

# THE VIVID EAST

## First Impressions of a Colonial Cleric

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### THE RISEN SUN.

A TRIP TO JAPAN.

#### QUEER CUSTOMS AND FASHIONS.

IN Australia and New Zealand it is not an uncommon thing to hear the question asked: What is the fashion in Brisbane, or Auckland, or Christchurch? If a similar question were asked of Japan, one would have to reply, which fashion? It would be difficult to find any country in the world that presents greater variety in the way of fashion than Japan. But the class that strikes me as being the most amusing is that known as "Hyecala"; pronounced "High Collar"; a term coined from European fashion. Amongst many



A TYPICAL JAPANESE FARMER.

Japanese everything that they can assume or adopt that is European is considered good style. Of course, amongst thousands of educated and travelled Japanese this is all right; and at a function at Tokio, for example, it would be difficult to find a company of frock coat-

ed, silk hatted, patent leather booted gentlemen, more correct than those present. But the fun begins when those who have the "Hyecala" fever do not possess either the knowledge or the means to adopt it properly. The attempt in many instances is humorous in the extreme. A few examples from life will best illustrate this. A man was seen in Osaka with a frock coat on his bare body, getas (Japanese clogs) on his feet, and small hard felt on his head, and his legs completely bare. This man strutted along the street with the air of a man who had attained considerable eminence in social matters.

#### SARTOR RESORTS.

Osaka is not a village, it is a city of a million inhabitants; yet in this same city was seen a man attired in a small round hard felt hat, a short flannel shirt that did not reach his waist, a waist band, and a pair of liga boots. This man was so satisfied with his "Hyecala" condition that he looked with considerable disdain upon those of his fellow countrymen who were not so well attired as he. Near by Nara I saw a father leading his little daughter along a railway platform, whom he had evidently taken to Kobe to have fitted out in "Hyecala" style. The little maid had black shoes, stockings striped with every imaginable colour, a bright velvet dress, and a hat trimmed with the same material of a different colour, adorned with a large feather. Nearly all Japanese walk with the toes turned in, the habit doubtless being the result of the strain upon the foot to keep the getas in position; so the appearance of the little maid as she walked along with her "Hyecala" style may be better imagined than described; she was the centre of an admiring group as she walked and her father seemed to glory in the advance which his daughter had made beyond all her companions in the realm of fashion. Poor girl, she had no waist, and her hair could not be done to suit her European hat, so a more grotesque figure it would be difficult to find.

#### LADIES OF THE RED BLANKET.

In all the cities may be seen groups of men and women from the country who come in to see the sights in most extraordinary attire. One class of such is known as "The Red Blanket Brigade," owing to the fact that something like a red blanket is generally part of their outfit. The women in such groups invariably show the greater part of their limbs, encased in light blue material



AT THE WELL.

which gives them the appearance of wearing blue tights; around them, loosely thrown, they wear the red blanket, while around their head they wear a white cloth. The men sometimes appear

with through the agency of Japanese postcards.

#### HIGH COLLAR WAITRESSES.

At the Seiyoken Hotel, Genyo Park, one of the most fashionable hotels in Tokio, there is employed a staff of very pretty girls to serve refreshments to patrons in a most attractive booth in front of the hotel. It is impossible to gaze upon these girls without amusement. The European takes in the situation at a glance; the attire of the girl is "Hyecala" style with a dash of Japanese thrown in. This is the result: The girls are short, and all waist, to start with; they have white European boots on their feet, with short black stockings; their skirt is of dark green material and fastened outside a blouse of light orange. The whole thing must be seen in order to be thoroughly enjoyed. To say that these girls look stiff and awkward is to say the truth, and if the management were wise it would without delay reinstate these dainty daughters of Japan in their own most becoming dress.

#### ENGLISH DONE INTO ADVERTISEMENTS.

In the way of advertising some very curious customs prevail. In the capital city not far from Shimbashi Railway Station is a shop which rejoices in the following intimation: "This shop is of the kind sugar with many cake for which to sell cheap." In another city of nearly a million inhabitants there is a shop whose owner is desirous of cultivating a trade for foreign clothes, so his shop bears the alluring suggestive title, "The museum of the European clothes." Near the great shrines at Nara on a side path appears this information, near a tea



JAPANESE GARDENER STARTING OUT RICE PLANTING.

to have no regular clothing at all, but to be thatched from head to waist with straw. Their costume is picturesque in the extreme, to say the best of it; but it is the poles asunder from the dainty garbs that we have been made familiar



A SCREEN PAINTER AT WORK.



WAITRESSES AT MY HOTEL, TOKYO.