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THE JAPAN EXPEDITION.

U. S. STEAMSHIP SUSQUEHANNA,
China Sea, Aug. 4.

RECEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER BY THE PRINCE OF IDZU.

The house of reception was directly in front of the landing, but an intervening screen rendered a slight detour necessary in order to reach the entrance; and Major Zellin made the most of this circumstance, in order to display our forces to the Japanese. There certainly was a marked contrast between the regular, compact files of our men, and their vigorous, muscular figures, and the straggling ranks of the mild, effeminate-looking Japanese. In front of the house were two old brass four-pounders, apparently of Spanish manufacture, and on each side stood a company of soldiers, who belonged either to the Imperial forces, or to the body-guard of the prince. Those on the left wore a uniform somewhat resembling the modern Egyptian dress. It was of a dark grey color, having full trousers, gathered below the knee, a broad sash around the waist, and a white cloth, similar to a turban, bound upon the head. They were armed with the old Tower muskets, which were to be found in every part of the world, with flints locks and bayonets. Those on the right wore different uniforms, exhibiting a mixture of dull brown and yellow in its colors, and carried match locks of an antique fashion.

Yezaimon and the interpreters preceded us, in order to show the way. The distance from the jetty to the door of the building was so short, that little opportunity was given me for noticing minutely the appearance of the Japanese, or the order of their array. The building into which the Commodore and suit were ushered was small, and appeared to have been erected in haste. The timbers were of pine wood, and numbered, as if they had been brought from some other place. The first apartment, which was about forty feet square, was of canvas, with an awning of the same, of a white ground, with the Imperial arms emblazoned on it in places. The floor was covered with white cotton cloth, with a pathway of red felt or some similar substance, leading across the room to a raised inner apartment, which was wholly carpeted with it. This apartment, the front of which was entirely open, so that it corresponded precisely to the *divan* in Turkish houses, was hung with fine cloth, containing the Imperial arms, in white, on a ground of violet. On the right hand was a row of arm-chairs, sufficient in number for the Commodore and his staff, while on the opposite side sat the prince who had been appointed to receive the President's letter, with another official of similar rank. Their names were given by the interpreter as "TODA IDZU-KAMI, Toda, Prince of Idzu, and 'ISO IWAMI-NO-KAMI," Ido, Prince of Iwami. The Prince of Idzu was a man of about fifty, with mild regular features, an ample brow, and an intelligent, reflective expression. He was dressed with great richness, in heavy robes of silken tissue, wrought into elaborate ornaments with gold and silver thread. The Prince of Iwami was at least fifteen years older, and dressed with nearly equal splendor. His face was wrinkled with age, and exhibited neither the intelligence nor the benignity of his associate. They both rose and bowed gravely as the Commodore entered, but immediately resumed their seats, and remained as silent and passive as statues during the interview.

At the head of the room was a large scarlet-lacquered box, with brazen feet, beside which Yezaimon and the interpreter, Tatsonoske, knelt. The latter then asked whether the letters were ready to be delivered, stating that the Prince was ready to receive them. The boxes were brought in, opened, so that the writing and the heavy golden seals were displayed, and placed upon the scarlet chest. The prince of Iwami then handed to the interpreter, who gave it to the Commodore, an official receipt, in Japanese, and at the same time the interpreter added a Dutch translation. The Commodore remarked that he would sail in a few days for Loo Choo and Canton, and if the Japanese Government wished to send any despatches to those places, he would be happy to take them. Without making any direct reply, the interpreter asked: "When will you come again?" The Commodore answered: "As I suppose it will take some time to deliberate upon the letter of the President, I shall not wait now, but will return in a few months to receive the answer." He also spoke of the Revolution in China, and the interpreter asked the cause of it, without translating the communication to the Prince. He then inquired when the ships would return again, to which the Commodore replied that they would probably be there in

April or May. "All four of them?" he asked. "All of them," answered the Commodore, "and probably more. This is but a portion of the squadron." No further conversation took place. The letters having been formally delivered and received the Commodore took his leave, while the two Princes, who had fulfilled to the letter their instructions not to speak, rose and remained standing until he had retired from their presence.

The return to the boats was made in the same order, the bands playing "Hail Columbia," and "Yankee Doodle" with more spirit than ever before, and few of those present, I venture to say, ever heard our national airs with more pride and pleasure. Yezaimon, Saboroske, and the two interpreters attended the Commodore to the boat, and as the embarkation of the different boats' crews occupied some time, on account of the smallness of the jetty, several of the Japanese soldiers profited by the delay to come down and examine us more closely. Many of our men strayed along the beach, picking up shells and pebbles as mementoes of the visit. In less than twenty minutes, however, all were embarked, and we returned to the ships, accompanied by the two Japanese boats which had piloted us to the shore. Before twelve o'clock the anchors were lifted, and both vessels were under way on a cruise up the Bay.

