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New York July 9/42

His Majesty
The Mikado of Japan

I have watched with exceedingly great interest, the earnestness and readiness with which you & your people, seek to learn & to possess, what there is of good in European & American Civilization.

I have at the same time observed with regret, that, while selecting much that is good, Your Majesty is attempting, - & that too by force of law, - to adapt

(2)
Customs of ours which exist only as the result of bigotry & prejudice, & to compel your people to abandon Customs which, tho' in some respects to be improved upon, are far more just than our own upon the same subjects.

The matters I specially refer to now, are the practices & Customs regarding the intercourse of the sexes.

You could hardly adopt more vicious Customs than our own; & in proof that they are so, I have but to state the fact that they are continually evaded and

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violated, by males openly, by females secretly.

Next, why should we be ashamed of those bodies with which Nature has gifted us? Why prohibit the bathing together of males & females? Of course I in all respects outwardly conform, - & in all respects actually conform in my intercourse with the world, with the absurdities of the people of whom I am one: - but this has not prevented me, in common with all the higher minds of Europe & America, from

(4)
recognizing their folly &
desiring their gradual
amendment.

Next let me pray your
Majesty to beware of &
avoid our religious people

They are either people
of little education, or of
small mind - or -
hypocrites!

They are most generally
of one of the 2 first named
classes, with a little of the
last.

Christianity is but a
development of religious
belief, - a growth undoubtably
tho' not so grand a one
as Judaism - from

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The polytheism of its
previous phase - polytheism
grew out of Sun & Star
worship & these last out of
the savage instinct to
be awestruck at, & adore
what could not be under-
stood, & to suppose the
thing not understood to be
the dwelling place of a
god!

I will not now intrude
further: - but if your Majesty
would desire to hear more
address me as follows

Dr. Sevenson
Thiergarten Str 4
Hannover
Nord Deutschland

It also would it give me pleasure
to educate some noble
Japanese boys & girls in
the highest arts and
philosophy of Europe, freed
from what is false to nature
& to truth, the products
only, of prejudice and ignorance!

I am an American
Citizen tho' resident in
Germany for the sake of
giving to my children the
best education I can procure
for them.

I have the honor to be
Your Majesty's very obedient
J. R. Levenson
D^r of Philosophy & Master of Arts
of the University of Göttingen (North Germany)

謹上近頃 陛下は貴國人式類に改米同化し風
 望に善し學に長し取らんと欲し玉より由重き幸甚
 し而事ト深クは感佩を併臣等々彼等々利害
 得失ヲ熟考仕は度一率以附取等々毒等存
 在儀等々取らば得也 陛下法ヲ立テ、貴
 國人式ヲシテ從前ノ風俗ヲ改メ改米ノ風俗ニ
 稱ラシメントノ思召し由等々得せ元來改米ニモ
 偏愛頑固ノ風俗多ク貴國ノ風俗ニ改正ス可キ
 所等々在得也又事、由り改米ヨリモ正ニキ所
 在等々在申上在、專ラ男女ノ関係ニ係り在



風俗ニ正坐友是之我改米ヨリモ惡ニキ風俗ヲ
正於置と移るを難し米儀ニ正坐友是惡風ノ
一證ヲ揚クレハ男女淫奔ノ風止マズ男ハ陽ニ
奔リ女ハ陰ニ奔ル實ニ惡ム可キ風俗ニ正坐友
抑天授ノ我體ニ取テ陰ス可キ所アルハ何ノ故
ニ法外又男女浴室ヲ共ニスルヲ禁スルハ抑何
為ニ法外居モ亦天下ノ一民ナリ非理ノ風ヲ以テ
世人ニ交ハル丁ニ於テ外形内心結テ他人ト同様
ノ事ニ正坐友然レ正改米ノ高見博識ノ人ト
同シク世間ノ風俗愚ナルヲ知り漸ヲ以テ惡

弊ヲ改ムルニ於テハ之ヲ妨クル者無之友又
陛下教門ニ奉ラ彼是中居者ハ随分用心正
可成正避と遊る方可然モ存友是等ノ弊ハ
必ス涉る者ニアラサレハ無智ノ者或ハ偽
欺ノ者ニ可及し及多クハ淺学ノ者或ハ老
ノ者ニ有し偽欺之者ハ稀ニシテ切支母教ト申
者只言門ノ信心ヲ勸ムルノミノ者ニテ於太教程
ハ世間ニ弘マリ不レ及トモ既ニ大ニ行ハレ
居レ於此其根本ハ正以前行ハレ及衆神
教ヨリ起リ者正ニ及レバク又右衆神教ト

申す日月星辰等ヲ信仰一致有者ニテ其
本原ハ暗冥ノ人民忠悌ノ餘ニ理外ノ事ヲ
想像シ遂ニ解シ難キ其体ヲ以テ神ノ居
所ト致有るノニ此等其教門ニ入リハ尚モ尋
常ノ事ニシテ重テ申ル所 陛下若シ尋
常ノ係ト申スレバ通之者死ヲ以テ此下
聞レテ及まら

ノルドデンツラント國ハンノーフル府
シールガルテンストリート街四号
ドクトルセーウエルツン人

若又右等ノ如クモ皆皆サレテ子ナルヲ以テ其道ノ
正理ニ背ケル偽欺ヲ離レシテ為メ日本皇族ノ
子女ニ歐洲高士ノ技術并博物究理ノ學ヲ
少教ハレシメテ得テ大業ヲ至テ存外臣カ兒輩
ニ勉テ善教ヲ學ハシメシガ日耳曼ニ寄留
居在レドモ本来米國人民ニシテ生ル右忠告
トシテ及モ忠告致首謹言

七十二年第七月九日
北日耳曼ゴッテンゲン地ノ傳教院主
博物學士

エム アール セーウエル ソン

奉
日本天皇陛下

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日本天皇の御書



His Majesty
The Mikado
Japan



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