

JAPANESE IN CHICAGO.

THEY FORM A CLUB FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND ASSISTANCE.

Something About the Most Prominent Men
Who Make This City Their Home—They
Are Good Citizens, Learned, and All
Hold Positions of Trust and Responsi-
bility—First Visit of Subjects of the Mi-
kado to the City by the Lake—Their
Unique World's Fair Building.

The World's Columbian Exposition has drawn to Chicago a number of Japanese, who are connected in various ways with the exhibits of that country. Twenty-five workmen are engaged in the erection of the Hoodo, or Phenix Temple, which is a gift to Chicago from the Japanese Nation. These men live in a house near the World's Fair Grounds, eat some European food, but live chiefly on Japanese fare. They are, like the mass of that people, merry and light-hearted, and naturally attract the attention of all visitors to the World's Fair grounds. The foreman of these workmen is S. Ota; the superintendent of construction is K. Takashima; the architect of the buildings is M. Kum, who holds a high rank among Japanese architects. The World's Fair Commissioner is S. Tejima, and his Secretaries are T. Uchida and Y. Yambei. They have rented a house on Cornell avenue, near the World's Fair grounds, and are living there.

The large number of Japanese, both permanently and temporarily located in this city, easily led to the formation of a club for mutual benefit and assistance. It has been organized with Dr. M. Ikuta of the University of Chicago as President, S. Sasaki as Secretary, and K. Nakayama, who is about to open a Japanese store, as Treasurer. The club, which does not yet include all the resident Japanese, numbers twenty or twenty-five, and is to hold meetings monthly. The regular place of meeting has not yet been secured, but will probably be in some down-town location. This club will be an excellent bond of union between these Japanese who are far from home, and will serve to keep alive, if any such artificial means is necessary, the Yamato-domashii, or "Yamato-spirit," of that superlatively patriotic nation.

It would, perhaps, be difficult to ascertain when the first Japanese set his foot on the soil of this city. It must have been, within forty years; for, until Commodore Perry "opened" Japan, in 1853-'54, no Japanese, except shipwrecked sailors, were able to reach even the Pacific shores of the United States. It is probably within twenty-five years, for it was not until after the revolution of 1868 that the Japanese were allowed a large degree of freedom in traveling to a foreign country. It is, indeed, just twenty years since the first large company of Japanese came to this city. They were the forty-nine members of the famous embassy sent out to visit the fifteen treaty powers concerning a revision of the treaties of 1858-'59. This embassy consisted of one Ambassador Extraordinary (with private secretary), four Vice-Ambassadors Extraordinary, eleven Secretaries (of four grades), one Attaché, ten Commissioners, and twenty-one subordinate officers of various departments of the Japanese Government.

Personnel of the Party.

The Ambassador Extraordinary was Sho-ni-i [first (of the) second rank] Tomomi Iwakura, who, born in 1825, was then 47 years old. He took a prominent part in the revolutionary war of 1867-'9, as an inveterate opponent of the "Tycoon," and after the revolution became a leading member of the reconstructed government. He served as Vice-President of the Cabinet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Left-Hand (or junior) Prime Minister. On his return to Japan from this embassy, having opposed the Korean war project, he incurred the enmity of the military class, who attempted to assassinate him. He was attacked the evening of Jan. 14, 1873, when returning from an interview with the Emperor, by a band of nine roving outlaws. He was wounded in two places, but falling into the moat escaped in the darkness, and afterwards recovered. He died a natural death in 1883.

Ju-sam-mi [second (of the) third rank] Takagoshi Kido, only 39 years old, was of the



E. WATASE.

Choshin clan, one of the first and foremost enemies of the Shogun. He was a Privy Councillor and a man of "the first intellect."

He was able, stainless, patriotic, constructive, and was called "the brain and pen" of the revolution. He died in 1877, in the prime of life, and was still needed by his country.

