

**TEL SONO, THE  
JAPANESE REFORMER:  
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

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Tel Sono, the Japanese Reformer: An Autobiography by Tel Sono

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## INTRODUCTION.

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To write the introduction to this autobiography is indeed a pleasure and privilege. Though not a year has passed since Miss Tel Sono and I first met, we have learned "to know each other's hearts," as she so sweetly expresses it, and to enter into each other's hopes.

God's hand in the history of nations is oftentimes traced; his hand in the history of a life is here as easily traced. The groping of a heathen mind after the true God through long, weary years, until the glad finding day, is here shown. The picture of a remarkable career crowded with worthy deeds, and yet but the shadow of one more sublime toward which it looks, is here drawn. And a purpose high, noble, and Christ-like is here found.

From the "Land of the Rising Sun" Tel Sono came to where the beams of the Sun of Righteousness could find their way into the misty darkness of her heart and dispel the gloom. With a woman's heart she felt for woman's woe, and came with a woman's fixedness of purpose, determined, at whatever cost, to alleviate that woe. Home and honor she left to dwell alone in a strange land and fill the

lowliest place, that thus she might the more effectually work for the accomplishment of that purpose. Such a spirit God himself honored by coming in to quicken, energize, and vivify. And now, the eternal Light filling all her soul, she will return to be a mighty power in dispelling Japan's night, and making that fair country in very truth a land of the rising sun—the rising, triumphant, all-conquering Sun of Righteousness.

All cannot share in what has made my life richer and stronger—the friendship of this heroic, noble woman and the inspiration of her simple, unfaltering faith; but all can breathe something of the freshness and vigor and spirit of her presence by the reading of this story of her life.

HESTER ALWAY.



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# TEL SONO, THE JAPANESE REFORMER.

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## CHAPTER I.

PARENTAGE — STUDIES — THOUGHTS OF GOD — "TESA."

My ancestors were of high descent, and very wealthy. Moan Waka Sono, my grandfather, who lived in Nagoya, was a philosopher. When over fifty years old he came to believe in a God in heaven, and built a room for prayer. There he always prayed looking toward heaven and ringing a bell which he held in his right hand. Sometimes he would sit down in the room and remain engaged in prayer for hours, not moving nor taking any nourishment.

He began to give all his wealth to the destitute, and soon became very poor; but he did not care about his poverty, and always said, "Human wealth is unprofitable. I cannot carry it away when I die."

His eldest daughter, my aunt, a very fine poetess, was fond of travel. Once when traveling alone, as was her custom, she was met in a mountain-pass by a thief. As a part of every woman's education in Japan is skill in combat, my aunt was ready to defend herself. When he made the attempt to rob her she