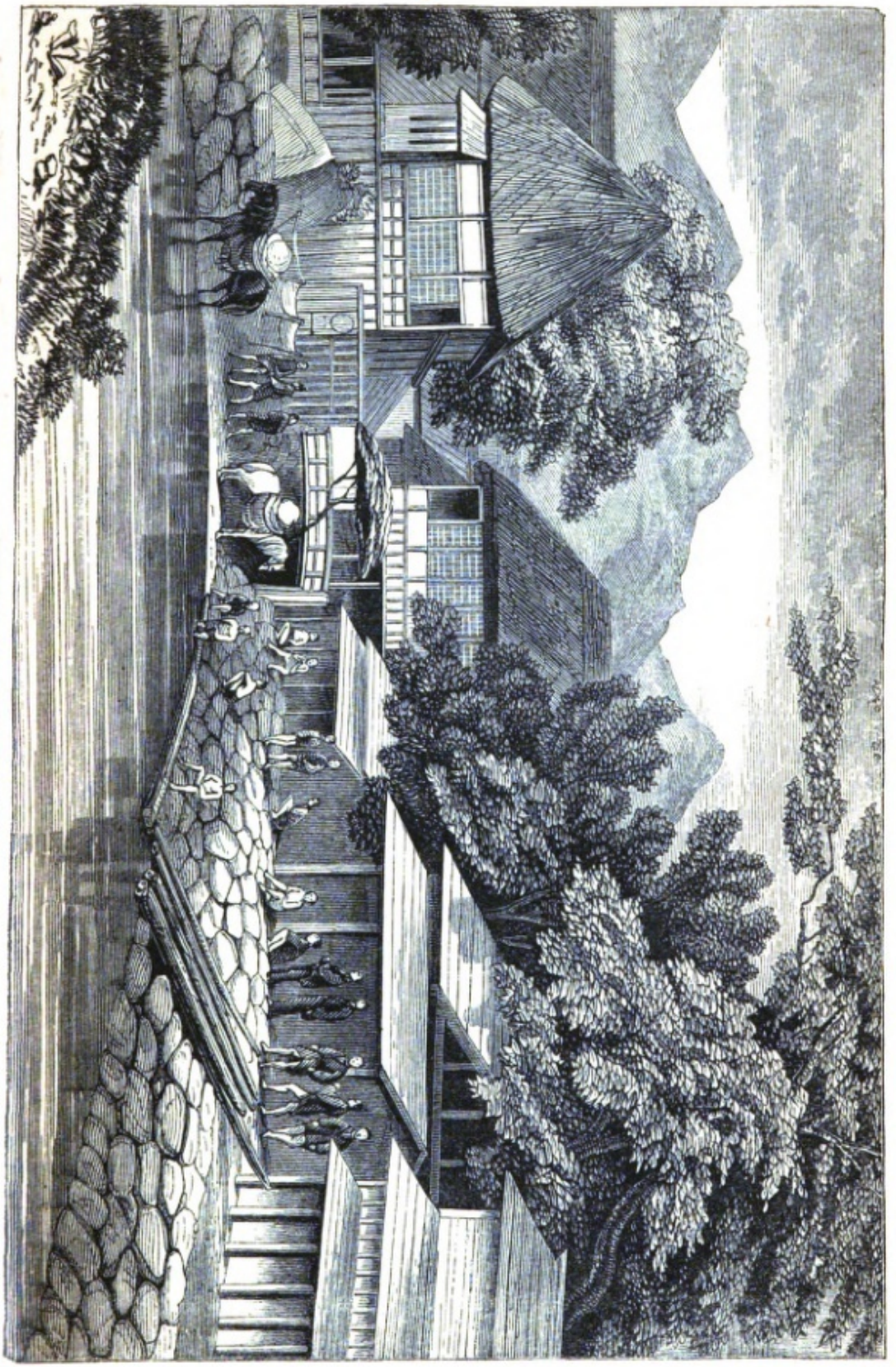

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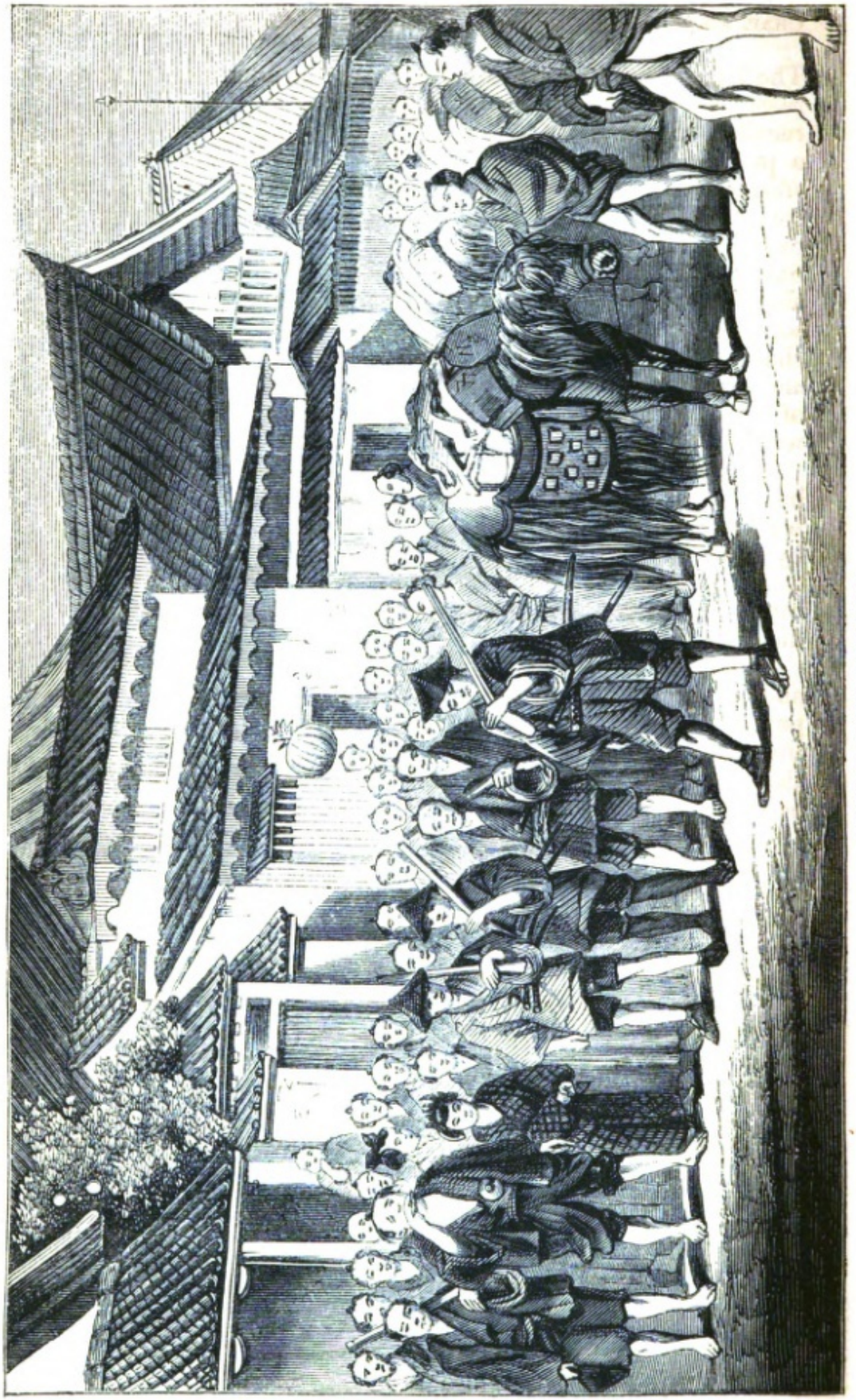

