

OUR ORIENTAL VISITORS.

Arrival of the Japanese Embassy in Chicago.

The Distinguished Gentlemen and Ladies Cordially Welcomed.

Address by Mayor Medill and Reply by Iwakura.

The Embassy to be Shown Round the City To-day.

The Japanese Embassy left Burlington, Iowa, night before last about 12 o'clock, and arrived in Chicago yesterday afternoon at half-past 2. Their progress through the State was without special incident. We can easily imagine that by this time they begin to be slightly wearied with foreign travel and that the monotonous prairie scenery through which their last day's journey lay, had for them few attractions. Considerable curiosity to catch a glimpse of them was visible all along the road. At every town and village, crowds of people assembled at the stations, gathered not only from the immediate vicinity, but from a radius of many miles in the country. Upon a people like the Japanese, instinctively polite and well bred, these phases of American civilization must have been an unpleasant impression. The average depot lounge of American towns is not a particularly agreeable animal, even when quiescent; and when laboring under any special excitement, he is exceedingly disagreeable to contemplate. A sight of ragged, unkempt men and boys staring in upon them, with wild eyes, flattening their dirty noses against the car windows, and occasionally crying out "Come out here, and let us see yet," or "Show yourselves, you yaller duffers," could not fail to impress disagreeably the refined and dignified gentlemen of this Embassy. The matter was explained to them, and they doubtless appreciated the situation, knowing that there are ill-bred people in all nations.

THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed to meet the Embassy upon the road consisted of Mr. McAvoy, President of the Common Council, and Aldermen Mcgenness, Shaflner, Buehler, Woodman, Thompson, and Culleton. These gentlemen arose with the early bird yesterday morning, and went to Aurora by the 7 o'clock train. A special car had been provided for their accommodation. Arriving at Aurora they found that they had considerable time upon their hands before the guests should arrive. How to spend the lagging moments was the problem to be solved. A few reporters were with the party, but, having been from between the sheets untimely pulled, they were in no condition to afford entertainment to a lot of *blase* Aldermen. Fortunately, the Aldermanic deputation was met by some good Samaritans of Aurora, who acted as guides, and showed the Chicago strangers the sights of that great city. They were taken to the pinnacle of the highest building in the place, and shown the wonders of the prairie country, and the glory thereof. The Council Chamber was visited, and the archives of the "City of the Morn" exposed to public view. Wearing, at length, with sight-seeing, the delegation of city fathers bled themselves to the highest-priced hostelry in the place, and took a good square meal. Scarcely had they removed the remains of the sumptuous repast from the interstices between the teeth, when it was announced that the train containing the Embassy was in that *terra incognita* known in Aurora as "beyond the bridge." The deputation had in the meantime received journalistic accessions from Chicago.

ALL AURORA GATHERED ITSELF TOGETHER,

and came as one man to the station to see the Orientals. The journalist who thoroughly understood his business would estimate the number at 10,000. Unprejudiced persons, unaccustomed to exaggeration, might fall considerably below this estimate. All the women with large feet were there, to such an extent that it was difficult to get about on the platform. All the young men who part their hair in the middle were on hand, trying to appear well balanced. All the bad boys, whose mothers didn't know they were on the exterior, were rushing about like mad. It would seem that there are no schools in Aurora, or, if there are, they are not patronized by those who are most sadly in need of education. Fathers and mothers came, leaning upon each other's parental arms. Country lovers were there holding by each other's cotton-gloved hands, and, in their mutual devotion, almost forgetting the absorbing topic of interest. Mingled with the crowd were a few staid and well-behaved people, who knew why they had come, and acted rationally. Probably such a motley crowd could not be collected anywhere outside of Aurora; certainly not anywhere outside of the United States. The multitude was distributed along the track on both sides, on spare cars that were standing near, in every available nook and corner, where vantage ground for sight could be obtained, and all made pretence to listen, and gazed incessantly into the dim "distance beyond the bridge."

THE ORIENTALS AT DINNER.

Presently the train came thundering in. Long before it stopped both platforms of every car were crowded with young Aurora. Through the windows of the dining-room car our Japanese brothers from over the sea could be seen at dinner. An interior view of this palace of meat and ambrosia was vouchsafed to our reporter. In our own Oriental nobility at their migratory symposium. They had not long been used to the knife and fork of American civilization, but they used those gastronomic instruments as an average American company seen from day to day at our best hotels. Their manner was otherwise quiet and decorous, and characterized by good-breeding. They ate with due appreciation of the viands before them, as well as of the proprieties of the occasion. A lack of good breeding is nowhere so easily discovered as at table. Judged by this test, and taking into consideration their manners as regards the executions of European etiquette, our Japanese visitors are truly entitled to be called gentlemen.

