

one of beauty. Everywhere are picturesque scenes; hill and dale, clothed with brilliant vegetation of sparkling green. Up the hillside temples tower over the more modest houses of the people, and pretty pleasure villas peep forth from the flowers and verdure of the tea-gardens.

After leaving this, the aristocratic quarter of the city, we went on, passing through streets which seemed interminable, where shops containing miscellaneous assortments of goods suited to the wants of the population were to be seen. At last, when somewhat clear of the crowded thoroughfares, we found ourselves traversing pleasant suburban lanes, occasionally passing spacious inclosures, at one time the homes of powerful princes or daimios, some of which are said to have afforded accommodation to as many as ten thousand retainers within their walls.

I was filled with feelings of astonishment and delight as we passed through fragrant avenues of peach, cherry, and plum trees in full bloom, over arched bridges spanning the bright blue river that flows through the heart of the city; getting here and there glimpses of the exquisite taste displayed in the gardens and cottages along the roadside. No model estate in England can produce structures in any way comparable with those which adorn the suburbs of Yedo. These charming little *châteaux*, raising their thatched roofs amid numberless fruit-trees and creepers, were usually surrounded by flower-