FROM OUR INN AT OMURA.

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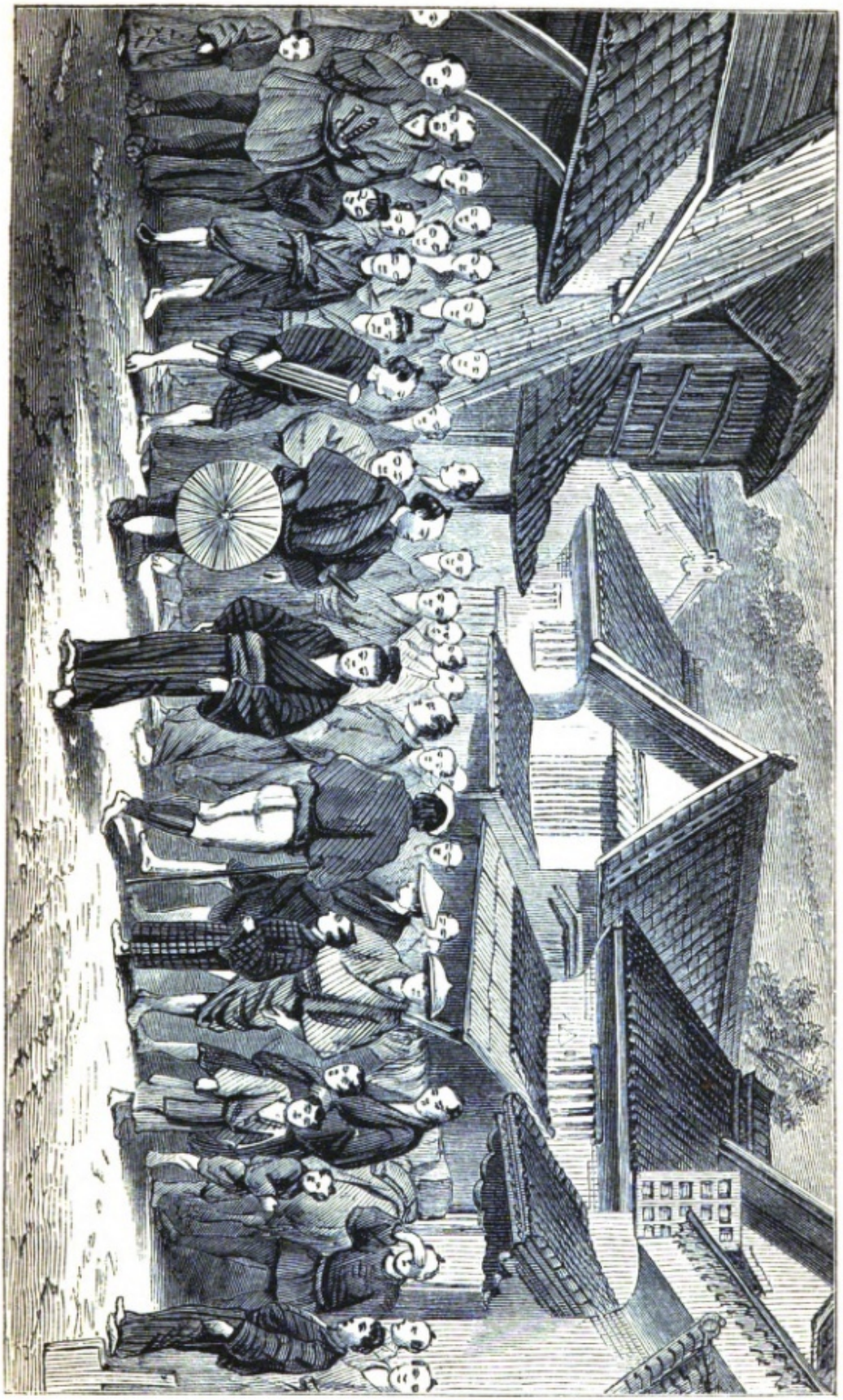

ODAH.

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adapted to cavalry. Paddy-fields, nearly always in a state of swamp, ever liable to be flooded and cut up in all directions with drains and water-courses, alternate with inaccessible hills. It was not until the sixth day, on the way between *Kansaki* and *Tatsiro*, that we came upon an improved line. On each side were beautiful valleys waving with ripe corn, skirted by hills covered with scrub, while farther in the distance blue mountains formed the background. The vegetable wax-tree abounded always, and I heard when at Nagasaki that 20,000 of these had been planted in the district soon after the European demand for this article arose, although the Dutch residents had never been able to find out the place; plainly proving that the Japanese were by no means slow to feel the stimulus of a new demand and increase the supply, while desiring to keep their proceedings a secret from the merchants. There did not seem to be much cotton grown in these districts; here and there we saw a field, and occasionally in the villages saw the women at work rolling the cotton for the spinning-wheel or distaff, as in the following illustration; and a thrifty house-

PREPARING THE COTTON FOR SPINNING.

