

# I

## THE OPENING OF JAPAN, 1854-1856.

### A. Treaty of Peace and Amity, between the United States of America and Japan, Kanagawa, March 31, 1854.

THE United States of America and the Empire of Japan, desiring to establish firm, lasting, and sincere friendship between the two nations, have resolved to fix, in a manner clear and positive, by means of a treaty or general convention of peace and amity, the rules which shall in future be mutually observed in the intercourse of their respective countries; for which most desirable object the **President** of the United States has conferred full powers on his commissioner, Matthew **Calbraith Perry**, special ambassador of the United States to Japan; and the August Sovereign of Japan has given similar full powers to his commissioners, Hayashi, Daigaku-no-kami, **Ido**, prince of **Tsus-Sima**, Izawa, prince of Mimasaki, and Udono, member of the Board of Revenue. And the said commissioners, after having exchanged their said full powers and duly considered the premises, have agreed to the following Articles:

**ARTICLE 1.** There shall be a perfect, permanent, and universal peace, and a sincere and cordial amity, between the United States of America on the one part, and the empire of Japan on the other part, and between their people respectively, without exception of persons or places.

**ARTICLE II.** The port of Simoda, in the principality of Idzu, and the port of Hakodade, in the principality of Matsmai,

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are granted by the Japanese as ports for the reception of American ships, where they can be supplied with wood, water, provisions, and coal, and other articles their necessities may require, as far as the Japanese have them. The time for opening the first named port is immediately on signing this treaty; the last named port is to be opened immediately after the same day in the ensuing Japanese year.

**Note:** A tariff of prices shall be given by the Japanese **officers** of the things which they can furnish, payment for which shall be made in gold and silver coin.

**ARTICLE III.** Whenever ships of the United States are thrown or wrecked on the coast of Japan, the Japanese vessels will assist them, and carry their crews to Simoda, or Hakodade, and hand them over to their countrymen appointed to receive them; whatever articles the shipwrecked men may have preserved shall likewise be restored, and the expenses incurred in the rescue and support of Americans and Japanese who may thus be thrown upon the shores of either nation are not to be refunded.

**ARTICLE IV.** Those shipwrecked persons and other citizens of the United States shall be as free as in other countries, and not subjected to confinement, but shall be amenable to just laws.

**ARTICLE V.** Shipwrecked men and other citizens of the United States, temporarily living at Simoda and Hakodade, shall not be subject to such restrictions and **confinement** as the Dutch and Chinese are at Nagasaki, but shall be free at Simoda to go where they please within the limits of seven Japanese miles (or *ri*) from a small island in the harbour of Simoda, marked on the accompanying chart hereto appended; and shall in like manner be free to go where they please at **Hakodade**, within limits to be defined after the visit of the United States squadron to that place.

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**ARTICLE VI.** If there be any other sort of goods wanted, or any business which shall require to be arranged, there shall be careful deliberation between the parties in order to settle such matters.

**ARTICLE VII.** It is agreed that ships of the United States resorting to the ports open to them shall be permitted to exchange gold and silver coin and articles of goods for other articles of goods, under such regulations as shall be temporarily established by the Japanese government for that purpose. It is stipulated, however, that the ships of the United States **shall** be permitted to carry away whatever articles they are unwilling to exchange.

**ARTICLE VIII.** Wood, water, provisions, coal, and goods required, shall only be procured through the agency of Japanese officers appointed for that purpose and in no other manner.

**ARTICLE IX.** It is agreed that if, at any future day the government of Japan shall grant to any other nation or nations privileges and advantages which are not herein granted to the United States and the citizens thereof, **that** these same privileges and advantages shall be granted likewise to the United States and to the citizens thereof, without any consultation or delay.

**ARTICLE X.** Ships of the United States shall be permitted to resort to no other ports in Japan but Simoda and **Hakodade**, unless in distress or forced by stress of weather.

**ARTICLE XI.** There shall be appointed, by the government of the United States, consuls or agents to reside in Simoda, at any time after the expiration of 18 months from the date of the signing of this treaty: provided that either of the two governments deem such arrangement necessary.

**ARTICLE XII.** The present convention having been concluded and duly signed, shall be obligatory and faithfully observed by the United States of America and Japan, and by

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the citizens and subjects of each respective power; and it is to be **ratified** and approved by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by the August Sovereign of Japan, and the ratifications **shall** be exchanged within 18 months from the date of the signature thereof, or sooner if practicable.

In faith whereof, we, respective plenipotentiaries of the United States of America and the Empire of Japan aforesaid, have signed and sealed these presents.

Done at Kanagawa, this **31st** day of March, in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1854, and of Kayei the **7th** year, **3rd** month, and **3rd** day.

*British and Foreign State Papers*, XLV, 224-226.

#### **B. Convention between Great Britain and Japan, for regulating the Admission of British Ships into Ports of Japan, Nagasaki, October 14, 1854.**

It is agreed between Sir James Stirling, Knight, Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-chief of the ships and vessels of Her Britannic Majesty in the East Indies and seas adjacent, and Mezi-no Chekfu-no Kami, Obunyo of Nagasaki, and Nagai Evan Ocho, Omedski of Nagasaki, ordered by His Imperial Highness the Emperor of Japan to act herein, that:

**ARTICLE I.** The ports of Nagasaki (**Fisen**) and Hakodadi (Matsumai) shall be open to British ships for the purposes of **effecting** repairs, and obtaining fresh water, provisions, and **other** supplies of any sort they may absolutely want for the use of the ships.

**ARTICLE II.** Nagasaki shall be open for the purposes aforesaid from and after the present date; and Hakodadi from

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and after the end of fifty days from the Admiral's departure from this port. The rules and regulations of each of these ports are to be complied with.

**ARTICLE III.** Only ships in **distress** from weather, or unmanageable, will be permitted to enter other ports than those specified in the foregoing Articles, without permission from the Imperial Government.

**ARTICLE IV.** British ships in Japanese ports shall conform to the laws of Japan. If high officers or commanders of ships shall break any such laws, it will lead to the ports being closed. Should inferior persons break them, they are to be delivered **over** to the commanders of their ships for punishment.

**ARTICLE V.** In the ports of Japan, either now open, or which may hereafter be opened, to the ships or subjects of any foreign nation, British ships and subjects shall be entitled to admission, and to the enjoyment of an equality of advantages with those of the most favoured nation, always excepting the **advantages** accruing to the Dutch and Chinese from their **existing** relations with Japan.

**ARTICLE VI.** This Convention shall be **ratified**, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Nagasaki on behalf of **Her Majesty** the Queen of Great Britain, and on behalf of His Highness the Emperor of Japan, within 12 months from the present date.

**ARTICLE VII.** When this Convention shall be ratified, no high officer coming to Japan shall alter it.

In witness whereof we have signed the same, and have **affixed** our seals thereunto, at Nagasaki, this **14th** day of **October**, 1854.

*British and Foreign State Papers*, XLIV, 62-63.