Ju-sam-mi Toshimitsu Okubo belonged to the warlike Satsuma clan, and was "the sword of the revolution." He was then 43 years old and held the office of Minister of Finance. He was famous as a lion-hearted soldier and General, an able statesman and diplomat, and is still the idol of the Japanese youth. He was assassinated in 1878.

Ju-shi-i [second (of the) fourth rank] Hirobumi Ito, was then only 32 years old and survives as Count Ito, a former and the present Prime Minister of Japan. He has held numerous offices in addition. In his former premiership he was, on account of his "blood and iron policy" and his well-known admiration of the great German statesman, given the title of "the Bismarck of Japan." His greatest fame will always rest upon the fact that he was the maker and expounder of the Japanese Constitution, promulgated in 1889.

Ju-shi-i Massuga Yamaguchi also survives and holds the title of Baron. In 1872 he was about 34 years old and was Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is now a Privy Councillor.

Gave \$5,000 to the Fire Sufferers.

This special embassy, en route from San Francisco to Washington, reached Chicago Feb. 26, 1872, and left the next day. Having been treated with warm hospitality and having seen the destruction and the suffering caused by the big fire, they, with native kindness and generosity, made a contribution of \$5,000 for the benefit of the poor of the city. Mr. Joseph Medill was then Mayor and received the donation from their hands. The attendant correspondence was as follows:

SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY, CHICAGO, Feb. 27, 1872.—To His Excellency J. Medill, Mayor of the City of Chicago—Sir? Permit us to add a small offering to the relief fund which the benevolent of your Nation have donated to alleviate the distress of those of your people who suffered by the late fire. Kindly accept and dispose of it as your best judgment may dictate. With many thanks for your kind civilities, we remain, yours respectfully,
[Signatures of the five Ambassadors].

To Shonii Tomomi Iwakura, Jusaumi Takayoshi Kido, and others of the Japanese Embassy—Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of \$5,000 from Embassy of his Imperial Majesty, of which you are the chief Envoys, at the hands of Mr. Charles W. Brooks, Consul of Japan at San Francisco, donated to alleviate the distress of our citizens who suffered by the late calamitous conflagration. Permit me, in behalf of the people of Chicago, to tender me, in their most grateful thanks for this wholly unexpected and munificent gift. They will esteem it as an additional proof that the great nation you represent has enrolled itself among the progressive and civilized powers of the earth, as well as a lively testimonial of the personal sympathy of your

Embassy for the misfortunes of this portion of your American friends. Respectfully yours,
JOSEPH MEDILL, Mayor.

Even before this Japanese youth had begun to flock to this country in large numbers to obtain an education in our schools and had, most of them, turned towards Rutgers College in New Jersey. This preference was largely due to the prominence and activity in Japan of the missionaries of the Dutch Reformed Church.

First Students in Chicago.

But during the school year of 1872-'73 there were three Japanese students in attendance at the University of Chicago. They were Katsumichi Shibukawa of Nagasaki and Takatsuo Matsudaira and Goro Kimura of Yedo (Tokyo). Mr. Matsudaira, as his name would indicate, was of a noble family of some wealth, and was profuse in the distribution of gifts among his American friends. He particularly remembered Dr. J. C. Burroughs, then President of the university, with choice and interesting presents, which are prized by the family.

During the last twenty years undoubtedly many Japanese have come to this city, but it is probably only within a few years that they have come to remain for a long period. There are now in Chicago and its immediate vicinity twenty Japanese who are more or less permanent residents. Some are clerks, some are engaged in mercantile pursuits, some are students, and some are teachers and lecturers, and they form altogether quite an interesting colony. First and foremost is Jokichi Takamine, chemist, inventor, and World's Fair Commissioner. He was born in Tokyo while it was still called Yedo and is thirty-seven years old. He left Japan at the age of 14, studied in the Univer-

been only one year the former three years in America. Mr. Jumonji was born near Sendai, a city famous as the castle town of the great Dateclan, whose most famous Prince, Masamune, in 1615, sent an embassy with presents to the Pope, Paul V. A brother of Mr. Jumonji had the honor of representing the Sendai district in the First Imperial Diet.