wife might also, at intervals, be seen reeling off her thread on a large wheel. We passed through several small towns with houses presenting a better appearance, while hamlets, half concealed in clumps of trees with luxuriant foliage, every where met the eye. The dogrose, honeysuckle, and buttercup, with

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VILLAGE HOUSEWIFE REELING COTTON.

the homely thistle, continued, as we went, to fill up the hedge-rows. While riding on alone, it would be easy to fancy the scene was in some picturesque English county. We came upon a very beautiful moss-rose growing by the side of a cottage, a variety of the English species apparently, and with some of the fragrance. It was bought and packed with great care, but in a few days it withered and died, as little disposed as its owners, it appears, to be thus suddenly appropriated by the foreigners. We also found a peculiar kind of thistle, with bright red and yellow petals, which appears to be cultivated for the sake of the dye it yields, a coarser kind of red used to stain the lips of the women. Hollyhocks were also growing in patches for a similar use, and the flowers spread on a mat were in many of the cottages.

On our way to *Uzino*, on the seventh day, we passed through many scenes worthy of the artist's pencil; indeed the number of tempting pictures was truly tantalizing, since it was clearly impossible to take even the slightest sketch of all. A little wayside shrine, embosomed in trees, was approached over a ravine, across which nature or art had flung a great boulder of granite. The scene, with a group of Japanese seated in the foreground, proved altogether irresistible. Again, as we descended through a rocky pass into the valley below, and caught the first glimpse of the cultivated fields and terraced

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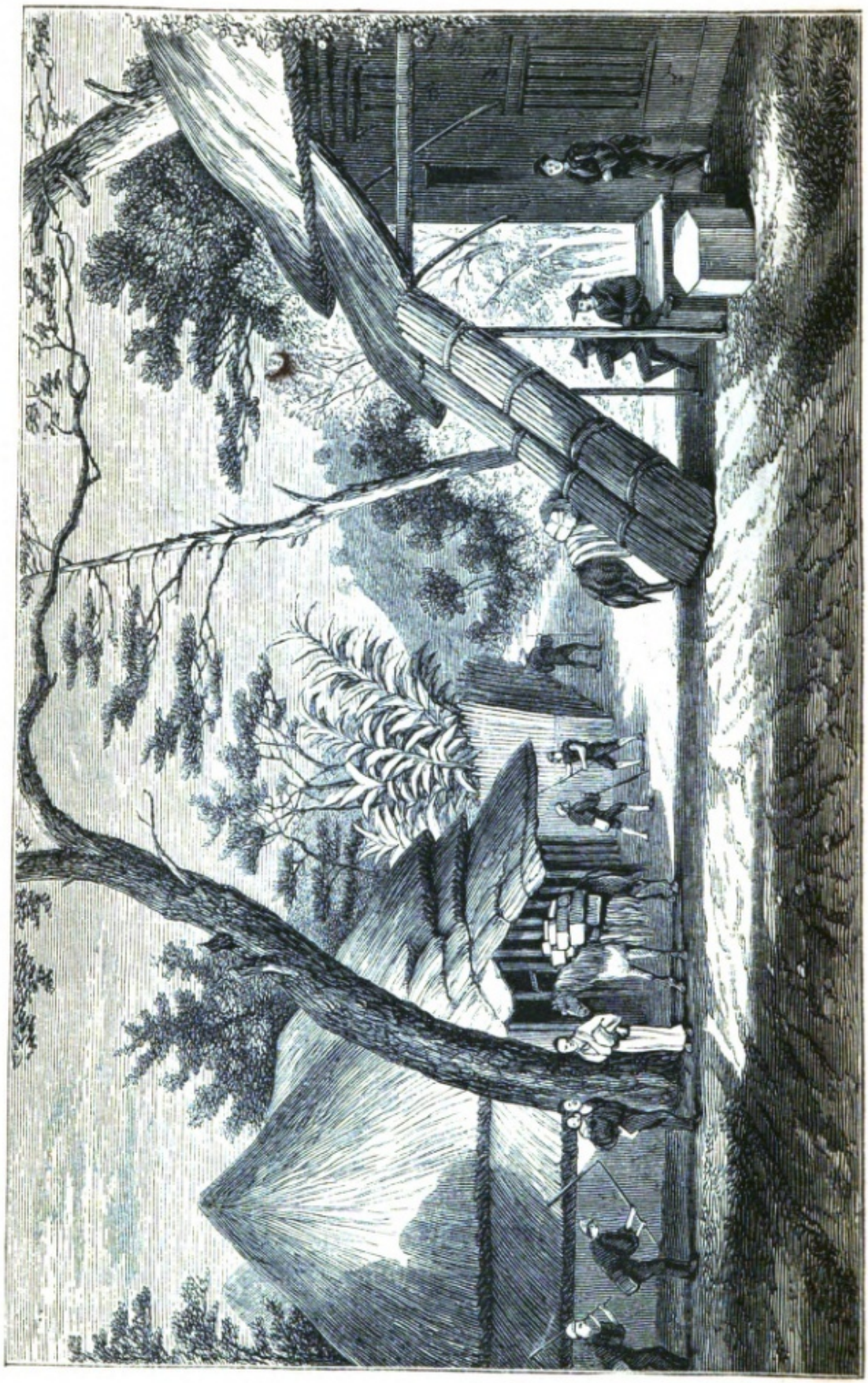

VILLAGE LIFE IN JAPAN.

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ROADSIDE SHRINE.

hills, with another range of mountains towering beyond, picturesque Japanese figures filling up the foreground, it was difficult to pass and take no note. A very slight sketch was all *I* could attempt, and as for 'the artist,' I despaired of seeing him along such a road before dark. Once fairly descended into the valley, the scenery changed in character, but was still equally rich in artistic effects. I endeavored to fix the outlines with a few strokes of the pencil; but the afternoon was far advanced, and there were men and horses both in the party, with little feeling for the beautiful, but a great desire for rest and the evening meal! So I closed my book with a pang of regret, only consoled by the reflection that it was far beyond my powers to have done any justice to such scenes, or carry away more than the merest indications of all I admired.

