

## The Hinamatsuri.

Before the restoration, we had many peculiar festivals of which the hinamatsuri was <sup>the</sup> most popular. The hinamatsuri or the festival for girls, was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. Almost every house, especially where a girl had lately been born, kept many dolls, personifying <sup>the</sup> emperor, <sup>the</sup> empress, courtiers, ancient heroes etc. On the festival day, these dolls were brought out and arranged on shelves. The middle part of the highest shelf, was the seats for the emperor and the empress. On both sides of them, <sup>the</sup> highest officials, ~~so personified~~, were placed. On the lower shelf, we put the images of ancient heroes & some illustrious men. All of them, were clothed & painted very beautifully and elegantly. Besides these dolls, a car, a dog etc, made of paper or wood and also painted, <sup>were</sup> arranged below them with some dishes, full of cake. These displays presented a gay appearance and especially they were attractive to children. When I was a child, the festival was one of <sup>my</sup> chief amusements ~~to me~~, and I still remember that I was often invited to my relations' houses where entertainments were given,



on the festival day. Since the restoration, the custom has <sup>gradually</sup> become  
obsolete. Still it is certain that it exists among well-to-do classes  
even now.

Mr. Shikano.

3rd Grade. B.

Composition.