

This amazing declaration.

Then he answered, kindly, but sadly : —

" To send you back now to your people with a writ of divorce, and without any fault on your part, would be a shameful thing. If you will tell me any good reason for your wish, — any reason that would enable me to explain the matter honorably, — I will write you a divorce. But unless you do so I cannot divorce you, — because the honour of our house would be questioned

Then dawned the bridal-day, — just
such a day as the people had been praying
for: a perfect day, — while Sunshine
flooded the world out of a ^{spectacular} ~~perfectly~~ agree-
ably. For generations the wedding-day
of the Imperial Prince had been thus
clear, — probably for the reason that
by their ancient calendar the Japanese
could foresee the weather ^{by signs} better than
by ~~any~~ ^{our} modern science of meteorology can
yet boast. . . . Pardon a digression. I
cannot help thinking that it was a
serious mistake for the Japanese to abandon
(officially) their old calendar. Based
upon the experience of an agricultural
race, accustomed for thousands of years
to note every detail of every month & season,
every mood of Nature, ~~every~~ ^{every} recurrence
of things, every incident of the exception in
climate recurrence, every habit of ~~birds~~
beast and bird and fish and reptile &
insect, — the accuracy of that old calendar
became something astonishing. If you happen