EXPLORATION OF THE UPPER BAY OF YEDO.

Yezaimon, Saboroske, and the interpreters accepted an invitation to remain on board until we reached Uraga, and have their boats towed at our stern. This gave them a chance of seeing the steam engine in operation, for which they had expressed a great desire. They were conducted over the ship and saw the engine from all points of view, betraying a great deal of curiosity in regard to its operation, but no fear. They even obtained a glimmering idea of the manner in which the steam acted, to set the enormous mass in motion. Tatsonoske asked if it was not the same machine, in a smaller compass, which we used on railroads. During their inspection of the ship they saw many things which must have been new and strange to them, but their composure and self-possession was not in the least disturbed. Notwithstanding the decks were crowded with officers and men, whose curiosity to see them was very great, they were to all appearance unconscious of it, and conducted themselves with as much ease and propriety as I ever saw among the most refined people.

While going their rounds, their swords were left in the cabin, and most of the officers made use of the opportunity to examine them. The steel was of admirable quality, and kept in good condition, although the shape of the blade was rather unwieldy, and the handle was without a guard. The scabbards were made of shark skin, very handsomely polished. While in the cabin, a globe was brought, and the position of the United States shown to the Japanese. Tatsonoske immediately pointed out Washington and New-York, and seemed tolerably familiar with the geography of our country, as well as that of Europe. He asked whether in America many of the roads were not cut through the mountains—evidently referring to railroads. Yezaimon expressed his desire to examine a revolver, several of which the Japanese had noticed in the officers' belts. Commander Buchanan fired at all the chambers of a genuine "Colt" from the quarter deck, to their great astonishment. Before we had half gratified their curiosity, (which the steam-whistle raised to the highest pitch,) we were off Uraga, and they were obliged to leave.

As we moved out past the promontory of Uraga, the western shore opened on the left, showing a broad deep bay, embosomed by hills covered with the greenest and most luxuriant foliage, and with several large villages at their base. We approached within three miles of the eastern shore, which is loftier and wider than the western, rising into a range of rugged mountains, which showed no signs of habitation or cultivation. But the lower slopes, which undulated gently to the water, charmed me by the rich beauty of their scattered groves, and the green terraces and lawns into which centuries of patient cultivation has formed them. This side of England there is nothing so green, so garden-like, so full of tranquil beauty.—To the north the hills gradually sank away, and a sandy spur, three or four miles in length, stretched into the Bay. This proved to be the ground whereon we had seen the parade of Japanese soldiers, when the surveying boats ascended the Bay. The two mounds, which I had noticed through a glass, were surmounted with batteries of about five guns each.

Changing our course, we made over toward the other side, steering for a bold, projecting headland, about twelve miles beyond that of Uraga. In the interven-

ing bight, to which Lieut. Bent, as the first surveyor, gave the name of "Perry's Bay," there are two lovely, green islands. The shores of the bay are as thickly settled and as assiduously cultivated, as about and below Uraga. During the voyage up, we had at no time less than seven fathoms, and generally from thirty to forty. After going a short distance beyond the point reached by the Mississippi, and upward of ten miles beyond our former anchorage, we dropped anchor a mile and a half from the shore, in thirteen fathoms. The inward-bound junks, I noticed, made for a point a little east of the north, from our position. According to the Japanese charts, and the best descriptions of Yedo, this must have been the direction of the capital. A long, low headland was visible with the glass, with (apparently) another bight beyond it; but to the north-east, for a segment of about 30 deg., no land could be seen. This also corresponded to the form of the bay, as given in Japanese charts.

Toward evening we had another visit from Yezaimon, who had followed us from Uraga, with the intention of finding out what our motives were in proceeding so far up the Bay. Whatever objections he may have made, they did not appear to be effectual, for as long as we remained the survey was prosecuted with great spirit and activity. On the following day (Friday), Lieut. Cooper, of the *Susquehanna*; Clitz, of the *Mississippi*; Goldsborough, of the *Saratoga*, and Matthews, of the *Plymouth*, sounded around the islands, and up to the head of the bight, where they found a deep inlet, into which flowed a beautiful river. The banks were studded with villages, groves and gardens, and the officers were enraptured with the beauty of the scenery. The natives of both sexes, old and young, came down the banks and saluted them in a friendly manner, bringing them cool spring water to drink, and ripe peaches from their gardens.