He Is Studying English Literature.

Another Japanese of this city was born near Sendai. He calls himself "George T. Sasaki," but his real name is Joji (or Tsunenosuki) Sasaki. It seems that to his Japanese name, T. Sasaki, he has prefixed an English name with a sound almost like that of the Japanese Joji. He came to this country five years ago with the purpose of becoming more familiar with the ways and customs of the American people and of seeing "the advanced condition of civilized Christianity." He has had a good education; has given special attention in English literature to the works of Charles Dickens and Herbert Spencer, and finds pleasure in reading the Bible and in studying the theories of Confucius. He is employed in the office of a weekly paper of this city, and he claims to have no aspiration for wealth and no ambition except to be an independent, plain citizen of the Japanese Empire.

Kyntaro Hirata is a lithographer in the employ of the Chicago Bank Note company. He was born in 1866 in Kaga, one of the most important provinces under the old régime. His father was a *Samurai* (Knight) in the service of the Prince of Kaga, who was one of the richest and most powerful of the barons of the empire. Young Hirata was educated in drawing, painting, and lithography in Tokyo, and served a year and a half in the army in the map engraving department. When he left Japan about three years ago he

increased facilities of a thorough training here, will surely be of great service to their people.

Professors at Chicago University.

The opening of the University of Chicago has made a small addition to the number of Japanese in this city, one post-graduate stu-

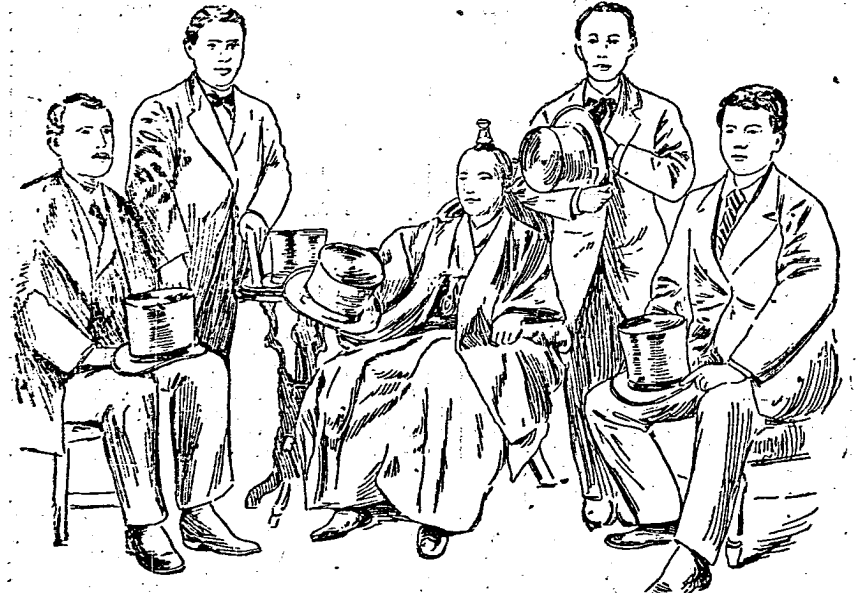


NATSU SAKAKI.

dent and two teachers. The pupil is E. Neada, who is to be a "senior fellow" in Semitic languages; the teachers are Masuo Ikuta, Ph. D., and S. Watase, Ph. D. The former, who is to be assistant in chemistry, graduated from the Imperial University of Tokyo in 1884; pursued post-graduate studies at the Universities of Berlin and Erlangen, from the latter of which he received the degree of Ph. D. in 1887; was a chemist at Hoechst-on-the-Main and in Tokyo, and for the last year has been an assistant in chemistry at Clark University, Worcester, Mass. From that institution the University of Chicago drew its entire corps of teachers in the department of biology, and among them Dr. Watase, who is to be reader in cellular biology. He received the degree of B. S. from the Sapporo College in Yezo in 1884; was a student in zoology in the Imperial University till 1886; was a scholar and fellow for three years in Johns Hopkins University, and for one more year held a special prize fellowship in the same institution; received the degree of Ph. D. there in 1890, and has since been assistant and lecturer in zoology in Clark University. During the last summer he assisted Prof. C. O. Whitman in the Marine Biological Laboratory, Wood's Holl, Mass. Dr. Watase is well-known for his independent researches in morphology, particularly in the phenomena of cell life, and has written a number of papers on biological topics. He has a brother who is a prominent educator in Japan.

