

we reach the spacious rooms, the walls and panels of which were ornamented with paintings of various animals and figures—tortoises, cranes, dragons, and wondrous unreal monsters. All the furniture, light, neat, and airy, with lacquer-ware, china, and bronzes, gave the entire aspect of the place one of seductive repose. Opening out from the verandah was a well-cultivated garden, where most that was lovely in nature was to be seen: choice flowers and shrubs; ponds in which were gold and silver fish, ever ready to exhibit their lovely tints, amidst water-lilies and other beautiful aquatic plants. This, then, was to be my home for the next few days. During my stay I made the most of the time at my disposal in sight-seeing, and under the guidance of my host many a pleasant trip was arranged. We did not confine ourselves to exploring the city alone, although the sights to be seen there were of the greatest interest, but cruised for some miles round, where are snug little villages with fertile fields highly cultivated, combining to form scenes of beauty and abundance that can scarcely be conceived.

On one occasion, after passing the imperial residence, we ascended one of the highest points of the fortifications in the rear of the castle, from which a fine panoramic view was obtained of the vast city, with its two millions and a half of inhabitants, occupying an area equal to, if not greater than, London. Looking in any direction, the view was