On Friday afternoon, the Commodore went on board the *Mississippi*, transferring his board pennant to that ship for a few hours, while he made an exploring trip still further up the bay. After going ten miles in the direction of Yedo, the *Mississippi* put about in twenty fathoms water, and returned to her former anchorage, having reached as was supposed, a point within eight miles of the capital. On the western shore the large towns of Kanagawa and Kowazachi were seen; while on the extremity of a cape in front, not more than four miles distant stood a tall white tower, resembling a lighthouse.

Three or four miles beyond and within this point was a crowd of shipping, which was without doubt the anchorage of *Sinagawa*, the southern suburb of Yedo. There was every probability that the *Mississippi* could have advanced to a point within cannon shot of the city. The head of the Bay rounded to the eastward, and in that direction the shores became low and flat, and finally disappeared below the horizon. We have, therefore, advanced twenty miles further up the Bay of Yedo than any vessel before us, and shown conclusively that instead of being shallow and un navigable, as has formerly been supposed, it contains abundant of water and excellent harbors. It is, in fact, one of the largest and finest Bays in the world, and second to none in the varied and delightful scenery of its shores.

Early on Saturday morning we moved from our first anchorage to another, five or six miles further down the Bay, and much nearer the shore. There was abundance of water everywhere and all around the beautiful little island, a line dropped close to the shore gave five fathoms. The western coast, which was less than a mile distant, appeared wonderfully green and beautiful. It curved inward, so as to form a charming, sheltered bay, near the head of which the two villages of Otsu and Torigasaki lay embosomed in foliage.

There was a small battery almost masked by trees, on the summit of the island, and another on the point of the Cape below us. This part of the Bay is completely land-locked, the promontory of Uraga projecting so far as to cover one-third of the eastern shore. The surveying boats were occupied during the whole of the day, without any interference on the part of the Japanese, who seemed to have made up their minds to submit to these unusual proceedings. Too much credit, however, cannot be awarded to the different officers, and especially to Lieut. Bent, for the coolness and courage with which they prosecuted their work. When we consider that this, one of the greatest Bays in the world, has never yet been surveyed, the interest and value of their labors will be better understood.

DEPARTURE OF THE EXPEDITION FROM JAPAN.

Yezaimon came again on Saturday morning, accompanied by both the interpreters. This time they brought a number of presents, as souvenirs of our visit—consisting of lacquered cups, very light and elegant in form, brocade silks, richly wrought, with gold and silver thread, tobacco pipes and pouches, and fans covered with hideously distorted and lackadaisical pictures of Japanese ladies. The Commodore was willing to receive them but insisted on giving something in return. A selection of American manufactures &c., formed a return more than equal in value. They refused to take anything, affirming that it was forbidden by their laws, and would subject them to the danger of losing their lives; besides they said, the presents offered them were too valuable to be accepted. They were willing to receive, each, some small article which they could conceal about their person. They were positively informed that we would accept of nothing unless they took our gifts, with the exception of the arms, which were removed, as they stated that in no case give or receive arms. When Yezaimon saw his presents about to be tumbled back into his boat, he yielded at once, choosing what he probably considered the least dangerous of the dilemma.

In the afternoon they returned in the best possible humor, their course having probably been sanctioned by some higher authority on shore. They brought off a quantity of fowls in light wicker coops, and three or four thousand eggs in boxes, taking away in return a large box of American garden seeds. The interview lasted a considerable time, as they were socially disposed, and partook of refreshments both solid and liquid. Tatsonoske stated, in a half confidential way, that the letter of the President had been received in Yedo, and that if the translation which they had already received through the Dutch corresponded with the original, the Government would be disposed to regard it very favorably. He also hinted that Yezaimon would soon be promoted to a much higher rank. The latter was exceedingly jovial, and stated, by an expressive pantomime, that he would shed tears on the departure of the squadron. It was dusk when the boat pulled off, and the shadows of the wooded hills, lengthening over the water, soon hid from sight the last glimpse of our Japanese friends.

On Sunday morning, the 17th we hoisted anchor, and started for Loo Choo, having in ten days already accomplished more than any other nation has been able to effect for the last two centuries. The universal feeling on board was one of honest pride and exultation. Knowing the cunning and duplicity of the people with whom we had to deal, it was a satisfaction to find all their arts of diplomacy completely shattered by the simple, straight-forward, resolute course adopted by Commodore Perry. Nothing could have been better managed from first to last; and though I would not encourage a too sanguine anticipation of the final result, I am confident that if he carries the undertaking through in the same spirit in which he has begun it, he will secure all its most important ends.

The day of our departure was clear and warm, and the morning light fell softly on the verdurous shores, as we passed the promontory of Uraga. The soldiers were all gathered on the terraces, in front of the batteries, to see us pass. The *Mississippi* kept such a station on our port quarter, that from the shore she would appear as far behind the *Saratoga* as that vessel from the *Susquehanna*; and the sight of four great warships, with all sails furled and yards squared, keeping equidistance from each other to a hair's breadth, yet moving through the water at the rate of eight or nine knot, must have struck the Japanese as something marvellous.

