

THE WILMINGTON POST
WILMINGTON, N. C., MARCH 7, 1872.

Our Latest Japanese Guests. The women of the Party—How they Came to be Permitted to Come—Gossip about Their Looks, &c.

Our Japanese visitors, having escaped from the snow blockade and other perils of the Plains, are now on their way to Washington, where they will be the lions and tigers of a day. As everything connected with their visit is now in order, the following, taken from the San Francisco Bulletin, may be found interesting:

There is a bit of religion connected with the departure of the Japanese from time-honored traditions in allowing five young ladies, daughters of high officers, to leave home and reside in a foreign land. It seems that Minister DeLong, with characteristic zeal, assisted Iwakura in sending his sons to college, and when the latter returned his acknowledgment for the Minister's kind attentions, he visited Mr. DeLong's house in person. Struck with the elegant and orderly arrangement of the interior of the dwelling and the numerous evidences of comfort, Iwakura became inquisitive and began a series of interrogations.

"How is it that your house is so neat and pleasant?" says Iwakura.

"Because," replied the Minister, "a lady manages the household."

This reply set Iwakura to thinking, and, as he is a bit of a philosopher, he quickly propounded questions directly to the point, and received answers equally pertinent.

Mr. DeLong told Iwakura that the women of America were allowed to visit places of public amusement with their husbands, had almost as much freedom as the men, and, in order that this freedom might be appreciated, these women were educated.

In America, women commanded more respect than in Japan, and was not the slave of her husband. It was good that women should be educated and respected. Iwakura remembered Mr. DeLong's words, and the demolition of one tradition about females is due, in a great measure, to their joint efforts.

The young ladies, Misses Yoshimas, Onyeda, Yamagwa, Tsuda and Nagai, who came with the embassy, are not princesses though daughters of high, wealthy officials, and members of the Japanese "upper ten". The two eldest, who are about sixteen years of age, have an excellent Japanese education, and the other three have advanced as far in native studies as their youth would admit.

The social position of the female sex among the Japanese appears to be more favorable than in most pagan countries. The daughters in a Japanese family receive an equal amount of paternal care and attention with that bestowed on the male offspring. Nothing beyond the commonly prevalent pagan sentiment of the inferiority of the female operates to the disadvantage of women in the family circle.

Among the leading classes, the girls are taught dancing and vocal and instrumental music. The universal art of dyeing the hair a deep red color and painting only beautifying the face with a powder of flower dust, is one of the features of the Japanese in their toilet—in which the American lady can so far surpass her that a comparison would be tedious. Our Japanese visitors may thus have a good average representation of ladies of the first class, and, of course, are unmarried and disengaged.

Their lady-like demeanor has won them a host of friends among the American women, who declare they are perfectly charming. They are vivacious, yet self-reliant and dignified in manners. In the ordinary mutual intercourse of friends and families, the women have their share, according to Hawkins' report in 1854, and rounds of visiting and tea parties are kept up as busily in Japan as in the United States.

Yet the Japanese female is considered by her people far inferior to the man, and is, after all that has been said, under unwhole-some restraint.

Obituary.

Gowen Clark died ten minutes after five o'clock, P. M., on the 26th day of February, 1872. He was born in 1800, thus he died in his seventy second year. He had charge of the robing room of the Supreme Court of the United States from A. D. 1832 until his death. He was an acceptable member of the Nineteenth-street Baptist Church from 1847 until his death, beloved by all who knew him.

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