

The Opinions of the Old People in Japan.

Japan being said to be the country of god has ~~formerly~~ ^{hitherto} made no treaty with other foreign nations; but in 1854 a ^{small} ~~an~~ American fleet under Commodore Perry, anchored in the gulf of Suruga to communicate the desire of the American government to open trade with the Japanese people, and so a general convention of peace and amity was signed between Japan and the United States by which the ports of Nagasaki Simoda and Hakodate were opened to the ships of the latter for trade and protection; and consuls from the United States were allowed to reside in the country. In the following years the similar privileges were accorded to England, France and Russia. These privileges were still further extended in 1858. On account of these treaties the people have been aware of the foreigners. Nevertheless in some parts of Japan where the foreigners do not visit there, even in large cities such as Tokyo, Osaka, Dai-ri etc. not all but almost all the old people have odd opinions. In these opinions some are very curious but some are not. Some old men think that our country must

be said to be a master ^{of} countries, and are very proud, because the master of the house is accustomed not to do any thing but orders any thing to his servants to do, and in our country the people have not invented any thing at all, notwithstanding, they use wonderful machines and important things which are discovered by the Europeans or the Americans. I think it is a sage opinion. But some think that to trade with foreigners is just like the shaving of a board with plane; for they bring ~~to~~ some useless toys and utensils for the important things even gold and silver coins. Others think that the government of our country ^{will} changes our religion to christian religion introducing foreigners, and many other peculiar opinions are there; because they are for a long time in that custom and are not familiar with foreigners, but about ten years after now all the people ~~will~~ never talk such kind of story and the country ^{will} go to the point of civilization with double quick march as the locomotive between Tokki and Yokohama.

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