The day was so clear that the inhabitants of both shores had an excellent opportunity of seeing the performance of the vessels, and we soon found that the news of our departure had preceded us.—As we drew abreast of Cape Sagami, and made down the centre of the bay, keeping much nearer the eastern shore than on our entrance, we found the water covered with boats, which had brought out loads of the Japanese to get a nearer view.—The bay was sprinkled with them, far and near, and at a moderate calculation, I should say that there were at least five hundred. Some of them were so curious as to approach within four or five hundred yards, when the men lay on their oars, and remained standing motionless until long after we had passed. I caught a parting glimpse of the cone of Fusi-Yama through the rifts of a pile of fee-

cy clouds, high over the head of the Bay of Kowadzu.

DISCOVERIES—VOYAGE TO LOO CHOO.

We steered for the northern or main entrance of the bay, keeping between three or four miles from the northern shore, which belongs to the province of Awa. Vries Island, or Oosima, lay to the south of us. It has a bold convex outline, and its summit was lost in the clouds. It is an admirable landmark for mariners, and in connection with Cape Idzu and Rock Island, form a sure guide for vessels entering the Bay of Yedo from the east or south.

Our course was nearly due south for the remainder of the day, and the chain of islands which extend from the mouth of the Bay to the penal colony of Fatsisio, gradually rose to view. They seem to have been very imperfectly explored, for on none of our charts were they laid down correctly. Vulean Island is conspicuous for its lofty, conical summit, the sides of which are streaked with deposits of lava. It was covered, from the brink of its sea-worn crags, with the most luxuriant vegetation. To the east of it was another island, not given in any chart, and the Commodore accordingly took the explorer's right to name it "*Mississippi*" Island. A cluster of very peculiar, pointed rocks, rising like broken obelisks, to the height of a hundred feet, received the *Susquehanna's* name, and the *Plymouth* and *Saratoga* where also honored—the first with a large isolated rock, the second with an island—both of which we claim the merit of discovering.

The features of this group are grand and imposing.—The shores of the island are mostly precipitous, presenting few accessible points, and being nearly circular in form, enhance the effect of the lofty summits into which they rise. I counted eight hundred around us at one time, some bold and strongly defined, from their vicinity, others distant, blue, and floating in a vapory atmosphere, like the phantoms of islands. We could not discern any dwellings upon them, but it is probable that they are probably inhabited. We passed through them all before sunset, and, still steering southward, hoped to have caught a glimpse of Fatsisio, which could not have been more than twenty-five miles distant; but night set in, and the vessels were put upon their course for Loo Choo.

For the next two days we ran in a south-westerly direction, aided by a strong east wind. The *Saratoga* was cast off in lat. 30 deg. north, and left to make her way to Shanghai, where she will winter. The *Mississippi* also cast off the *Plymouth*, which was ordered to sound and survey along the western side of Oosima, (the island supposed to have been discovered by the Preble,) while the *Susquehanna* cruised along the eastern side. Commodore Perry's intention was to spend two or three days in fixing the position and dimensions of the island, and communicating, if the nature of the coast would allow, with the inhabitants. We looked forward to the visit with interest, as there is no account of any vessel ever having touched there, and in these days of discovery, a piece of virgin earth is very rare. It is not often that one can find a large community of semi-civilized people, to whom the European race is unknown.

On Wednesday, July 20, however, an easterly gale came on. Our topmasts and topgallant-masts were sent down, and we soured along with only the trysails set. The *Susquehanna* rolled in a most extraordinary manner, and the great pivot-gun on her poop was so secured with lashing and binding of every description, that it resembled an immense cast iron babe in swaddling bands. For two days the gale continued to rage with considerable violence. Both our fore and main trysail-gaffs were carried away, and the *Mississippi* lost two of her boats. We stood off and on for two days, but the sea, continued so rough that the idea of proceeding to Oosima was fully abandoned, and we made for the harbor of Napa, in Loo-Choo, where we arrived on the 25th.

We remained a week in Loo-Choo, and had some further experiences of a very interesting and important nature, which, however, I cannot recapitulate at present. Thus ends the first campaign of the United States Expedition to Japan—concerning which, it will ever be to me a source of pride and satisfaction to say, *parvus pars fuit.*

BAYARD TAYLOR.

The contemplated matrimonial alliance between the Emperor of Austria (Francis Joseph) and the young Princess Elizabeth of Bavaria is definitively arranged to take place the third week in April, at Vienna, when a series of imperial *fetes* will take place in honor of the auspicious event.