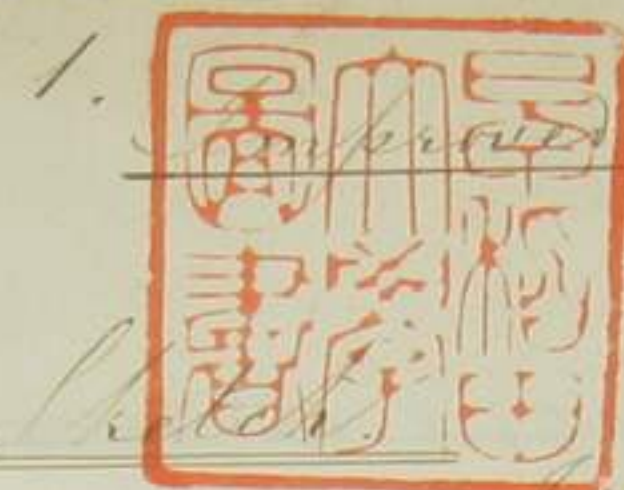


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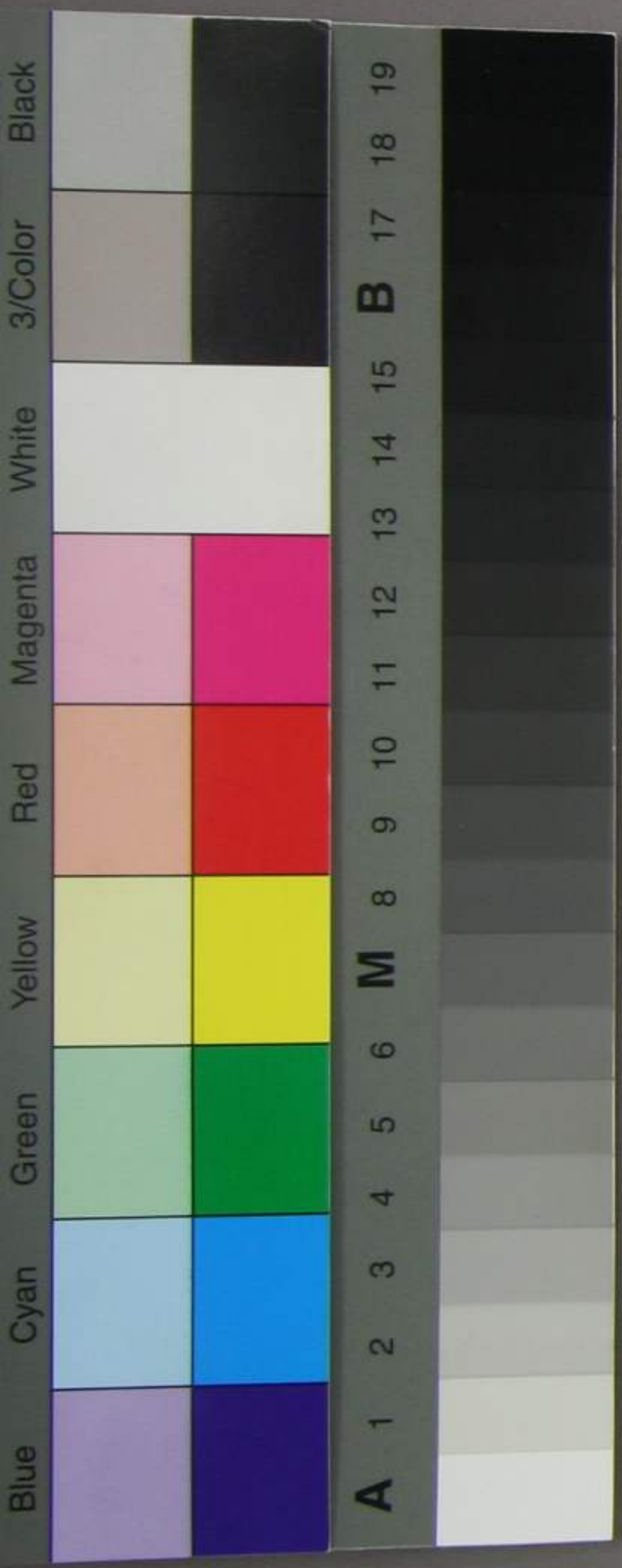


