

**LORD HOTTA, THE  
PIONEER DIPLOMAT  
OF JAPAN**

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Lord Hotta, the Pioneer Diplomat of Japan by Henry Satoh

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THE  
PIONEER DIPLOMAT OF JAPAN

BY  
**HENRY SATOH**  
AUTHOR OF "AGITATED JAPAN."  
&c., &c.

(Second Edition)

**TOKIO**  
**HAKUBUNKAN**  
MCMVIII.

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**DEDICATED**  
**TO THE**  
**MEMORIES**  
**OF**  
**MY**  
**GRANDMOTHER AND MOTHER**

**Who taught me to admire loyal service  
to the Tokugawa Shogunate.**



# PREFACE

BY

COUNT HAYASHI LL. D. ETC., ETC.

(*Translation*)

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Lord Hotta is a great figure which adorned the closing history of the Tokugawa Shogunate. It was he who at a time when anti-foreign principles and the policy of seclusion were almost about to carry the day, had the foresight and courage to set public opinion at defiance and open diplomatic negotiations with the American Envoy. It was he also who by his advanced knowledge and penetration, coupled with strong conviction, succeeded in saving the nation from dangers of the gravest nature, thereby placing the national policy on a firm and lasting foundation. Towards the end of his political career, his influence not only began to wane, but he himself had to fall a victim to the enmity of his opponents. His political career ended in humiliation in the eyes of the public, yet in the clearness of his vision and the strength of his convictions, he stands unique and peerless among his contemporaries.

Books written by foreign authors treating of the history of Japan's foreign relations toward the close of the Tokugawa Government, are not scarce, but Mr. Satoh's former work, "Agitated Japan," was the first book of the kind written in English by my own country-



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man. When that book was published I appreciated the author's effort and was delighted to find in him a fellow-thinker, but while welcoming the book, I felt that it was incomplete as a history of Japan's diplomatic relations, for it was devoted solely to the life of Lord Ii Kamon-no-kami. It was Lord Hotta himself who as the pioneer diplomat, in defiance of blind public opinion, sat with Mr. Townsend Harris in the conference chamber, and laid the foundation of Japan's foreign relations.

Mr. Satoh called on me one day and said that he was engaged in writing the life of Lord Hotta, and a month later he told me that the book was nearly ready to go to press. I felt delighted to find him so earnest in his study of Japan's diplomatic relations at the close of the Yedo Government, the result of which he has now succeeded in publishing through his new book which completes the history of the period by treating of the side left untouched in his "Agitated Japan."

The town of Sakura being my birth-place, and my father Sato Taizen having been in the service of Lord Hotta, as a physician of the Dutch School, and also frequently consulted by him on foreign affairs, this book is naturally reminiscent for me of by-gone days and associations; and it is with great pleasure that I comply with the author's request for a preface by stating here the feelings I entertain towards his work.

(Signed) Count TADASU HAYASHI.

July 1908.

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

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With sincere apologies for my audacity in writing the biography of a noble character, in an acquired language, of which my knowledge is necessarily deficient, I venture herewith to explain my motive in thus boldly committing to paper some account of the great and self-sacrificing life of the Hero of this little volume, in spite of my inadequate qualifications for the work.

Some years ago, while I was in America, I prepared a brief epitome in English of the life of Lord Ii Kamon-no-kami Naosuke by Mr. Shimada Saburo. It was afterward published in book-form after being kindly revised by Dr. William Elliot Griffis of Ithaca. The book was published in Tokio in 1895 under the title of "Agitated Japan."

As I was writing that book, I felt myself in duty bound to write in English a biography of Lord Hotta also, for to write the life of Lord Ii as a diplomat of the Tokugawa Shogunate without adding to it one on the work of Lord Hotta, who had to bear the actual brunt of the political war, might expose me to the suspicion of partiality to the memory of Lord Ii Naosuke. Having thus accepted this self-imposed obligation, I have been await-

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ing an opportunity to carry out my intention, which was finally afforded me by my present profession.

In compiling this biography, thanks are due to the learned assistance of Mr. Nagashima Banri in collecting and editing the data in Japanese form. Without his help, a much longer time would have been spent in the compilation. Grateful acknowledgment is also due to the learned Mr. Yoda Hiakusen and Mr. Fujimoto Makoto, formerly of the Sakura Clan, who kindly volunteered to revise my manuscript in Japanese. Mr. Toshihiko Yamazaki also contributed his assistance very freely, which I acknowledge with sincere gratitude.

The English portion of this volume is not a literal translation of the Japanese. Much that is not contained in the Japanese portion has been added by way of explanation for English readers. The Government notifications, instructions, and other official documents have been translated as literally as possible.

Here I make grateful acknowledgement also of the noble assistance so kindly rendered by Mr. J. R. Kennedy of the Associated Press and of his secretary Mr. E. J. Harrison in revising the Manuscript.