

JAPANESE PLAYS  
AND PLAYFELLOWS

2-7... A

# JAPANESE PLAYS AND PLAYFELLOWS

H 89  
143

BY

OSMAN EDWARDS

WITH TWELVE COLOURED PLATES BY  
JAPANESE ARTISTS



LONDON  
WILLIAM HEINEMANN

1901

A



40-16251  
(www.kim)

*This Edition is Copyright in all Countries signatory to the Berne Treaty, and is not to be imported into the United States of America*

TO  
YAKUMO KOIZUMI  
AND  
LAFCADIO HEARN  
POET AND FRIEND  
WITH  
ADMIRING GRATITUDE

## PREFACE

*I do not pretend to compete in the crowded field of Japanese sociology with those who have lived more than six months or less than six weeks in the country. My own stay was limited to half a year. I had, of course, studied the language with native teachers and devoured the records of foreign travellers. I concluded that theatrical matters had been less fully described than any other: to them, accordingly, I devoted most attention. But there were other themes on which I had been insufficiently informed. Impersonal essays are, therefore, supplemented by personal reminiscences, for which I claim indulgence. If the first now seem to me too short, the second may seem to others too long. Yet I have tried only to select incidents and characteristics which differ strikingly from Western ways.*

*Austere critics will assuredly resent the excess of incense burned in these pages in honour of the musumé. But, whether she and they like it or not, she continues to summarise in her dainty little person much of her country's magic: its picturesqueness, its kindness, its politeness. On certain symptoms of anti-foreign feeling I have dwelt at some length, because the obvious witchery of Japan so often results in the suppression of unpleasant*