The Building at the Fair.

The Japanese Building at the World's Fair grounds will be a unique and attractive structure. The style of the building, Commissioner Teijima says, is after that of the Hoodo or Phenix Palace in the City of Kyoto. It will be divided into three parts, the main or central portion to be devoted to works of art of the Tokugawa period, or the comparatively modern one of 100 years ago. The smaller division at the left will contain art works of the Ashikaga period, extending back 400 years, and the one at the right will be used for the exhibit of the finest and most distinctive specimens of the Fugiwara period, or that of 850 years ago. These three portions or divisions will be decorated after the manner and artistic forms of the respective periods and will in combination present a historic and most interesting and instructive panorama of the highest types of Japanese art for nearly a thousand years. The decorations for the building have all been prepared in the art schools of Japan and will be sent here in parts. Japanese artists and workmen will attend to placing the decorations here.



Toshiwitsu Okubo, Hirobumi Ito, Vice-Ambassadors. Tomomi Iwakura, Masuga Yamaguchi, Ambassador Extraordinary. Takayoshi Kido, Vice-Ambassadors. JAPANESE EMBASSY OF 1872.

sity of Glasgow, and took a post-graduate course in chemistry in London under Prof. Mills, F. R. S. He passed a number of years in England, Scotland, and on the continent; and on his return to Japan was made Councilor of the Societies of Chemistry and Engineering in Tokyo and Director of the Technical College of the Department of Agriculture. He served with ability as Commissioner to the New Orleans Exposition, and at that time visited the phosphate mines of South Carolina and arranged for the first shipment of phosphate rock ever made from the United States to Japan. He also organized in Japan a company with a capital of \$1,000,000 and built a factory operated by Japanese for the manufacture of fertilizers, which have renewed the lands exhausted by centuries of cultivation. Mr. Takamine has also served his native country as Director-General of the Patent Office, which he remodeled after that of the United States and thus made much more efficient.

Mr. Takamine's fame rests entirely upon his inventive genius, which has made a mark in many improvements in the arts and sciences in Japan, but especially in the new ferment process which bears his name. While he was engaged in his scientific studies in London he began to direct his attention to the subject of fermentation, and after several years of patient research he discovered a new process for the production of alcoholic liquors, and of yeast, vinegar, glucose, sugar, etc.

Married a New Orleans Girl.

While in New Orleans, Mr. Takamine made the acquaintance of Miss Carrie Hitch, one of the belles of that city, and they were married.



MASSUO IKUTA.

They have two children, Jakichi Takamine Jr., born Aug. 23, 1888, and Ebenezer T. Takamine, born Aug. 31, 1889.

Associated with Mr. Takamine as assistants in chemical work are two other Japanese, who spend most of their time in Peoria, and whose names are Shimizu and Yamada. Mr. Tetsukichi Shimizu took a special course in chemistry under Dr. Divers in what is now the Imperial University of Tokyo. Both he and Mr. Yamada are thorough, practical chemists, and well-educated, clever men.

The increasing demand for Japanese manufactured articles, useful and ornamental, has necessitated the establishment of Japanese departments in many of the large stores. In Siegel, Cooper & Co.'s this department is in charge of T. Funya, LL. B., of the University of Michigan. Marshall Field & Co. have gone still further, and employ two skilled workmen, Messrs. Kato and Tomomura, in the embroidery department in the manufacture of handkerchiefs, etc. There is also a Japanese clerk in the employ of Wanamaker & Brown; inasmuch as his name, Kusubara, is rather difficult, he is known there as "Mr. K." There used to be a large retail store devoted entirely to the sale of Japanese goods; it was formerly called "Nee Ban," or "Num-

came first to Victoria, B. C., where he passed one year, then he came to Chicago.

