

defied even the Emperor to subdue them. Feudal times are now gone, gone for Japan more completely in some respects than for England, so drastic has been the recent revolution. Man's ways have changed, have become—must we not confess it?—somewhat vulgarized by the commercialism that has

The landscape is but little modified. The impress of the so recent, if much discarded, feudalism is all-pervasive. Not all the castles have been dismantled, and those dismantled are beautiful in death. The temple bell still blends with the rumble of the waterfall. The peasants sing at their



READING A LETTER.

displaced the old feudalism; but nature remains as before. As a Japanese poet of the tenth century sang:

“No, no! As for man,
How his heart is none can tell,
But the plum's sweet flower
In my birthplace, as of yore,
Still emits the same perfume.”

work in the valley as they have sung for two thousand years. Strings of pack-horses round the corners of the passes as of old, the happy deferential driver dismounting in respect for the European stranger as in former days for the two-sworded *samurai*. Landlords bow their visitors from abroad to the handsome apartments formerly reserved