NIPPON: A STORY OF JAPAN

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Nippon: A Story of Japan by Henry Coleman May

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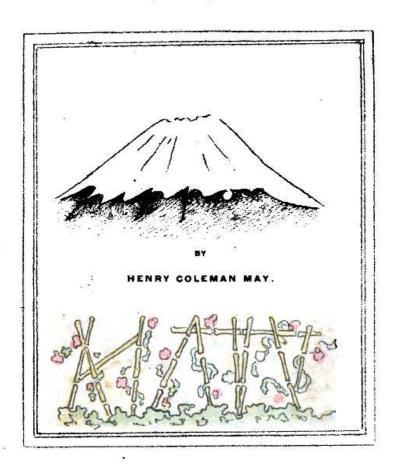
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CHAPTER I

It was my first morning in Japan. I got up and went to the paper screens and threw them open and in streamed the sunlight—the beautiful sunlight of the Land of the Rising Sun! I had arrived at last! My dream was realized, and I was there.

I had arrived the previous night—in the rain, to my disappointment—and had resolved not to go to the modern European hotel, but to go and stop with a friend who had recently arrived in Japan, and had taken a Japanese house with five Japanese servants and one English valet.

As I gazed out into a most charming little garden, with a miniature pend and most extraordinary dwarfed trees, I heard some one outside my door, and turned around to hear a man-servant (Jokichi I afterward learned was his name) call me to my bath. He spoke broken finglish, which he thought extremely beautiful, and it was only after some

time that I understood what he was saying to me. My bath was a most extraordinary function. I had never taken such a bath in all my life before. The water was about ninety degrees of heat, and I can tell you that it was extremely uncomfortable. After I had finished my bath, all the servants, one by one, took that same boiling tub. When I got back to my room I found my friend waiting to see me. He was dressed and told me that as soon as I was dressed we would go out together; as that day was the festival of armors and flags for boys, being the 5th of