

**ARAKI THE DAIMIO:
A JAPANESE STORY
OF THE OLDEN TIME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649061228

Araki the Daimio: A Japanese Story of the Olden Time by Mona B. Bickerstaffe

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MONA B. BICKERSTAFFE

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A JAPANESE STORY
OF THE OLDEN TIME**



ATA AND HER MAIDENS.

ALICE BRAN, '011.

ARAKI THE DAIMIO.

A Japanese Story of the Olden Time.

BY

MONA B. BICKERSTAPPE.

LONDON:
JACKSON, WALFORD, AND HODDER,
27, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1865.

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ARAKI THE DAIMIO.

Introduction.

It was about the middle of the sixteenth century —an era fraught with events of weighty interest to the Christian world in general, but more especially to Christian England, that favoured country having after a hard struggle succeeded in snapping the last remaining link that bound her to the Papal chair. How the occupant of that chair must have sighed, sighed heavily, when forced to resign so fair a possession! and how his pontifical heart must have warmed with rapture when, having lost his rich heritage in

the West, good news were brought him by Portuguese vessels heavily laden with the produce of the balmy East! There the Romish star was in its ascendant, for the "Land of the Rising Sun," having sheltered a band of shipwrecked mariners, was by them now won over to give admittance to the religion of which they were members. By-and-bye the news spread abroad, other European vessels found their way into the ports of Japan, laden not only with European merchandise, but with men zealous for the faith they professed, which, though a tainted form of Christianity, was still the religion of Christ, bearing before it the emblem of His cross. What a grand field of labour had those early Christian fathers! Then no system of exclusion existed to thwart their missionary efforts, they were free to travel through the length and breadth of the land, even as the Japanese themselves were then free to visit other countries, and mingle with foreign nations.

Truly, even the most prejudiced will allow that some of those ancient Padres were good men and true, men zealous for the glory of God, and willing to spend and be spent in His service; and of such was the successor of Francis Xavier, who himself founded