

ADDRESS OF  
CHARLES S. HAMLIN  
AT THE DINNER TENDERED BY THE JAPAN SOCIETY TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
MR. HANIHARA  
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED STATES  
HOTEL ASTOR, N.Y., MARCH 10, 1924.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:-

I want, at the outset, to thank you for your invitation to attend this reception and dinner to our guest, His Excellency, Mr. Hanihara, Ambassador of Japan to the United States. When your invitation reached me, I feared at first that my official duties in Washington, as a member of the Federal Reserve Board, would preclude my acceptance, but when I realized what an opportunity was afforded me of paying a tribute of respect and affection not only to an old valued friend, but, as well, to the great country which he so worthily represents, I felt that the invitation from your Society came as a command, but indeed a command which it was a genuine pleasure to obey.

Our guest has had a distinguished diplomatic career. I first knew him as Secretary of the Legation, and later of the Embassy at Washington, in 1901. He held an important position at the Peace Conference at Portsmouth, N. H. in 1907. He was Consul General at San Francisco in 1916. In 1917 he came to this country as a member of the Mission headed by Viscount Ishii. In 1919, he was Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs at Tokio. In 1921 he was one of the principal delegates to the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armaments, and

in 1922 he came to us as Ambassador of Japan.

As I have said, I have known him intimately for many years. I remember so well delightful visits paid by him to me in Boston over twenty years ago, and I have followed his career since then with the greatest interest and admiration.

For the past thirty years it has been my good fortune to know intimately most of the representatives of Japan to the United States. I remember so well the names, - Tateno, Kurino, , Takahira, Uchida, Komura, Chinda, Sato, Ishii and Shidehara. They were all men of the first rank, worthy representatives of their great country. Our guest of the evening fittingly maintains their high standard; in fact, I can say with confidence that we have never had a representative from Japan who inspired in us such love and affection as does our present Ambassador. When I first came to know him, we were comparatively young men. He was most companionable, bright and cheerful, and quickly attained a reputation for good fellowship. On the other hand, he was a most serious and thoughtful student and whatever task was given to him to work out, he worked upon it assiduously and when he had finished, the subject had been thought through and exhausted. We all at that time predicted for him a brilliant career and our predictions have been more than verified.

The great nation he represents so well has shown to the world a marvellous progress. The grievous disaster she has just gone through has called forth a spontaneous expression of sympathy from our people. I predict, however, that those ruined cities will spring from their ashes and quickly rise to even higher planes of power and influence.

I have always had a deep interest in Japan, - an interest shared also by my wife, and I will point out, very briefly, some of the sources from which that interest has sprung.

My wife's great grandfather was Captain Edmund Roberts of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, who, in 1833, was sent by President Jackson, in the sloop of war "Peacock," to negotiate treaties of trade and commerce with some of the far Eastern powers. In his autobiography he relates some very interesting experiences in the course of his diplomatic negotiations. Among others, he describes his experiences in negotiating a treaty with Cochin China. One of the powerful Mandarins of the country came on board, and, after a few minutes conversation, expressed grave doubt whether Captain Roberts was of sufficiently high rank to treat with him, as he understood that in the United States there were no titles of honor or nobility. The other members of Captain Roberts' party wondered how he could remove the doubts of the Mandarin but the Captain rose to the occasion and asked the Mandarin to take down a list of his titles which he would give to him through the interpreter. The Mandarin thereupon prepared his Chinese pencil and sat down with a single sheet of paper. Captain Roberts said it would not be possible to put down his titles on such a small sheet of paper. The Mandarin expressed great surprise saying that his titles would not occupy one-fourth of this sheet. Finally a large scroll was produced and Captain Roberts began: - "Edmund Roberts, special Envoy from the United States, and a citizen of Portsmouth in the state of New Hampshire."

He then proceeded to state the counties of Rockingham, Stafford, Merrimack and the other counties of the state, which the Mandarin painfully rendered into Chinese, asking somewhat impatiently if there were any more titles. Captain Roberts then resumed and enumerated the various towns of New Hampshire. These were finally done into Chinese, when the Mandarin, completely exhausted, his brow beaded with perspiration, asked plaintively if there were any more. Captain Roberts replied that he had hardly begun. The Mandarin said it was unnecessary to record the rest, that he had a headache and that the rolling of the ship had made him sea sick. Captain Roberts then said he would consent to an adjournment until the next morning when he would complete the list, as he considered it absolutely necessary to give all of his titles. The Captain intended the next morning to enumerate the mountains, rivers and lakes of New Hampshire, to be followed by the same information with regard to the other states of the Union. The next morning, the Mandarin returned and the Captain started to go on with his enumeration, but the Mandarin begged him to desist, saying that the titles already enumerated far exceeded those of any Prince of the Empire! The negotiations thereupon proceeded, with this initial difficulty removed.