1. Edition.

大正十一年四月
侯爵郵奇

Brief

Inquiries are not unfrequently made of me by intelligent men, who are desirous to promote the welfare of their country, in regard to forms of government, the laws of various countries, the administration of justice, the political equality of states, systems of education & religion, & similar topics concerning the civilization of the West. — To many of the above inquiries a satisfactory answer could be given here, or could be obtained from books; but what is the answer of one man, who, moreover, from his being a foreigner, is not fully trusted, except by a few friends. And what is a mere book-knowledge on matters that are, to a large extent, the result of the experience & practice of ages, rather than of pure reason? Such answers & such knowledge would be good enough as far as theory is concerned; but there is something in the civilization of the West, that must be seen & felt in order to be fully appreciated. Personal experience is necessary to understand the theory of civilization so thoroughly as to be able to introduce it into other parts; for there is no evidence so convincing & stimulating as that of the eyes. In order to arrive at a full appreciation of the present condition of western states, it is necessary not only to know the underlying reasons, but also to observe the practical operations. I do not mean to say that there is no way of succeeding by the study of



systems & theories, & then experimenting on the same; but experiments are expensive, both as to time & money, & sometimes they are very dangerous. Experiments in mechanics may result in the breaking of a wheel or lever, & in chemistry in the bursting of a bottle; but experiments in politics involve the happiness of men or of a whole nation, & if unsuccessful, may result in the serious loss of precious lives. And in the important affairs of legislation, finance, education, &c. it is not necessary to experiment; for there lies the whole of Europe & America open & ready to be studied & copied by all who like to do so. There every imaginable form of government, all kinds of laws, every possible way of managing national finances, & every system of education have been experimented on during many centuries, & the system of states as it exists in Europe & America to-day is the result of the experiments. There may be seen, in the greatest variety, excellences to be studied & imitated, as well as defects to be known & avoided.

It is in connection with the above mentioned inquiries & ideas, that I have written down a few remarks, which may perhaps in a small degree assist in guiding the interesting inquiries into a useful & practicable channel, & I shall be happy to enlarge on them still further, if it is desired by those who are most concerned in them.

It is generally reported that the Emperor intends to send a special Embassy to the courts of the various Treaty Powers next fall or winter. It

is doubtless an excellent idea; for though two or three Embassies were formerly sent abroad, yet as they were sent under the temporary rule of the Shoguns, whatever influence they may have exerted, or whatever information they may have obtained, is probably unavailable to the present Government. On the whole, the sending of an Embassy abroad by the present Government will probably produce a very good effect for Japan. Now, supposing that it is really intended to send an Embassy to Europe & America, & also supposing that it may be sent for some purposes of a private & special nature, yet I beg leave to express a few thoughts on some objects of a useful nature & of a more public character.

The person to be selected & appointed by the Emperor & Government to the important office of Chief Envoy ought to be a man of high rank, in whom the Emperor & the nation have full confidence on account of his intelligence, vigour, & generally high character. Or perhaps S. M. might desire to send as Chiefs of the Embassy a representative of either of the ruling classes of the Empire, a Kuge & a Daimio. Such men's advice, on their return to Japan, will be very valuable & likely to be followed for the promotion of the welfare of the nation. So, too, in regard to all the Officers to be connected with the Embassy; let them all be men of intellect & character.

Whatever may be the private objects of the Embassy, one of the public objects might be to address the various courts of the countries to be visited somewhat in the following manner:—

"That the Empire has just passed through a
 "great political change, the temporary rule of the
 "Shoguns having been abolished, & the Emperor
 "himself, like his august Ancestors, having re-
 "assumed the government of the Empire; — that
 "subsequently important improvements have been
 "made in the internal relations of the country,
 " & that still further reforms are intended to be
 "undertaken in due time; — that A. M. is
 "pleased to continue all the foreign relations
 "of his government in peace & friendship,
 "yet that in these relations, too, changes &
 "improvements are desirable; — that the chief
 "one among these is in regard to the peculiar
 "status (political position) of Japan in rela-
 "tion to Western States, the latter not receiv-
 "ing Japan into political equality with them-
 "selves, so that Japan cannot as yet be said
 "to be admitted to the great society of nations
 "as contemplated by International Law; —
 "that A. M. is aware that, from the different
 "constitutions & laws of different countries, a
 "reason is assigned for the want of political
 "equality in regard to his country as compared
 "with western States; — that A. M. is desirous
 "as soon as possible to place his country on a
 "basis of perfect equality with all other coun-
 "tries; — that, in order to bring about such a
 "happy change & to enter upon the prelimin-
 "aries thereto, A. M. has sent a special Em-
 "bassy to confer with the various Governments
 "of the Treaty Powers, & that one object of the
 "Embassy is to inquire of the said Govern-
 "ments, what in their opinion are the steps