On the eighth day, our way to *Koyonoski* lay chiefly along the banks of a river, on a high causeway raised some twenty feet above the level of the water. We passed several dépôts of coal, evidently placed there for embarkation in some large flat-bottomed boats, a novel sight on the sand-choked rivers of Japan—certainly in Kiusiu, where boats are to be seen only

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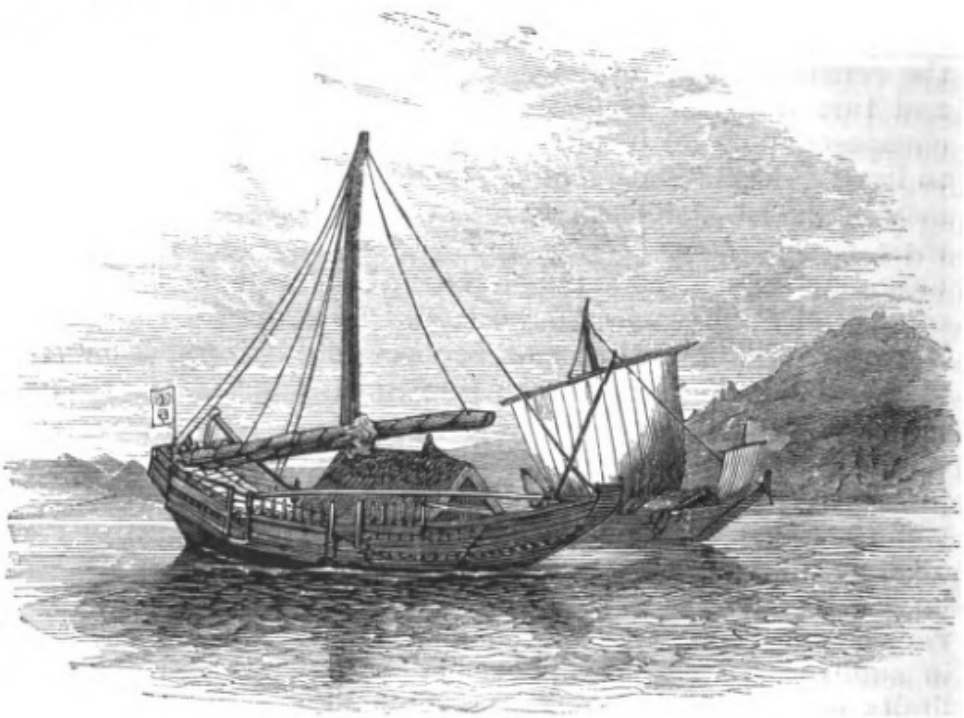
prolonged the journey nearly three weeks, without any corresponding advantage.



OUR JUNK IN THE INLAND SEA.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Simonoseki.—The 'Inland Sea,' and Voyage to Hiogo.

THE *Suonada* Sea, on which we embarked to cross over to the opposite shore, separates the two islands of Kiusiu and Sikopf from the larger island of Nipon, which latter is to the Japanese the *main land*—the largest of all the group of islands—forming the England and Wales of Däi Nipon, or Great Nipon as they occasionally write it, for *Japan* is a name of our own invention.*

* The word Nipon in a Japanese mouth means the whole empire. It is composed of two words, written in Chinese character JIH PUN, meaning the place or rising of the sun. The Japanese, in conformity with the character of their own language, softened it into *Ni-pun*—the Dutch spelling it *Jeh-pun*—their *j* corresponding to our *y*, we took their spelling and gave our harsher English pronunciation, and thus called it JAPAN. So YEDDO for some time after the treaty was spelled after the Dutch JEDDO, but pronounced after our our own way, making a word perfectly unrecognizable by a Japanese, as the

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GALA DRESS BY LAW ESTABLISHED.

THE SEA OF SUONADA.

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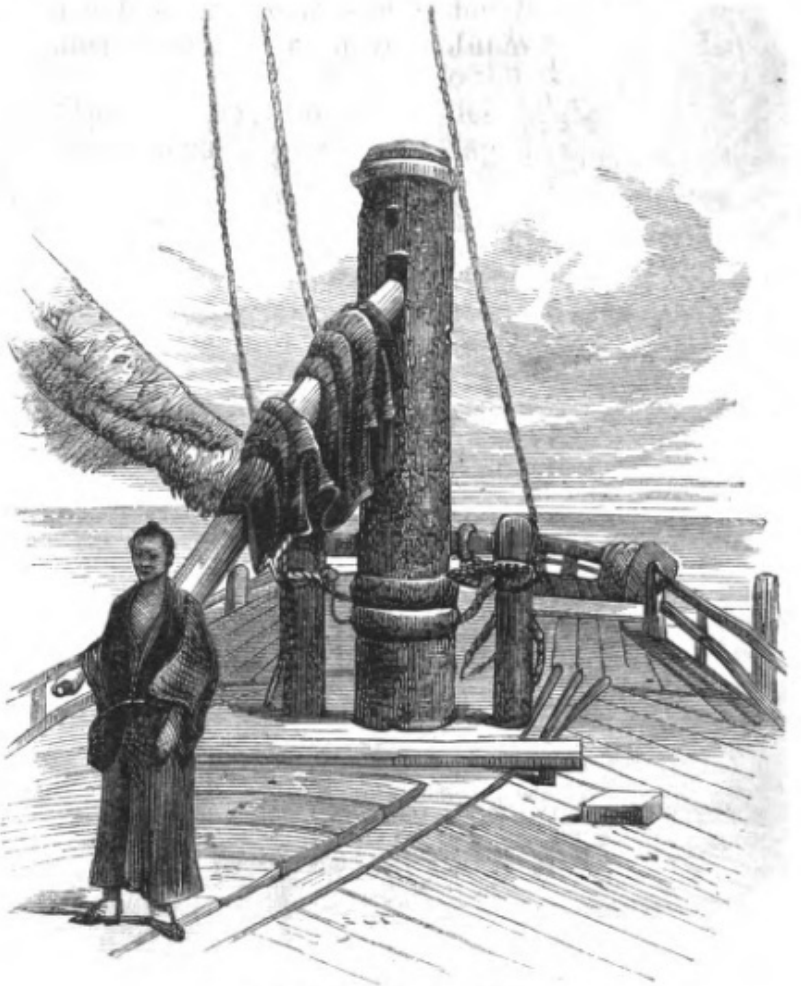
During the three following days we pursued our way very leisurely through the quiet waters of what seemed rather a great lake than a sea. We always anchored before nightfall; for, even if we had not had such *impedimenta* as the junks, until accurate surveys are made it would be unsafe to proceed by night, although there are probably not many sunken rocks or shoals, and all that we observed near the surface of the water have been very carefully marked by a stone buttress or pyramid carried several feet above high-water mark.

