

Their game markets contained monkeys, hares, black partridges, sea swallows and pigeons, and of fish there was a bountiful supply of all kinds, from whitebait, crabs and lobsters up to shark and whale beef and blubber. Sugar mills, flour mills and granaries were familiar sights in the villages, and the country in general wore an aspect of comfort and plenty quite at variance with the doleful picture of poverty the Governor and his staff had portrayed to the Commodore. The Loochoosans live in a simple manner, much after the patriarchal style of the ancients. They dress plainly, even poorly, according to the American standard. Their houses are small and by no means either neat or clean, but the occupants seem to be happy, as well they may be, since they are free from want, live comfortably without great labor, and, having no ambition to rise above their station in life, are not subject to the disappointments and discontentments so rife in our own country.

The population of Loochoo is estimated at 200,000. Their language and physique plainly indicate their unity of origin with the Japanese. Whence came the race which people these two groups of islands their most learned men are unable to tell, and our own archaeologists are unable to trace any similarity of language between the Japanese and that of any other branch of the human family. Nor does native tradition or their annals, which reach back thousands of years, give any ground for assuming relationship between them and any other race.

The ancient religion of Japan and Loochoo is called *Shinto*, meaning "Godway." Buddhism is a modern importation from India and Japan. Anciently the Shintoists worshipped one god and rejected idols, but they have gradually drifted into idolatry and the worship of many gods. The Buddhists reject the worship of all gods, the founder of the sect in Japan, Shaka, teaching that it is vain to look for aid from them, but that man must work out his own salvation by a life of righteousness and self-contemplation, by which means he rises by transmigration from one state to another through successive forms of life until he finally gains paradise. On the contrary, a life of sin and immorality leads him downward from his present high form of existence through successively descending forms of brute creation, such as monkey, cat, dog, reptile, insect, etc., to the lowest form of creation. The people of both Japan and Loochoo have from the most ancient times proudly called their country *Shin-koku*, or "God-country," and when the Buddhists began proselyting in their midst they raised a great outcry against them, calling them heathens, atheists and idolaters. This was followed by great civil wars and the slaughter of thousands of people. One of the greatest factors in the success with which Christian missionaries have met is their preaching against the idolatry and heathenism of the Buddhists. It has won them the good will of the Shintoists even where it has failed to convince them of the superior beauties of Christianity.

The Loochoosans display great reverence for the dead and care in their burial. The mourners march to the

grave arrayed in white robes, the women having their heads covered with caps of matted white cotton wool, and the men wearing hats of loosely plaited rushes, which are drawn over their faces and have barred windows in front through which to see. For a place of sepulchre a southern slope with a fine prospect is selected, and upon this are constructed tombs of strong masonry, covered with a white plaster almost as hard and smooth as marble. Within the vaults are an inner chamber with ledges upon which the burial casket is placed, and an outer court where the mourning relatives lay offerings of food and flowers and burn incense before the dead. Some of the larger cemeteries, reposing on the green hillsides and embowered in shade trees, have the appearance of cities, for which we mistook them when we first beheld them from the deck of the ship while yet some distance out to sea.

The fleet having all assembled at Nappa, orders were issued and the whole squadron set sail for Yedo Bay on the 1st of February, 1854, where they arrived on the 12th. The fleet that then cast anchor in the bay was the most powerful and imposing that had ever visited Japan, and it may well be imagined that it made such an impression upon the Shogun and his advisers that negotiations were at once resumed on a much more favorable footing than they had occupied when suspended by the Commodore's departure the previous July. JONATHAN GOBLE.

OREGON SCENERY.

IT is unnecessary to speak in general terms of Oregon scenery, of the countless beauties, and even wonders, of Nature to be found in the Coast Range, Cascade and Blue mountains, and along the Columbia, Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue rivers and their hundreds of mountain and valley affluents. Many of the most charming and grand are remote from the usual routes of travel and seldom fall beneath the tourist's notice, yet enough of the best is seen from the car window or steamboat deck to fill the traveler with admiration. Especially is this true of the magnificent scenery of the Columbia, which has a reputation for beauty and grandeur equaled by few localities in the world. This scenery lies along the line of the O. R. & N. Co., which skirts the river bank for nearly two hundred miles, following the narrow gorge cut by the river in its passage of the Cascade Range. This month thirteen engravings of well known scenes are presented, nearly all of which are along the Columbia River. Among these the traveler cannot fail to recognize the beautiful Multnomah Falls, 800 feet high, which dashes down the face of the gorge almost upon the track, and before which every train stops fifteen minutes to enable passengers to pay it a brief visit. There are also such well known places as the Cascades, Cape Horn, Twin Rocks, Passage of the Dalles, Latourelle and Bridal Veil falls, and Oneonta Gorge. There are also Meacham Creek, near the summit of the Blue Mountains, and the falls of Mosier, Des Chutes and White rivers. Every overland traveler to Portland has an opportunity to view this magnificent Columbia River scenery.