ancient capital is situated in a lovely valley surrounded by mountains of considerable height. It is a large and neatly kept city, with fine broad streets, beautiful parks and many large modern shops. Our hotel, the "Miyako", is about 2 miles from the station and charmingly located amidst trees on a steep hillside. Really an excellent establishment and kept by a native. The rooms are most attractive; they are finished in natural woods, after the Japanese style, but are furnished with comfortable European beds and baths. Excellent European cuisine. Meals are served by neat little Japanese girls. This is a delightful city for a long stay. We remained for five days and enjoyed it greatly. There are charming excursions in the neighborhood; among others, Lake Biwa and the Hofu rapids. The old Imperial palace is extensive and interesting and the grounds around it beautiful. One day we went to the old temples and the "Golden Pavilion"--ore of the show sights. We did some shopping; bought silk shirts, pajamas, etc., also visited the lacquer and metal work factories. These modern products are the best Japan turns out, and while the workmanship is beautiful I was not struck with their artistic quality.

Next day we made an excursion to Nara, 26 miles distant. This is also an ancient capital, one of the show places of Japan. The Japanese take pride in keeping the town free from modern innovations. Its great attractions are the park and temples. The former is extensive and contains wonderful old cryptomeria trees. There are superb avenues of them, and miles of path lined with curious old stone lanterns, some 3000 in all. The temples are also especially fine. The park contains upwards of 700 tame deer; these come up for food like dogs and allow themselves to be patted.