Those of our party in the junks seemed to enjoy their quarters and their society, although it must be confessed the first were of the roughest, and not water-tight, while the second was more original than refined. To the artist it was, of course, a mine of riches; and whoever wishes to gain a correct notion of the quarter-deck or poop of a Japanese junk, rising to an



HELM OF OUR JUNK.

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abrupt angle of fifty degrees from the main deck to the stern, will find it here most faithfully portrayed, with the steersman standing at the helm, which very much resembles the proboscis of a colossal elephant. How even sailors keep their feet on such an inclined plane when knocking about at sea and the deck is slippery with rain, I do not pretend to understand. One of my servants, rather notable for his stupidity, found it altogether beyond his capacity, and made a descent off the poop

STEERSMAN AND HIS MATE.

into the lower regions, which broke his ribs, and deprived me of his valuable services for the rest of the journey. *Cahie* took such a dislike to a ship in any shape after this, that he would fain have been carried in a cango twenty days overland (at my expense) rather than embark again in the 'Ringdove'

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for a two days' voyage. The Japanese landsman, although of a sea-going race, has the greatest possible horror of the water, and never willingly trusts himself on the fickle element. When the Ambassadors were chosen for England, their first and most anxious inquiry was for a remedy against sea-sickness. For a type of the Japanese sailor, nothing can be more graphic or true to the life than the preceding sketch from nature of two of the crew on the deck after the morning meal, smoking the pipe of idleness, and the one following, of Japanese sailors at their dinner, is in no degree inferior.

SAILORS EATING THEIR RICE.

Of the general character of the scenery I have already spoken. In many parts, no doubt, it is exceedingly picturesque, and if never grand, neither is it ever altogether tame or devoid of beauty. The marvelous richness and fertility which characterize the Japanese territory generally is wanting; but even in this respect there are other portions which leave nothing to be desired. The passage between Hirado and Kiusiu, by which a steamer may enter when coming from Nagasaki, or pass out from within, is very beautiful, beyond question. Although not really dangerous to a well-handled steamer, it

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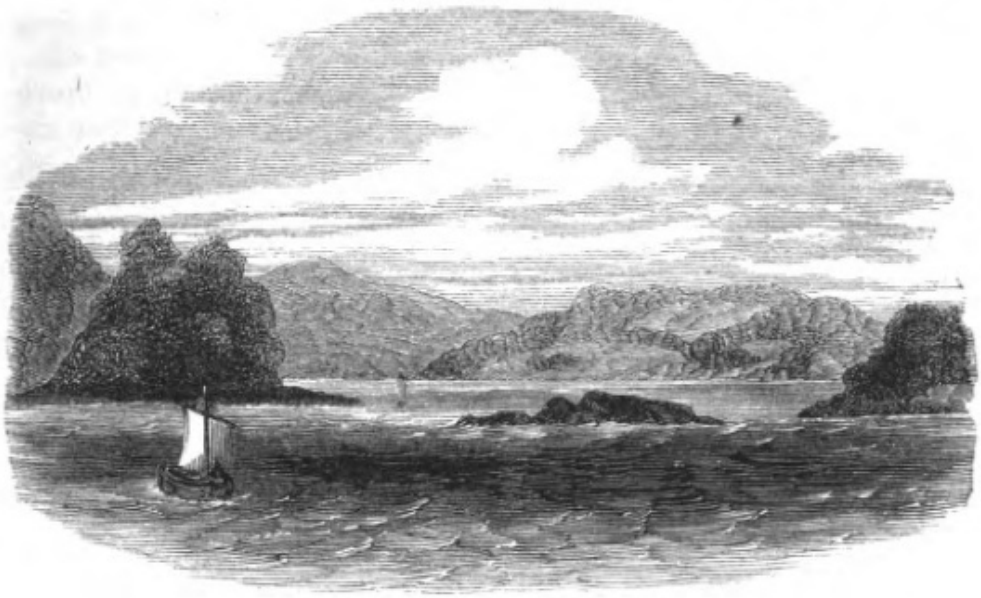
has quite sufficient of the appearance of danger to lend additional interest to the scene, as the waters rush, foaming and



PASS OUT OF THE SUONADA SEA

whirling, in treacherous-looking eddies, past the naked rock lying in mid-channel, and but little above the surface, leaving a bare passage for a large ship. Some of the coast presents undoubted evidences of volcanic origin. Mountains rise high to an apex from their base, and sometimes form a perfect cone, as may be observed in a preceding sketch.

When approaching near Hiogo a very singular view presents itself in a hill some twelve hundred feet high, which forms a flat table abruptly ending on all sides.

We landed at one or two places in the evening when we anchored, but nothing could well be poorer or more miserable-looking than the few fishing hamlets we saw, and not even fish was to be had, though fishing-tackle and boats abound every where. The country near the coast seems, for the most part, poor and barren, with patches of cultivation only in the sheltered nooks and valleys. There is a large traffic undoubtedly through this Strait. When Admiral Hope came through, a little later in the year, some 1500 junks were met in the passage. It was not until the noon of the fourth day that we arrived before Hiogo, the termination of the voyage, so serious had been the drag of three lumbering junks. There was a sort of chuckle and expression of undisguised satisfaction on the face of the boatswain when he loosened the hawser and

