

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

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Araki the daimio; a Japanese story of the olden time by Mona B. Bickerstaffe

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MONA B. BICKERSTAFFE

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



AMA AND HER MAIDENS.

MADE IN JAPAN.

ARAKI THE DAIMIO.

A Japanese Story of the Olden Time.

BY

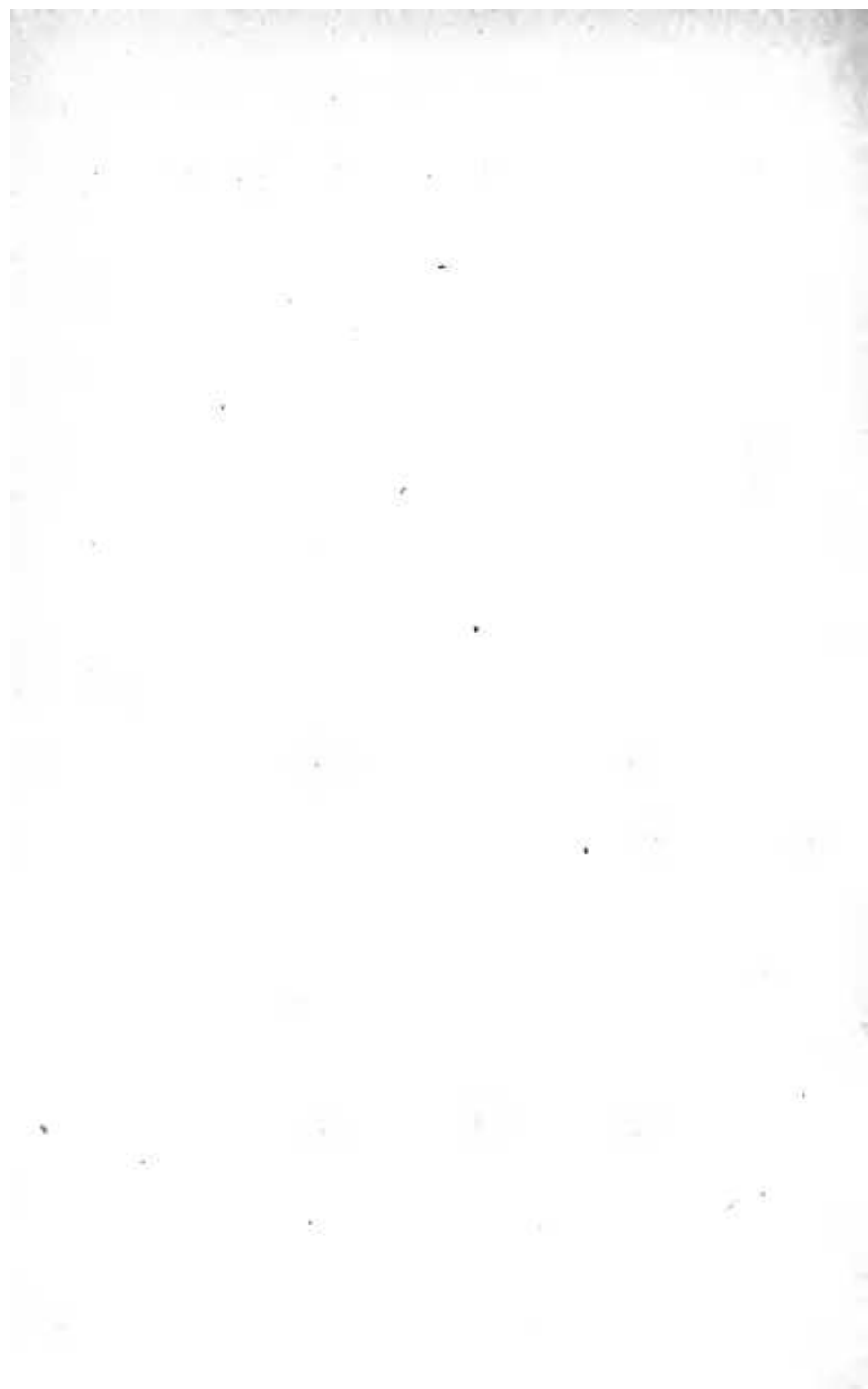
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CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER I.	
Preparing to start for Yeddo—The Court-yard—The procession on its way	6
CHAPTER II.	
The Honjen—Pilgrims on the road—Attack on the Penitents— Sako-Miyako's Mansion	15
CHAPTER III.	
Sako-Miyako and his Guest—Sako's Daughter and her Maidens —Ama	27
CHAPTER IV.	
Fraternal Influence—Ama rejects an offer—The Saionara	35
CHAPTER V.	
The Dsi-sin-nai—The Converts baptized	43
CHAPTER VI.	
Araki's wily conduct—Taiko Sama—His plots and counterplots —Tatish—Ama is firm—Fears for the Future	49
CHAPTER VII.	
Japanese Soldiers—Pagan Fanaticism—Christian Ambassadors	63
CHAPTER VIII.	
Thoughts of Flight—Treachery in the Household	71

	PAGE
CHAPTER IX.	
Japanese Barbers—Japanese peculiarities—The Christian Priest —Heart sorrow—The parting	77
CHAPTER X.	
Court dress of the Daimio—The Deceiver is deceived—The Court Favourite	89
CHAPTER XI.	
Courtier and Cavalier	97
CHAPTER XII.	
Policy of Taiko Sama—On the march to Abama—The Deserted Home—Flight of the Villagers—Deceived by the Coolies— The Christian Fugitives—Desolation of Abama	101
CHAPTER XIII.	
The Storm—The Ford	117
CHAPTER XIV.	
The Christians are Homeless—The Matsuri—Arrest of the Padre José—The Padre refuses to confess—Pilgrimage to Fusi- Yama	123
CHAPTER XV.	
View from Fusi-Yama—Pagans struck with Fear—Christian Martyrs—Massacre of the Pagan Pilgrims	137
CHAPTER XVI.	
The Tycoon discovers the Truth	147
CHAPTER XVII.	
Araki returns to Hakoni	151
CHAPTER XVIII.	
What might have been—The Death Feast—Death of Araki	155
CHAPTER XIX.	
Macao—Ama at Home—Return from the Korea	163
CHAPTER XX.	
Review of the Past—Hopes for the Future	171

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