The next year Captain Roberts made another journey to the East with a letter from President Jackson to the Emperor of Japan. He died on the way, however, at Macao, where his body now lies.

I shall always feel that if he had lived to reach Japan, the splendid services rendered later by Commodore Perry would have been

anticipated by him.

It may interest you also to learn that my wife was a cousin of Robert Pruyn, the first Minister to Japan sent from the United States, succeeding Townsend Harris.

On my own side, I have deep interest in this wonderful country. My great great grandfather, Major Eleazer Haslin, of Pembroke, Massachusetts, had twelve children, four of whom he named for the continents, Europe, Asia, Africa and America, respectively. My great grandfather was Asia Haslin and my friends have always ascribed my love for the far East and especially for Japan, to this interesting fact!

In 1897, President McKinley did me the honor to appoint me a Commissioner of the United States in connection with the controversy as to the proper protection of the fur seals of Bering Sea and adjacent waters of the Pacific Ocean, in which not only the United States, but also Japan, Great Britain, and Russia were interested. I was instructed to proceed to Japan to ask for the appointment of delegates from that country to a convention to be held later in Washington, to take up and to settle this question.

On the voyage over, I met Prince Ito, the Japanese statesman who was returning from the Queen of England's jubilee. He was then well along in years and I was a young man but he was very kind to me and we had many interesting talks together. One day, learning that my birthday fell on the following Sunday, he told me that he wished to give me a birthday supper on that evening, and you can well imagine with what avidity I accepted. But alas! difficulties arose which I

had not anticipated. On Saturday evening, precisely at midnight, our ship, as if with malicious intent, crossed the 180th meridian. As a consequence, there was no Sunday! On the contrary, it became immediately Monday, and I lost my birthday! The next year, however, I happened to be in Russia where I had two birthdays, one according to the Russian calendar, and one according to our own, - so the balance of power was in part restored!

When finally I landed in Japan, the first three days were indeed exciting, - on the first day we had an earthquake, on the second, a typhoon, and on the third, a flood. I looked forward with some apprehension to the fourth day. On the fourth day came an avalanche, - but it was an avalanche of courtesy, kindness, and hospitality which fairly swept me off my feet and which I never can forget were I to live a thousand years.

Nor shall I ever forget my first meeting with the venerable statesman, Count Okuma, then Minister of Foreign Affairs. After some discussion of fur seal problems he asked me if I had ever been in Japan. I said No. He then expressed the hope that I might see the country before I sailed back. I replied that it was my fondest hope that I might do this, but that as he had just told me that his country would send delegates to the Washington Convention and that they would sail in a very few days, I should not be able to have my hope gratified.

He then held a conversation with his Secretary, who at once left the room, and he turned to me and said that he had given instructions to his Secretary to cable Washington that his delegates could not

possibly sail until a month later. Had it been consistent with diplomatic propriety I should have embraced him on the spot!

I wish I could tell you of the courtesy and kindness visited upon me during that month. I was almost overwhelmed with hospitality. The only fly in the ointment was that the Government officials who entertained me, very naturally supposed that, being so interested in fur seals, I must be a distinguished Ichthyologist, and, as a result, I was taken to countless fisheries exhibitions, examining every species of beam, trawls, and fish hooks, - while my heart all the time was yearning for Miyanoshita and Nikko.

There is yet another cause for my deep interest in Japan. An international commission of scientists was appointed to study the fur seal question, and during their observations off the Coast of Japan they discovered a new species of fish, and later the commission decided to name that fish for me, sending me a photograph of it inscribed with its Latin name, - "Podothecus Hamlini." That to me was the greatest honor of my life! I used to show the picture to my friends who all agreed, perhaps somewhat ironically, that the photograph was a good likeness of me. One day, however, there came an anti-climax, for a distinguished scientist, after examining it, turned to me and quietly remarked that I had better not feel too proud as the fish was really only a species of sculpin! Sculpin or no sculpin, however, I shall cling to that fish and whenever I glance at the photograph there come to my mind those words of Shakespeare:

"It is my own and I am rich in having such a jewel, as twenty seas, if all their sands were pearl, their waters nectar, and their rocks pure gold."