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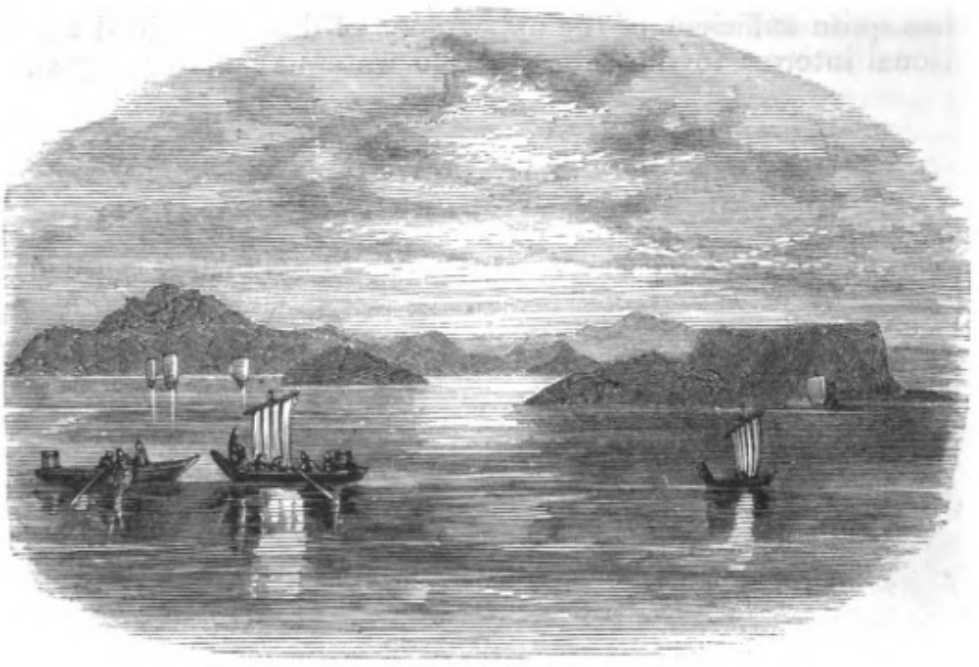

NEAR HIOGO.

cast adrift the nearest junk, thus severing all farther connection with such undesirable mates.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Port and the City.—Hiogo and Osaca.

HIOGO is the shipping port of *Osaca*, the great centre of trade in Japan, lying some thirty miles distant on the banks of a river, the mouth of which is about five miles higher up in the bay. Hiogo is itself a town of some extent, containing perhaps 20,000 inhabitants, and pleasantly situated along the edge of a sandy shore, with a range of wooded hills and mountains rising with gentle slope from 1000 to 2000 feet behind. Several fresh-water streams open into the bay, and offer facilities the Japanese have well known how to avail themselves of for docks and inner harbors. The Bay of Osaca stretches about twenty-five miles across, and affords excellent anchorage, well protected from all winds except perhaps from between north-east and south; and I imagine a very heavy sea can not set in from without. The bottom appears to be stiff mud, and affords excellent holding-ground; so good, indeed, that the 'Ringdove' could only weigh her anchor with great difficulty.

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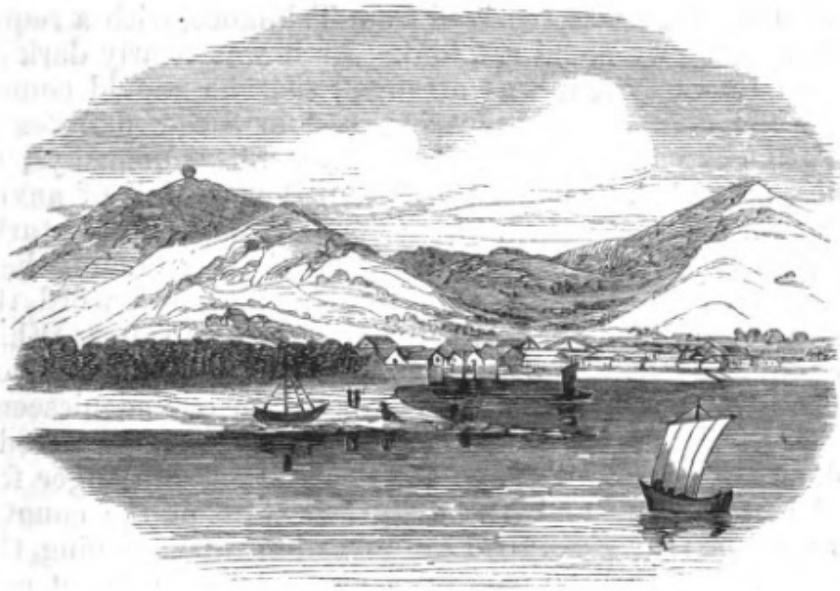

HIOGO.

There is a general depth of about five fathoms, with four close to the beach, and no dangers are known to exist. I am indebted to Mr. Watts, the master of H. M. S. 'Ringdove,' for these particulars, showing the great eligibility of Hiogo as a port of trade, with easy access and secure anchorage. According to existing treaties, this was one of the ports yet to be opened to foreign trade, with free access to Osaca. January, 1863, was the period fixed, but the Japanese Government had long manifested the most urgent desire to have the period deferred, and even intimated, not very obscurely, that our insisting upon a treaty right in this direction could only lead to *disastrous consequences to them and to us.* I had a special object, therefore, in visiting both places, desiring to form a judgment from personal observation of the value and eligibility of that which we were so earnestly required to give up under menace of some hostile outbreak, and also of the state of popular feeling so constantly referred to as the great obstacle to all progress.

Two pieces of intelligence greeted me on landing, of rather contradictory tendencies; the one that the *Bettos*, as the horse-boys and grooms are called, with my own horses, had arrived from Yeddo to facilitate my journey; the other, that a Governor of Foreign Affairs, Takimoto Dzoosiono Kami, had been sent express by the Gorogio to meet us, and, as I immediately divined, to make another effort to turn us from our route, and especially from Miaco. Accordingly, we were scarcely landed

