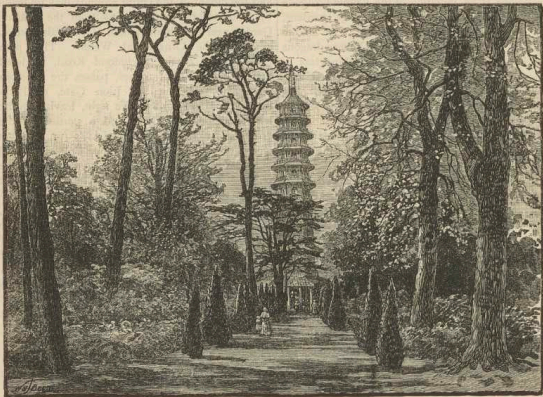


by an unusually large proportion of woody plants, many of which belong to families which are rare elsewhere so far to the north, and by the abundance of maples, laurels, hollies, hydrangeas, figs, evergreen oaks, and remarkable forms of Coniferae. Taken altogether, it presents much affinity with the flora of the Southern United States of Eastern America. From the general similarity of the climate of Japan to our own, we owe to it many of our most valuable introduced hardy shrubs, and

rather suburban, collection of paintings which is open to the public on Sundays. That the working classes appreciate this privilege is seen by the readiness with which they take advantage of it. From 1,000 to 1,500 have visited it every fine Sunday since it was opened; and even on wet Sundays as many as 600 umbrellas have been taken at the doors."

The building in which Miss North's collection of paintings is exhibited is of red brick, and may



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the number of these will yet be, no doubt, largely increased when the island is more thoroughly opened up to foreigners."

Miss North, a daughter of the late Mr. Frederick North, M.P. for Hastings, established here in 1880-2 a fine gallery of paintings, mainly drawn from nature in all parts of the world, which she had herself explored. A substantial building has been erected to contain these paintings and treasures, which are, in the donor's words, "to be thrown open to the public upon all occasions, and at all hours on which the Royal Gardens themselves are open." "It results," observes a writer in the *Queen*, "from the wording of this deed of gift, that the North Gallery at Kew is the only metropolitan, or

be described as classical, and it was built from the designs of Mr. James Fergusson, F.R.S. The paintings are over 600 in number, and form by far the most complete and accurate series of illustrations of the flora of the globe that has ever been brought together. Miss North has wandered over the face of the earth in making her collection of drawings—to Brazil and Borneo, to Teneriffe and California, to Western Australia and Ceylon, to Jamaica and the Himalayas. The collection is not only singularly beautiful, but one of which Sir Joseph Hooker says that "it is impossible to over-rate its interest and instructiveness in connection with the contents of the gardens, plant-houses, and museums of Kew." All the paintings are highly-finished