" & measures necessary to be taken by the govern-
 "ment of Japan to realize the above desirable
 "change in her foreign relations; — that A. M.
 "requests the Governments thus addressed to
 "give A. M.'s Envoy a written enumeration of
 "these supposed necessary steps & measures, &
 "also requests the privilege for the Chiefs &
 "Members of the Embassy further to discuss
 "the various topics suggested with such of
 "Officers & Statesmen as the (foreign) Govern-
 "ment may be pleased to appoint for this
 "purpose; — that A. M. will duly consider all
 "the advice given, & will be pleased to avail
 "himself of whatever is found to be suitable to
 "the peculiar nature of his country & people;
 " &c. — &c. — &c. — "

If any one should think such a direct ad-
 dress improper or objectionable, the same
 inquiry might be made in a more private
 way; but in whatever way the inquiry be
 made, it is not difficult to guess at some
 of the answers that will be given to it, the
 principal of which will probably be: —

A. That some of the laws of Japan, espe-
 cially the civil, commercial, & criminal laws,
 are too widely at variance with those of
 European States to submit European
 subjects & property to them, & that they will
 have to be changed in such a manner as to
 bring them nearer in harmony with the
 western standards of justice.

B. That the Government of Japan ought to
 allow foreigners, under a regular system of
 passports, freely to travel, traffic, & live

anywhere within the Empire, as every foreign government allows travelers, merchants, & students from Japan to do in their countries.

C. That the civilization of Japan (in a large measure depending on education) is too different in its nature from civilization as developed in European & American states.

D. That the ancient edicts ^{should be repeated} against the religion of the West, so that native believers shall not be persecuted or put to death for their faith, as long as they live in peace & commit no open crime. (See note on "Co-Operation," page 10.) (See also Note on page 12.)

Other minor points may perhaps be proposed, & one government will perhaps lay more stress on one particular point, & another on a different one; yet the above may be supposed to be the leading topics that will occur & that will have to occupy the Statesmen of Japan for some years to come. What I have so far stated has probably occurred to many of the Government Officers ere this. But what I am about to propose now is perhaps quite new ground.

Anticipating some such answers as the above, it would be well at once to make some preparation for meeting them, by appointing some special commissions in connection with the proposed Embassy, each Commission to consist of say three Officers & a Secretary, all the several commissioners being appointed with a special view to their abilities for that commission on which they are respectively to serve.

The Commissions.

A. A commission to examine the constitutions & laws of 4 or 5 of the most highly civilized countries of the world, not only in theory, but also in their practical operation. The Officers of this Commission ought to visit & see in full operation Foreign Offices, Parliaments, Courts of Justice, Prisons, &c. —

B. A commission to examine the laws & institutions in regard to the finances of the different countries, the manner of imposing & levying taxes & customs, public loans & paper currencies, national banking, merchants' exchanges, insurance & mercantile companies, & mints.

C. A commission to examine the various systems of education, the laws about popular education, the manner of establishing & supporting public schools, school regulations & branches of learning, university laws & diplomas. The Officers of this commission ought to visit & see in operation Public & Private Schools, High Schools & Universities, Commercial & Polytechnic Institutions, and Public Examinations.

D. A mixed commission to examine the various systems of recruiting, organizing, supporting, & managing armies & navies. These Officers ought to visit celebrated Harbors, where they can see Armies, Navy-yards, Docks, Barracks, Fortifications, Naval & Military Academies, &c. &c. —

E. As to the various systems of religion, let all the Superior Officers of the Embassy, including the Commissioners, have special permission granted them by the Emperor to

make inquiries in the countries they visit; & let them be specially enjoined well to examine whether there be anything in the religions of the West which would be specially dangerous & injurious to the Government & People of Japan, if at any time they were tolerated in the Empire; and also what particular things would be thus dangerous & injurious.

Remark 1. Let all the Officers of the Embassy, & especially the Secretaries, be commanded to write a detailed account of all they see & hear, & to obtain in print or writing all possible information about their respective branches, so that on returning home the Government may, if it chooses, compile & publish all the results of the mission for the information of the nation.

Remark 2. Although all the Treaty Powers might be visited by the Embassy, yet the only countries whose institutions are to be thoroughly studied, as pointed out above, are France, England, Prussia, Holland, & the United States. If these are well understood, the others are not worth spending time upon. One country, for instance England, may be specially instructive in the departments of Foreign Affairs & Commerce; another country, perhaps France, in the department of Finance; another, probably Prussia or the United States, in that of Education, & so on.

