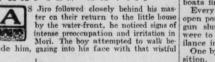
# The Wooing Wistaria Wistaria CHAPTER XXVI—Continued Willow Rest in the first protecting and in the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first the terms of the first protection and the first protection a ONOTO Gopyright 1905 by Harper Bros





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"Yes."
"Then ask what these screens have been put up for."
Keiki repeated the question to the Japanese officer, who, angered at his penetration of their evasion, cast scurly glances upon him. They an as wered readily, however. Mori translated their reply into English a moment later.
"They say." he reported, "that in Nippon all great gatherings are private. These screens keep off the common, low people."
"Tell them these things must come down," ordered the officer, in what the Japanese considered an impolite, not to say insolent, tone.

Mori translated.
"What do they say?" asked the lieutenant. There was a pause.
"Nothing yet," said Mori, stiffly.
While the officials still stared, the officer turned to the offending screens. With his own hands he began their demolition. Slowly, one by one, the Japanese joined him. Soon the space once inclosed by the screens was bare to the view of all on the American vessels. The officer moved towards his boat.
"I wish to speak some more words with you," said Mori, following him.
"Oh, certainly. What is it?"
"Not here, if you please. Down by the boat."
"Come."
Followed by the angry looks of the whole group of Japanese sub-officials, in which there was distinct hostility towards himself, Mori went with the lieutenant to a spot towards which the boat was approaching.
"Now what can I do for you?" inquired the of-