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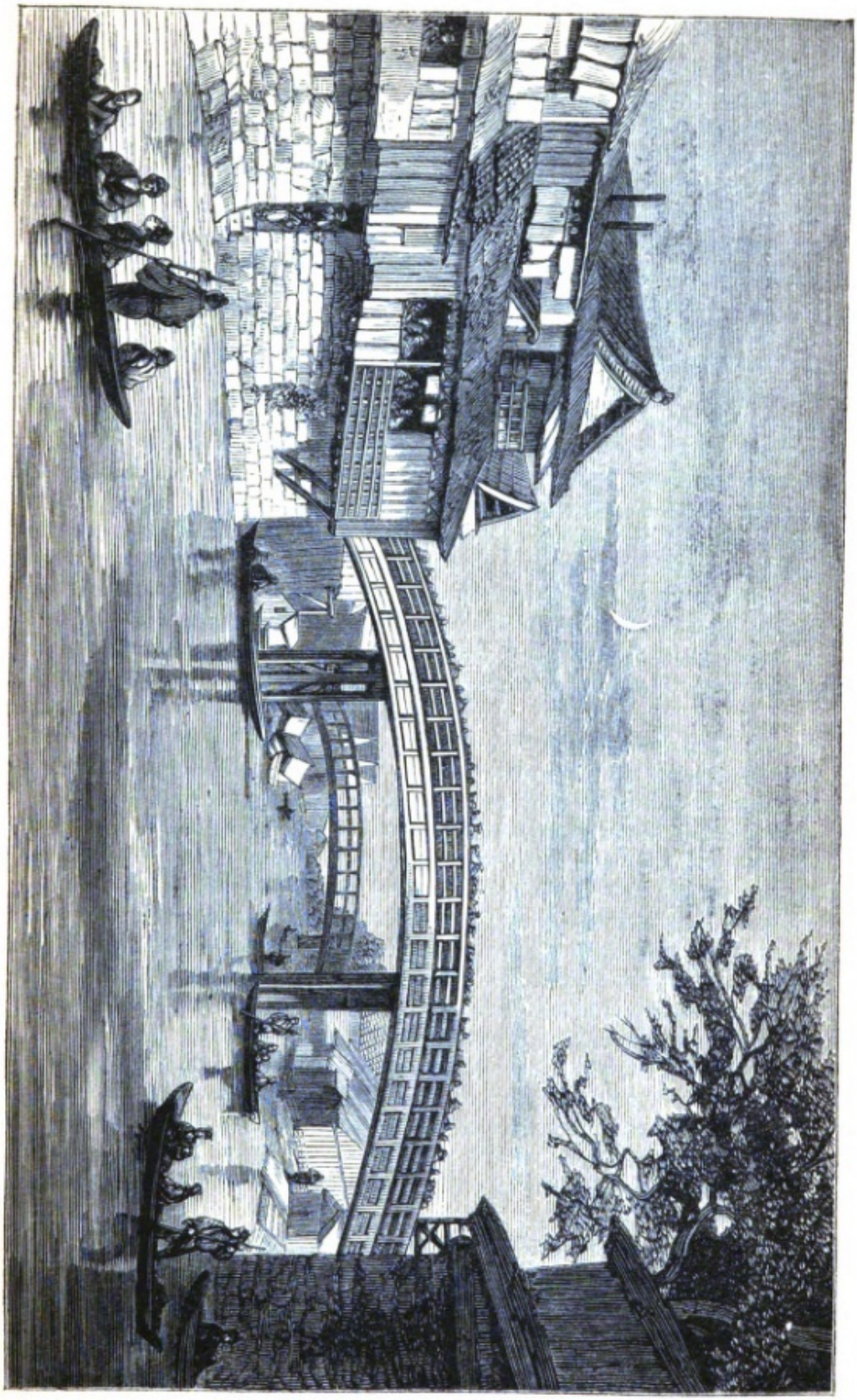

VIEW OF OSACA.

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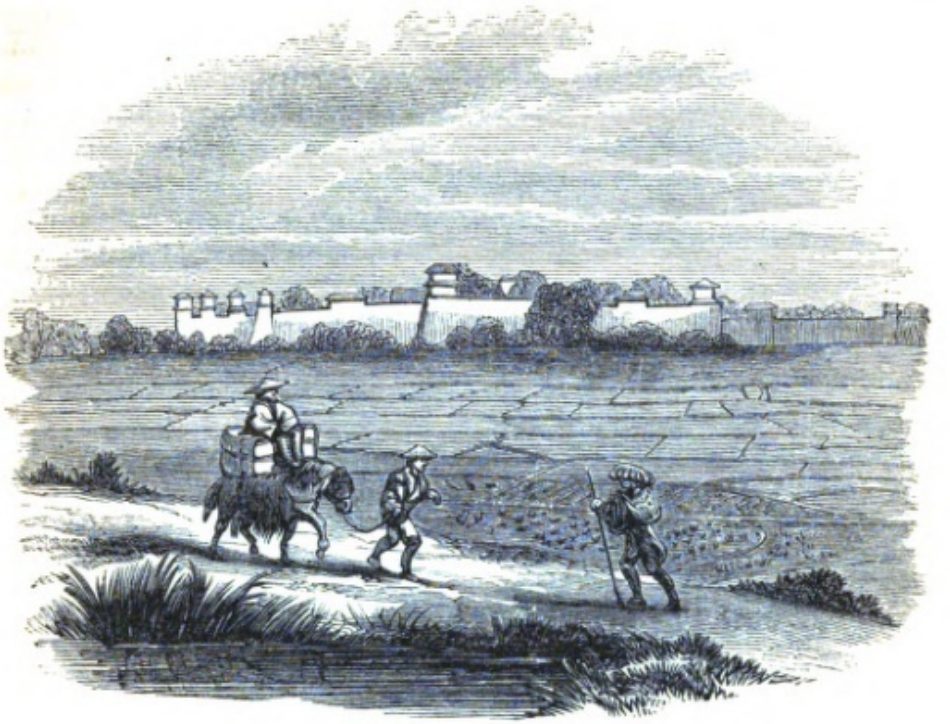

CASTLE OF OSACA.

is always raised from a few inches to a foot above the level of the paddy-fields. The wheat was here nearly all carried (it was June 19), and the rice, for the most part, had been planted out from the seed-beds to the fields. We passed innumerable hamlets and a large peasant population—noisy enough in the villages—and, having gone on in advance of all our escort, we found them, for the first time, disposed to be troublesome, vociferating after us '*Tojin*, *Baba*,' Chinese trafficker or merchant, their only idea of a foreigner being that of a Chinese and a merchant. Tojin is their name for a Chinese, and Baba for a huckster or trafficker, also for an old woman. Boys and even men followed us from village to village to keep up the annoyance. Some of the party wheeled round once or twice, and a very sudden scamper to the rear relieved us for a time, but only until they recovered breath and courage again to pursue. I confess I was not without suspicion that they had been set on by our own people—that is, the officers of our escort—who, for some reason of their own, had desired to delay our departure another day, and were very sulky at being compelled to resume their journey at our time instead of theirs; for it was altogether unusual, to that extent at least, and never occurred either before or after.

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their brooms after them, and shouting as they went, for an advertisement to all whom they might meet, the magic word which brings every Japanese to his knees, '*Shĭtanĭrio!*' or, rather, this was the word which should have been articulated; but, in their mouths, it was transmuted into a sort of monotonous cry or howl, which we often took occasion to leave far behind us by pushing our horses on. So, at the entrance of every *hongen* or hostelry, when any one of rank is expected, a heap of sand on each side of the door is the accustomed mark of respect.