Remark 3. As to the time & order in which the various countries are to be visited, it would probably be best to go by the P. & O.

Rail Steamers or by those of the Messageries Imp. p.riales, so as to arrive in Paris towards the end of November at the latest. When business in Europe is completed towards the spring, to come home over America. Next summer the Pacific Railroad will be finished, & the journey from Washington to Yedo may be done in about 33 days. Thus the Embassy would avoid the intolerable heat on the outward journey, would be in Europe at the time when all branches of the Government are in full operation, would make the circuit of the globe, & might be home again about the middle of the summer of next year.

Remark 4. There are several advantages in this way of appointing special commissions for special departments of inquiry. One is that it gives to every one connected with the Embassy not only a distinct office, but points out to him exactly what is required of him & what special duty he is to be continually engaged in, so that there is no occasion for loss of time or effort on account of the want of a clear aim. Another advantage is that such commissions secure what in Political Economy is called "division of labor", by which much more is accomplished by the same number of persons & in the same time, than if all the Officers were to engage together without distinction in all the various inquiries to be made. A third advantage consists in this that, though a few men of general talent might well be associated with the Embassy, the appointment of special commissions gives

the Government an opportunity to use men who possess special abilities for one special branch, thus employing the best specific talents to be found in the Empire.

Note about Religious Toleration.

From what I have sometimes noticed in conversations on the subject, it seems to me that there is in Japan a misunderstanding of what Europeans call "religious toleration" or "religious liberty". Some people seem to think that to grant such toleration implies that the Government should openly express its approval of western religion, or even recommend it to the people at large. No such thing is involved in the term, & no European government does such a thing. According to the British Constitution a protestant only can occupy the throne; but this is no reason for the King or Queen of England to condemn or approve of other religions in the country, although complete liberty of religion is allowed every subject. If such toleration be granted, not a word need be said or written about it in any Treaty or other public document. All that is required in this case is that it be generally known & understood that the ancient edicts against western religion will not be carried out at present, & that as long as a subject is loyal to his Emperor, obeys the laws of his country, lives in peace with his neighbors, attends honestly to his trade, & commits no crime or immorality, so long he shall not be persecuted

simply for his faith, whatever that may be. Religious toleration simply means that a subject of any country is allowed to have such religious opinions & to use such modes of worship as his own conscience approves & thinks to be right. It does not mean that any Government should condemn its own State Religion & recommend an other faith. If a subject commits a crime, whatever be his faith, whether Buddhism, or Confucianism, or Protestantism, or Catholicism, or nothing at all, it makes no difference, he is simply a criminal, & is of course to be treated as a criminal, & to be punished according to the laws of the land.

Among the above mentioned Commissions I did not propose a special one for the religious department, & left that to be looked into by all as they might have opportunity; for any man of common ability, seeing European & American life, & examining what influence western religion exercises in restraining or encouraging vice, or in injuring or promoting private & public morality, can judge for himself whether a subject of Japan is apt to become better or worse by adopting such a faith as the rule of his life. Upon this the whole question seems to depend; at least this is the great objection made by the Priests of Japan, most of whom think that all foreign religions are like poison & exert a corrupting & demoralizing influence. To decide, therefore, on the propriety or impropriety of granting toleration in religion mainly depends on the question whether these doctrines do or do not produce such baneful effects as is supposed by some & feared by others, & this can

be easily ascertained by any intelligent inquirer. It did not seem probable that the Emperor would appoint a Commission of Priests only. — But on more mature reflection, it seems to me that much good might result from it, if a few Priests of high rank & different sects were to be associated with the other Commissioners. On the same principle, it would doubtless have a good effect, if some of the leading men of the extreme conservative party (*Shōvōka*) were also to be associated with the Embassy, both in the higher & lower grades, according to their rank & abilities. Such a course would make this proposed Embassy a bond of union & reconciliation between the different parties now dividing the nation; all parties, liberals, conservatives, & priests would be pacified & look with favor upon the sending of an Embassy, because each would have a share & feel an interest in it. Otherwise probably many would regard it with suspicion & dislike.

Note, (additional to page 6.)

Another topic that will probably be advanced by foreign governments is the establishment of Ministers & Consuls in some of the principal places of Europe & America; but the inquiries in regard to this would very properly belong to the Chief or Chiefs of the Embassy, & his or their immediate subordinate Officers. —

11 June. 1869.