ILL-MANNERED PEOPLE.

Nothing could well have been ruder or more ill-mannered than the conduct of the crowd at the station. At every pane of glass there was an ill-favored visage. At some of the windows at least a dozen persons were peering in at the same time. They climbed over the tops of the cars, they stood upon the brakes to the imminent peril of their valuable lives, they perched upon one another's backs, they looked under one another's arms, they tried every muscular resource to get a momentary glimpse of the strange visitors. The car which contained the young ladies of the Embassy was the centre of the young ladies. Around it flocked young men and maidens, and old men with booby locks, and ancient matrons in their last quarter of a century. The crowding, staring, loud-talking and vulgar comments continued until the train was all under way, and the depot became a mere speck in the distance. It seemed for awhile that this pretty hillside country of Aurora was to have its population increased by a hundred or two mangled corpses, but the entire population of the city was entirely dropped within a mile of the station without dismembering or harming any one.

"OUR COMMITTEE" INTRODUCED THEMSELVES.

As soon as the Chicago Committee could shoulder their way through the crowd, they entered the car containing the ladies. Here they were met by Minister DeLong, Mr. Brooks, Japanese Consul at San Francisco, and Mr. Rice, interpreter to the American Legation. Kindly greetings were interchanged, and all were made acquainted. After the train had passed Aurora a few miles, Iwakura, Prime Minister and Ambassador Extraordinary; Kido, of the Privy Council; Okubo, Minister of Finance; Ito, Acting Minister of Public Works, and Yamao, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, were ushered into the car, and mutual introductions followed. The members of the Committee of the Council were first presented, afterward, other gentlemen accompanying the party. Mr. Rice acted as interpreter, pronouncing the name of each gentleman presented. The distinguished Oriental shook hands warmly with each as the names were successively announced. The five Ambassadors were all in European costume. Their bearing was dignified and courteous. Iwakura only adhered to his native customs so far as to wear his black hair tied with a silk cord at the top of his head. He is a rather fine-looking man, with decidedly Caucasian features. He speaks English with tolerable fluency, having spent some months at a school in London, England. He conversed without reserve with the gentlemen of the city delegation. After a few moments spent in exchanging glittering colloquial generalities, the Ambassadors politely bowed themselves out, and returned to their own car. The Committee remained with Mr. DeLong, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Rice, all of whom replied politely and patiently to the multitude of questions that were asked them, the representatives of the press, and a few of the Ambassadorial retinue. The young mademoiselles occupied one corner of the car, saying little to any one, but watching the flat, unforgiving landscape through the car windows as the train sped toward Chicago.

PERSONNEL OF THE JAPANESE.

Although the Japanese and their retinue come principally from Yeddo, or its immediate vicinity, there is a singular variety in their physiognomy. Physically considered, they are small, rarely exceeding five feet eight inches in height, but symmetrically formed. In their faces is to be seen a singular variety of characteristics. Some have nearly the Caucasian type of features, the high, square forehead, the nose straight, or slightly aquiline, and the mouth and chin delicately curved and rounded. Others have the high cheek bones and the narrowing chin and forehead of the aboriginal American. Some have strictly Mongolian faces, some a Malay cast of countenance, while a few show lineaments of the African race, but indistinctly traceable. All have black eyes, black, straight hair, and the usual Oriental complexion. Nearly all have a bright, intelligent look, and all show a quickness of apprehension truly remarkable. The entire retinue are clothed in the European style of dress. The garments were evidently not made for the manly figures that they adorn, but show that awkward guessing at the mechanism of the human form that indicates the wholesale manufacturer. Watch chains are quite commonly worn, and are probably genuine gold ornaments. Linen is generally worn, but not by all, checked woolen shirts adorning the manly bosom of a few of the retinue. The neckties are principally black, and are generally of the kind used by unpeevish Americans to secrete soiled linen. The favorite hat is the felt tile, although a few wore the cylindrical stovepipe, which was not unbecoming. The shoes, like the upper garments, did not show that special fitness that indicates a close relationship between the manufacturer and the consumer. The older Japanese gentlemen hold their age well. There was nowhere any sign of baldness, nor even thinness of the capillary covering. The students, of whom there are fourteen or fifteen, range from ten or eleven to eighteen or twenty years of age. These left last night for the Eastern colleges and schools where they are to be educated. A few of the Embassy speak a little English, which they learnt in Japan, or in English schools which they have before attended. One of the most distinguished of the adults is Yamata, Brigadier General of the Japanese army, who is said to have won more battles than any American General.

THE YOUNG LADIES.