JAPANESE WANDERING MINSTRELS.

As we passed along the road, we often noticed at this part of our course a boy or man with a stall for the sale of small articles of refreshment, and occasionally by his side a sort of framework or gibbet, from which a row of tortoises were suspended by the middle in the air. The poor little animals, wanting the *fulcrum Archimedis* desiderated to move the earth, were vigorously 'beating the air with vain endeavor,' and plying their limbs in the most futile but persevering efforts to make some progress, and escape from such an unnatural position. The torment devised for Ixion by the implacable gods, of perpetual motion without progress, was never more effectually realized. I confess I looked on these unhappy prisoners, exiled from

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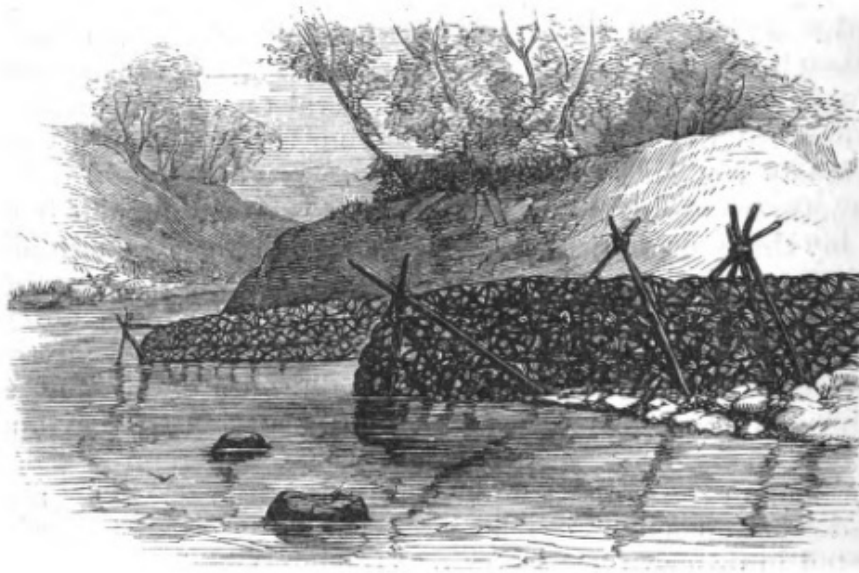
wheat and cotton fields. We came upon a patch or two of tobacco, also, before reaching the river which ran through the valley, broad, rapid, and shallow. We crossed, with our horses, in boats, and on the opposite banks, a little farther on, we found our halting-place for the noon meal. A château of the Prince of Itzi was nestled into the face of the hill opposite us, which Mr. Gower succeeded in photographing, but is scarcely worth reproducing, for the Daimios' houses are something like themselves—there is little to be learned from the exterior.

Here, too, for the first time, we observed, not a '*rope of sand*,' but a rope of boulders or paving-stones, which was worthy of all admiration for the simplicity of the contrivance, its cheapness and efficiency. It consists of a cylinder of variable length, some two feet in diameter, made of split bamboo woven in wide meshes, only just too small to allow the escape of a good-sized pebble, such as the streams roll down from the hills. And with these filled to any length required, they build up dams, and bank up rivers to resist the force of the stream. The only cost is that of the split bamboo, the cheapest of all their products, and the labor, the next cheapest article, required to make it into this sort of net and fill it with stones; the last cost nothing but the trouble of picking them up. Here is an illustration, which I begged the artist would give me, of a de-



A ROPE OF STONES.

vice so ingenious that I could not help thinking, had the scene of the great wizard's exploit been Japan instead of Scotland, he might not have had such an easy victory over the devil,

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I think it is very probable; for in proposing to the Government that they should furnish me with samples of all their woods to send to the Great Exhibition, I said that, *if they chose*, as they were rich in woods, they might find in their export a source of national wealth. They did send some twenty-six specimens, but I observed that any attempt to get at the prices was steadily evaded by the officers, who were careful to observe that they were generally *very scarce and dear*. In truth, there can be no free development of trade in Japan while the Government regards commerce with foreign countries as a detriment and a source of national impoverishment, instead of bringing prosperity and increased wealth. Their political economy and their policy must both change; and the one must precede the other, I fear, before foreign trade can be placed on any assured or permanent basis; but nations and governments are difficult subjects for education, and usually uncommonly slow at learning a new lesson, especially the former, when the object is to build up and not to pull down.

As we were approaching *Kamogawa* we passed a castle with moats and a crenelated wall, both apparently of great extent. I had ordered an express to be sent from Yeddo, to meet me at Miaco, if a mail arrived, and, although a courier had been sent to that city with orders to forward any dispatches by the route I was now taking, I did not feel quite sure that

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there might not be some mistake. While meditating on the chances of their being detained at Miaco, or otherwise missing me, I saw two men stripped to their loin-cloths approaching at a quick trot, one of them carrying over his shoulder a carefully-secured packet, and every one instantly getting out of their way. I immediately recognized by these signs an express with Government dispatches, and for a moment hoped they might be mine; but, without deigning to look at us, they sped swiftly on, and I had the greatest difficulty, by sending

JAPANESE POST—AN EXPRESS.

a mounted officer after them, to get an answer that they were an 'Imperial express carrying dispatches to the Government at Miaco.' Even this was not altogether satisfactory; for, as the express courier who would have my own would be sent to Miaco by Government officials, and suppose he was carrying Government dispatches, they might still be my unfortunate letters that I had seen speed past me. It was not until many

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ing slopes. It was like the old familiar face of a friend, and I doffed my cap in greeting and salutation, to the great delight of the Japanese, who felt, no doubt, it was only a proper mark of respect to the majesty of their sacred mountain.

I felt now the journey was really drawing to a close. Three days more would bring us into the old road traversed the year before in my first pilgrimage. The Hakoni range only lay between us and the sea-shore, by which the high road to Yeddo took its course on to Foogisawa. From thence a sharp morning ride of five leagues would take us into Kanagawa.

So, on the thirty-second day after we started from Nagasaki, I arrived at the British Consulate in Kanagawa, without accident or serious contretemps, right glad to have performed the journey; thankful too, though less so, perhaps, than, as coming events soon proved, we ought all to have been, for our preservation from serious peril by the way.

OUR CHIEF YACONIN.

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