

Ueno Park.

Amidst the bustle and the tumult of the busy district of Shitaya, stroller's eyes may suddenly be relieved by the noble sight of a dark extensive forest covering a huge flat hill, extending from south to north for about one mile, with the average breadth of half that length. This is the remains of the once celebrated Kaniji and is now familiarly known to us by the name of ~~the~~ Ueno Park. The pleasant situation of the ~~park~~, aided not a little by the associated circumstances of yore and the great care with which it was laid out, have not failed in ~~making~~ it a pleasant and useful place of resort for every class of people.

The entrance to the park lay through the two roads: one so wide and broad that a dozen ~~of~~ coach^s and six can safely be driven along side by side; the other, consisting of ~~the~~ a flight of stone steps which lead us to the higher part of the park, ^{which} commanding an extensive view of the eastern portion of the city. The former road terminates at the gate of the Museum which occupies a considerable space of ground ⁱⁿ at the center^{re} of the park. There the ^{is} ~~the~~ afore-mentioned road is crossed perpendicularly by another which runs from east to west through the park. A few minutes' walk along this latter road brings us to the entrance of the Zoological Gardens in the western north. At a little distance to the north, stands the Educational Museum. Be-

hind that building and hard by it we find the Tokyo Library and the College for Fine Arts. Each of these public buildings, is incircled by its own gardens, all beautifully laid out, some in the Japanese style, others after the Western fashion. These gardens are again surrounded by the dark forest, mainly consisting of ~~the~~ firs, cedars and pines.

Such being the general outline of the park, I will now proceed to give (you) a few more details, with respect to the pleasant scenery which the park affords. Well, let it be one of those fine days in the delightful season of autumn ^{when} that you happen to enter the park. First take your seat near the western edge of the hill, cast your eyes below, and you can not but admire the picturesque scene which presents itself before you. A clear and smooth lake extends far and wide, almost filling the spacious valley between the two hills of Ueno and Hongō. An antiquated temple, situated on a small island at the centre of the lake, casts its dark melancholy shade, into the glassy surface of the languid water. Young willows, lining the edge of the lake, may be seen flinging their long slender boughs against the paling of the race course round the lake. Snowy herons, if there be any, are distinctly discerned like so many white dots, flying to and fro over the quagmire in search of their food. Beyond these, the ground gradually rises in a gentle slope;

and high against the serene autumnal sky, you will observe the gray domes of the Imperial College, presenting their dark outlines. While those objects come into sight through the intricacies of the boughs and foliage, on the left, the right hand will present to you hundreds of old knotty cherry trees, intermingled here and there ^{with} stout longstemmed pines. Now leave the public road and make your way deep into the forest. In some places, the trees grow so thick and close that the sunbeams are totally excluded from the soft carpet of delicious grass under them, by their broad arms and gnarled boughs: in others they recede from each other, leaving a considerable space of open ground between them. There, the merry notes and the sweet melodies of singing birds delight your ears. There, the dark maple red hue of the maple leaves, contrasted ^{with} the fresh green foliage of the pine, attracts your eyes. Your crestfallen spirits are enlivened by the pure, bracing air of the forest. Your worn out brains are refreshed by the serene calmness around and the clear azure above. In short, ^{Rather hypothetical} if you enter the park like a sick girl, you will certainly go out of it like a hero in the very arms of victory.

Here, with a few remarks on the park, I will ^{bring} ~~cut off~~ my description, ^{to a close} lest my piece should become too long, - too insipid, and above all, too much loaded with mistakes. Of all the superiorities which this park can claim

over others, nothing is so incontestable as the
 exquisite combination of Art and Nature.
 What is wanted in the sylvan solitude, is ^{here} amply
 supplied by the artistic refinement and what
 the human design must fall short of, the
 imposing sublimity isrea of the majestic
 forest, is ready to make amends for. This
 advantage is possessed by this part only and
 by no others ^{because} else.

1889

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 2nd yr. Oct.

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31/10/89