The people living near Buzzards Bay in Massachusetts, where I live, are also intensely interested in Japan. In 1841 Captain Whitfield, a whaling Captain living at Fairhaven, on the Bay, rescued four or five young Japanese whom he found on a rocky island in the Western Pacific Ocean, where they had been wrecked. He landed all but one at the Sandwich Islands. That one was named Nakahama, and he begged Captain Whitfield to keep him. The kind hearted Captain decided to grant his request and took him back with him to Fairhaven where he lived in his house for six or seven years, studying in the public schools of the town. Finally Nakahama returned to Japan and later was one of the interpreters at the meeting between Commodore Perry and the Japanese officials. He afterwards became a Professor in the Imperial University, and when he died he was one of the eminent men of Japan. On July 4, 1918, Viscount Ishii, the then Ambassador of Japan, presented to the town of Fairhaven a Samurai sword in the name of Doctor Nakahama, the son of the boy whom Captain Whitfield had rescued. Over ten thousand people attended the ceremony. The sword was placed in the public library at Fairhaven, and stands as a perpetual token of affection between the people of Japan and of the United States, the Samurai sword typifying knightly chivalry and patriotism.

It may be a surprise to some of us when we are told that Japan



has a dynasty extending back over two thousand five hundred years. It was a cultured, highly civilized nation at a time when many of our ancestors, in somewhat scanty attire, were wandering around among the woods of Germany.

For two hundred and fifty years prior to the coming of Commodore Perry, Japan had cut herself off from other nations and lived in a state of almost complete isolation. She had a highly perfected civilization and her people were contented and happy. Subsistence was difficult indeed to obtain, but poverty was a mark of distinction. The chronicles of that time tell us that an exalted patriotism prevailed among all classes, and that it was considered a privilege rather than a burden to contribute to the expense of maintaining the Government. I notice that this statement brings a smile to many of your faces. Will the chronicler of our history a hundred years hence look back and say that our people considered it a privilege rather than a burden to contribute to the expenses of our Government long after the occasion for the swollen expenses has ceased? During the terrible world war our people showed an exalted patriotism equal to that of any nation on earth, but now that the war has ended, they demand immediate retrenchment.

Japan finally stepped forth from her isolation and became an active member of the Society of Nations. That phrase "the Society of Nations" is to me a pregnant phrase. It implies the interdependence of nations, one upon the other.

Two hundred years ago, there were two English philosophers,

Hobbes and Mandeville, who preached a novel doctrine of isolation both for individuals and nations. They looked upon men as wild beasts fighting for existence, the fittest<sup>only</sup> to survive. They said that in this struggle, both as to individuals and nations, the gain of one was the precise measure of the loss to the other. Their philosophy represented crude, extreme views, - individualism and isolation in its most extreme form. These distorted views, however, were soon swept away. It was quickly realized that not the individual, but the clan was the real unit, that the individual was only a part of society, and that the real lasting prosperity of the individual grew out of the prosperity of society.

So also in dealings between nations it was recognized that each may gain from intercourse and trade with the other; that the real, lasting prosperity of a single nation can best be secured out of the prosperity of all mankind; that no nation can have lasting prosperity when other nations are suffering under adversity. This is a lesson which our people should take to heart, and to which I am sure they are keenly alive today.

I am looking forward impatiently to the time when I can again visit Japan. I want again to see its people. It has been well said that to study the birth and development of religion you must turn to Judea; to trace out the development of art you must turn to Greece; to seek the sources of law you must study the history of Rome. If, however, you wish to examine into the love of beauty, the reverence for ancestors and patriotism in its most sublime form, you should turn to

the history of Japan, for these virtues represent the inmost soul of that country.

On July 4, 1918, Viscount Ishii, in his presentation address at Fairhaven, eloquently pictured the attitude of Japan towards the people of the United States. He said: -

"We trust you. We love you. If you will let us, we will walk at your side in loyal good fellowship, down all the coming years."

What should be the response of our people to these sentiments? Let us take the hand Japan has thus extended to us and let us walk together down the ages pledged to protect civilization and to maintain the peace of the world. It will then follow, as the day follows the night, that our children and our children's children will rise up and call our memories blessed.

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