The five young misses who form a part of the retinue are related to some of the noble families of Japan. None of them speak a word of English. Their names and ages are as follows: Miss

Ouyeda, aged 16; Miss Yashiwashi, aged 15; Miss Yawagawa, aged 12; Miss Wagal, aged 10, and Miss Fezda, aged 8. They wear the native dress, with the exception of shoes, which are of American make. The costume seems to be a sort of tunic, cut straight, as the principal garment, and over this a sort of sacque, with flowing sleeves. The apparel of Miss Ouyeda yesterday consisted of light blue silk with large flowers. A sort of crimson underhandkerchief concealed the upper part of the bust. The others wore dresses in the same style, but the different parts of the apparel were of other colors. No bonnets were worn, and the little brown hands were entirely guiltless of gloves. The hair was brought from all sides to the top of the head, and there fastened with tortoise shell pins handsomely variegated. Their features are less intellectual than those of the males, the noses and chins being indistinct of outlines, and indicating a want of firmness. They seem to bear their isolation from the parental fireside, and the loss of fond mothers, with firmness. Even the smallest one, who is but 9, has no tears to shed for the family relatives which she left in Japan. Their mission is to be educated here, and to return to Japan to assist in rearing female wall-flowers to adorn the court of the Mikado.

Not having any means of communication with those about them, and having little to say even to the masculine friends from Japan, they seemed isolated and lonely. One of the Committee, rather remarkable for personal beauty, made some advances to the youngest ones, and were kindly received, although the conversation was limited. For outer garments the young ladies had been provided with heavy woollen shawls, which they wore when out-of-doors.

NEARING THE CITY.

As the train neared Chicago the Committee was invited into the diningroom car where Champagne was served, all drinking to the health of the distinguished guests. Mr. De Long made a brief speech of thankfulness for the cordiality of this reception, and expressing gratification that the work of restoration was progressing so rapidly. At the depot the party were met by carriages, and taken to the Tremont House. A reporter was smuggled into the coach containing the ladies, where he remained concealed like Achilles among the women of Lyeomedes. It was suspected by the worldly-wise that this was not a chance occurrence, but a shrewd attempt to introduce the Swedenborgian faith to the Embassy.

AT THE TREMONT HOUSE

there were gathered in the parlor about fifteen Aldermen, General White, of the Board of County Commissioners, General Sheridan and his handsome staff, all in the whitest and newest kid gloves, and several other gentlemen of distinction.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mayor Medill welcomed the Embassy in the following speech:

PRINCE IWAKURA, CHIEF ENVOY OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY: A few weeks ago I had the honor of exchanging salutations with your Excellency in San Francisco, by telegraph. But while science, through the inventive genius of an American, has enabled us to transmit messages across a continent, and over mountains, in defiance of the elements, it has not yet been able to transport trains without detention when the Snow-King holds his revals among the Rocky Mountains; but it is a pleasure to know that you were in the society of the "Saints," while you practised the virtue of patience. But all's well that ends well, and now that your Embassy have arrived in safety, after the long and wearisome delay, we extend both our sympathy and welcome, and trust that, in your future travels in our country, the elements may be more propitious.

We are heartily glad to meet your Embassy, believing that it will prepare the way to a more intimate acquaintance and larger intercourse between the people of Japan and America.

We have been informed of your high rank, statesmanship and influence in the Government of the Japanese Empire, and the purpose and dignity of the mission of which you are the Chief Envoy; and we have also heard with exceeding pleasure of the liberality of your views, and those of the Emperor of Japan, in regard to intercourse with foreign powers; The people of this country entertain sentiments of respect and the kindest feelings for your countrymen, and wish to foster and encourage trade and commerce. Japan will always find a sympathizing friend in America. Your country is the nearest to ours of Asiatic nations. Steam navigation has reduced the distance and made them neighbors. Bore long they will be connected by telegraphic cable and thus brought into hourly communication.

We watch with deep interest the rapid progress your countrymen are making in modern ideas, arts, and culture, and with admiration the spirit of toleration and liberty, under the encouragement of your Government, which is supplanting the old habits of non-intercourse and seclusion. The ancient barriers of prejudice against foreigners appear to be melting rapidly away, and with them the suspicions and antipathies which isolation always engender. The great civilizing agency of our times is Commerce, which not only exchanges commodities and supplies wants, but exchanges ideas and knowledge, teaching each nation what all the others know, stimulates curiosity, quickens thought, liberalizes opinions, dispels prejudice, and improves Government. Under the wise and sagacious leadership of the present Emperor, Japan has taken the lead of the Oriental nations, and is leaving them far behind in the march of improvement. She is showing herself to be not too proud to learn from other nations, and to prefer the genial sunlight of modern civilization to the cold and darkness of non-intercourse.

