



Mountaineering and exploration in the Japanese Alps

Walter Weston

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1896 edition. Excerpt: ...promised to call me at 3'30, but at 345 I awoke to find the house resounding with snores, and my landlord still blissfully buried in futon and forgetfulness. At 5 o'clock, however, my coolies and I were on the march. The younger of the two men, who turned out to be a farmer from the Takayama plain, was the speedier, and treated the long tramp through the pouring rain as a huge joke. I asked him the name of a particularly fine variety of wild raspberries which I found near the top of the pass. He called them uma-ichigo, "horse strawberries." To further enquiries about botanical subjects, his invariable reply was " Wagi wa shiranosu," a very oddly-sounding corruption of vjatakushi wa shiranu (" I don't know "). The pronunciation of some of the words used by the Hida mountain dwellers is very curious, and I have sometimes found myself, after several seasons' travel amongst them, called upon to interpret between them and their own fellow-countrymen from distant parts. A perversion of the vowels is very common, nil rii (two ri), for instance, being frequently heard for ni ri. By 9 o'clock we reached the Azusagawa, and crossed the pair of long, thin, barkless pine poles that serve for a bridge. Previous recollections of this Blondin-like passage had made me cautious, and I successfully slid over the wet, slippery, swaying trunks (after the manner of an acrobat on a slack wire), with loaraji tied beneath the soles of my boots. On the top of the Hi-no-ki-tdge (" the pass of the pine trees") I found the withered old dame who had charge of the little rest-house had improved her resources, and now added tea to her store of dried peas. With delightful anticipations of a rest at the house where last year my...

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