There are a number of Japanese attending schools in or about Chicago. Mr. Jumonji was last year a student in a business college.

The Rev. Henry M. Yamama is a student at Naperville and a preacher of the German



MR. TAKAMINE AND CHILDREN.

Evangelical Church. Takosngi, Teishiroki, and Tsuda are the names of three students at Evanston; of these Mr. Tsuda is correspondent for the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* and the *Jiji Shimpō*, two newspapers of Tokyo.

There are also two teachers who may be said to have their headquarters in Chicago, and who go about giving lectures on Japan and the Japanese. One is Yeitaro Okeno, who participated during the summer in the Desplaines camp-meeting; the other is T. Fukushima, formerly a professor in the *Gaku Shuin*, or Nobles' College, in Tokyo. Another teacher is Prof. S. Choyo, who was born in 1857 in Tokyo. He comes of a respectable family of *Samurai* rank, and claims to be a representative of pure Japanese blood. He is, indeed, a good specimen of one type, and Mr. Takamine of another type, of Japanese. Mr. Choyo's ancestors were from Kuratsu, a place famous from the third century A. D. for its manufacture of glazed ware; and they were always great collectors and critics of Japanese and Chinese pottery, paintings, etc. Mr. Choyo is thus by heredity a collector and critic of Japanese antiques. He was educated in the Tokyo University, and gave especial attention to the study of history, Chinese and English. He says that he has studied probably fifty English grammars!

Call Him the "School Sower."

Since graduation he has been foremost in educational work, both as a teacher and a writer, for fifteen years. He has taught in high schools and colleges, and has had some connection, either as instructor or lecturer, with the leading schools of Japan. He has written several books, such as "Selections of English Phrases," "English Speller," and "English-Japanese Unabridged Dictionary," and all have had large sales. He always kept promising youth in his house at his own expense to help them in their education, and he rendered so much assistance to private kindergartens and other schools that his friends bestowed upon him the appellation of "Gakko Janemaki," which means "School Sower." He has always been a strong advocate of English instruction in Japanese schools in order that his country may better be able to keep up with the times and the commercial spirit of the modern world.

Mr. Choyo came to Chicago about a year ago and likes this city on account of its "push" and its vigorous and rapid growth. He is a teacher of the Japanese language in the Parisian School of Languages, and during the summer had a class of prospective tourists, including E. Burton Holmes and A. W. Goodrich, who are now traveling in Japan. He is also a professional critic of Indo-Jap-



MRS. CARRIE H. TAKAMINE.

anese art antique; he compiles catalogues of art objects of the Orient for collectors and writes and lectures on Japanese art. He is living in Evanston.

It was not until quite recently that Chicago had the honor and pleasure of owning two real Japanese maidens (*musuma*), who are now members of the Clara Barton Training School for nurses, No. 1619 Diversey street. They are both natives of Tokyo. Miss Hisa Nagano is 26 and Miss Natsu Sakaki is 21 years old. The former is a graduate of the Doshiisha Girl's School in Kyoto; the latter is an alumna of the Meiji Jogakko of Tokyo. They are both Christians, one a Presbyterian and the other a Congregationalist, and are interested in religious work. They expect to spend some years here in a course of study, and will then return to Japan for active labor. They will engage in practical Christian temperance and philanthropic work, and, with the



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ber Two" ("Number One," or "Ichi Ban," is in San Francisco), but was afterwards operated by Hayes & Tracy under their own name. They, however, now confine themselves to the wholesale trade; and there is a Japanese firm in a down-town building which deals in various articles. The owner is a Mr. Hayashi, who lives in Minneapolis, where he has established a branch. The managers in charge of the Chicago office are Daigen Jumonji and Tadashi Chisaka. The latter has