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## JAPAN'S FASCINATION.



AMONG the returning friends at The Carolina is Mr. James Todd of Pittsburg, who is back with Mrs. Todd for his annual sojourn and quail shooting, to which he is a devotee.

After leaving here last spring Mr. Todd spent several months in Japan and he talks entertainingly of the trip. "Japan is not by any means as represented," says Mr. Todd, "but, nevertheless, there is no denying its great fascination for tourists.

"They call it the 'Flowery Kingdom,' for instance, but there are comparatively few flowers except those under cultivation. They do wonderful work in the greenhouses to be sure, but it is not far in advance of the work we are today doing in America. Japan has, nevertheless, been doing this work for a great many hundred years and the people are flower crazy.

"Everyone has heard of the chrysanthemums and one hears a great deal about wistaria, but the wistaria of Japan, cultivated or uncultivated, does not compare with wistaria as I have seen it in Richmond, or right here in Pinehurst on The Holly Inn veranda, for example.

"Then, again, Japan has originated little and copied much, often improving on the original idea. Japan's real attraction is its reputation, and the average tourist comes away more impressed with this reputation than with reality, for he hears about a great many things which he does not see, and which if he did see, would not impress him so forcibly.

"One of the most interesting sights we saw was the collection of captured Russian arms assembled in the park at Tokio, of which the central attraction is a big eight-inch gun, in perfect condition, which was taken from Port Arthur. It makes a most impressive memorial of that great strife, and attracts a great deal of attention from the Japanese, as well as from the foreign-born residents and visitors to the city. At present the memorial is surrounded by a light wire fence of a temporary character.

"There are other big steel cannon, many of them scored with shot marks, some of them with twenty-five or thirty gouges, many of them three inches deep, and there are forests of muskets, lines upon lines of them extending away down either side of the main drive.

"Taken altogether, the collection constitutes as striking and impressive a reminder of the prowess of the 'little men' as one could conceive. It's alone worth crossing the ocean to see.

"Another thing that interested me very much was watching fishermen taking fish with cormorants or ducks, in the rivers. Two of these fishermen go out together, at night, in a long boat with torches at both ends, and with them some fifty of the cormorants which are on leashes. When a school of the fish, little trout which gather in the 'riffles,' are found the birds are turned loose, and it's fun to watch them gather the fish up. When a bird finds difficulty in swallowing or gets

a particularly good trout, he is yanked in and made to disgorge his catch into a tub, and it doesn't take long to get a good sized tubfull of these really delicious pan fish.

"Japanese art and handicraft is always fascinating, and it is astonishing what remarkable bargains the shrewd buyer may pick up. In this particular the Japanese excel and are, without doubt, originators to a great degree, generation after generation of artists and artisans having been responsible for results which no other race has ever or will ever surpass.

"As a country Japan impresses one as being all rice fields and all people. Everywhere the fields stretch away and everywhere one wonders where so many people live."

### HIS "QUARTERLY REPORT."

#### Rural Postmaster Complies With Department Regulations.

The following is a verbatim copy of the first report made to Postmaster General Cortelyou by a newly appointed postmaster in a rural district of North Carolina:

"muster Jorge Cortelyou, President of The United States,—Dear sir been required by the instructions of the post office to report quarterly, I now fulfil that present duty by reporting as follows. The harvestin has been goin on purty wel and most of the naburs have got thur cuttin about dun, wheet is hardly a average crop on rollin lans corn is yellerish and wont cut morn ten booshils to the aker the health of the community is only tollerable meesels and cholry has broken out in about 2 and a half mile from hear, thar are a powful awaken on the subject of religion in the Potts naborhood and many soles are being made to know thar sins forgiven. Miss Nancy Micks a neer nabur had a new baby but he is a poor scraggy little feller and wont live half his day this is about, all i know and have to report the present quarter give my respects to MISS Cortelyou and subscribe myself yours trooly."

### "Famous Fort Fisher."

(Concluded from page 5.)

after the first attack as a Christmas gift to Governor Vance, and were by him placed on granite bases at the principal entrance to the capitol square here, where they now stand, the writer having placed under them bronze plates which tell their interesting history. Two 32-pounder smooth-bore cannon taken from the Norfolk navy yard, and in the battery at Fort Caswell, which the Confederates rifled and furnished with reinforces at the Tredegar works, Richmond, flank the noble monument which the state has erected in the capitol square to her Confederate dead, and which bears the proud inscription, under the seal of North Carolina:

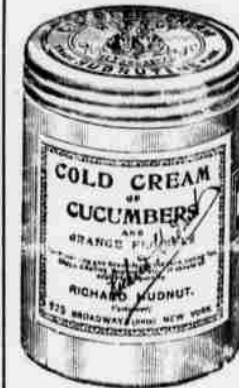
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—FRED A. OLDS.

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