We are rejoiced to hear that she has naturalized the two great motors of modern progress, steam and electricity, and is now actively engaged in building steamships and lines of telegraph and railways, and is introducing steam-power for general manufacturing purposes, and labor-saving agricultural implements, and modern smelting ovens and making iron and steel. The power of a nation is measured by the extent of its use of this metal. We feel flattered at the partiality Japan has shown for Americans and their inventions. Your Government has recently selected our Commissioner of Agriculture, General Carran, a citizen of Illinois to instruct its farmers in the use of American implements of husbandry and methods of cultivation.

We learn, also, that your Government has adopted our decimal monetary notation, and our "greenback" system of currency; and the last news we have is, that your Government is seriously contemplating the adoption of the beautiful and swift Roman alphabet, with an orthography as nearly phonetic as possible. I doubt not, in this last respect, it will be more successful than wore the Anglo-Saxons.

The increasing number of Japanese students in American and European Colleges is another sure sign of real progress, for those young men will carry back with them the literature and sciences of our Universities, and become teachers of the same in their own country. We feel it a compliment that, among the students in our schools, are your own sons; and our pleasure is heightened by the information that you have brought the first delegation of young ladies to finish their education in our Female Seminaries. We assure you they will be tenderly treated, and their stay in our country made agreeable.

All these proofs of progress and improvement are hailed by Americans with unfeigned pleasure. Every step forward will receive the sympathy and encouragement of our people. Americans feel no jealousy of other nations. They are best pleased when other peoples are making rapid advancement in art, science, and government. Their highest ambition is to contest for the prize of excellence in the international race of civilization and good works.

The citizens of Chicago regret that it is not in their power to show your Embassy the degree of attention which could wish, in consequence of a recent calamity, which laid the better part of the city in ruins; but we propose, to-morrow, to exhibit what is left, and what is being done to replace what was so suddenly destroyed, and hope your stay in Chicago will be pleasant, and that you will carry away agreeable impressions of our people.

IWAKURA'S REPLY.

Iwakura said, in reply: For myself, and in behalf of those who are with me, I desire to thank you, Mr. Mayor, and those whom you represent, for the kind manner in which we have been received. Our visit to America is for the purpose of gaining knowledge in regard to your institutions, to which we may be admitted in practice when we return to Japan. The Mikado is a friend of progress, and a friend of all those who speak the English language. I had heard of your city before I left my native land. I sympathized with you in your great disaster. But the manner in which you are restoring what you have lost is most gratifying and is only another evidence of the wonderful recuperative powers of the American people after suffering severe injuries. Allow me to congratulate you on the great future that is before you, and in closing, again to thank you for this kind and hearty welcome.

INTRODUCTIONS.

During the delivery of the speeches the only Japanese present were the Ambassadors, the interpreters, and a very few others of the retinue. At the close, General Sheridan and staff, and other gentlemen, were presented formally to the Embassy. The Ambassadors then retired to the handsome suites of apartments prepared for them by Mr. Drake. Sixty-five are the guests of the Tremont House; the remainder are stopping at the Grand Central Hotel.

PROGRAMME FOR TO-DAY.

The Committees met immediately afterwards to perfect their arrangements for to-day, one of the Japanese interpreters acting as their representative. Invitations were received and accepted to visit the Board of Trade at 1 o'clock to-day, to visit the Skinner School in the course of the drive, and to witness the burning of a house and the extinction of the flames by a Babcock, at some place on the North Side, near the Water Works.

The Embassy will be driven about the city to-day in the most devious manner, as witness the following route. The cortege will leave the hotels at 10 o'clock this morning, going north on Michigan avenue to Van Buren street, west to Washburn avenue, north to Lake street, west to Clark, north to Michigan street, east to Dearborn street, north to Chicago avenue, east to Water street, west to Dearborn street, north to Lincoln Park, west to Wells, south to Michigan street, east to LaSalle street tunnel, south to Madison street, west to Jefferson, north to Washington, west to Union Park, south on Ashland avenue to Adams street, east to Halsted street, south to Twelfth street, east to Washburn avenue, south to Thirty-first street, east to Michigan avenue, north to Twenty-sixth street, east to South Park avenue, north to Twenty-fourth street, west to Calumet avenue, north to Twentieth street, west to Michigan avenue, and back to the place of starting.

LAST EVENING.

During the remainder of the afternoon and last evening the Embassy remained quiet, receiving few calls. Some of the younger of the members of the suite went out to walk with the young ladies, the sons of Iwakura being of the party. A portion of the burnt district was visited, and other interesting localities on the South Side. Fourteen of the students left last evening for their Eastern destinations. It is expected that the rest of the party will leave for Washington this evening.