



The world at home, or Pictures and scenes from far-off lands

Mary Kirby Gregg

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1869 Excerpt: ...so good to eat? Because they are made of a kind of sea-weed. The bird swallows the sea-weed, and then brings it up in her mouth, quite soft and like pulp. She adds layer to layer until she has built her nest large enough. If the nests are old, they are not thought worth taking. What do the nests taste like? They are like jelly, and have no taste. But the Chinese cook puts in so many spices, and other things, that he makes them very nice indeed. The people of Japan know that the birds' nests are only made of seaweed. They get the same seaweed, and beat it soft, and boil it to a jelly. Then they make mock birds' nests, and bring them to the market to sell. THE CHINAMAN'S KNIFE AND FORK. If you were to dine with a Chinaman, you would have to use chopsticks. What are chopsticks? They are two round pieces of ivory, with sharp points. The Chinaman eats his dinner with them, instead of a knife and fork. It is not easy to eat with chopsticks. A dish is set before you with bits of meat swimming in gravy. You are very hungry, and you try to pick up a piece of meat with your chopsticks. After a great deal of fishing and diving, you do it. The dainty morsel is half-way to your mouth; but the chopstick slips, and down it goes into the dish. It has to be fished up again, and again it may drop. This may happen three or four times, and you begin to despair of getting any dinner. Your friend the Chinaman is too polite to laugh. He is sorry for you, and comes to your help. THE CHINAMAN'S DINNER. 183 How does he help you? By taking his own chopsticks, which have been going backwards and forwards from the dish to his mouth, and picking up the bit for you. He raises it to your mouth, and you have to eat it. It is like eating with another person's knife and fork. The Chinaman d...

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