

**SEIZURE BY THE
JAPANESE OF MR. MOSS,
AND HIS TREATMENT
BY THE CONSUL-GENERAL**

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Seizure by the Japanese of Mr. Moss, and His Treatment by the Consul-General by Michael Moss

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MICHAEL MOSS

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JAPANESE OF MR. MOSS,
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SEIZURE BY THE JAPANESE

OF

MR. MOSS,

AND

HIS TREATMENT BY THE CONSUL-GENERAL.

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of

SEIZURE BY THE JAPANESE

OF

MR. MOSS,

AND HIS

TREATMENT BY THE CONSUL-GENERAL.

LONDON :

◦ WILLIAM RIDGWAY, 169, PICCADILLY, W.

A. H. BAILY & Co. CORNHILL.

1863.

- Page
44. Preparations ordered for my deportation before my trial or any examination.
46. The Consular Officials & Community in the habit of shooting.
The Secy of Legation leaves Yedo for shooting excursion on the day of my arrest. -
48. No prohibition against shooting existed.
64. Persons shooting reported to the Consul no word of warning or disapproval called forth. -
51. In spite of my protest I am deported in a ship infected with small pox though others were available. -
- 64, 66. The gun in the hands of a Japanese Officer when fired, this fact acknowledged by the Foreign Office. -
- 65, 69. Recall of the Consul General's Heirich 179 by the Home Government. -
82. Remind and permitless I am unable to proceed any further at Yedo.
83. The Govt would defend the Consul General were I able to commence a fresh suit. -

Good, much, very

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INTRODUCTION.

BUT few introductory words are necessary as a preface to the narrative contained in the following pages.

A little more than two years ago I was a merchant in Japan, on the high road to fortune. I am now a ruined man, forced to begin life again under a bitter sense of injustice and a load of debt. This change has been brought about by an illegal sentence passed on me by the Consul-General at Japan—a sentence, the illegality of which has been since acknowledged by the Home Government, by whom it has been cancelled. Though the sentence has been cancelled, the ruin remains.

After long and weary negotiations the Government have declined to compensate me in any way for the loss of all I possessed. I am told that I may proceed at law against the Consul-General, but at the same time I am informed that the public purse will be employed to defend him. As my own is now empty, this alternative is of course a mockery.

If these are the circumstances of my case, I think no one will deny its extreme hardship. I challenge those who oppose my claim to show that in stating my case thus, I have departed one iota from

the truth. In the following pages I do more than this—I prove by official documents that the facts bear out this statement.

In addition to pecuniary loss I have gone through unmerited bodily suffering at the hands of the Japanese, which I should once have thought would have earned for me the cordial sympathy of the English Government. Melancholy experience has shown me that if I had thought thus, I should have been mistaken. I will, however, without more words, proceed with my narrative; convinced that a statement of facts will do me more service with my readers than eloquence, even if I had any at my command.

MICHAEL MOSS.

LANGDOURN CHAMBERS, FENCHURCH STREET,

London, February, 1868.

NARRATIVE.

AVAILING myself of the advantages offered by the Treaty entered into with the Tycoon of Japan, I left England in the spring of 1859 by Overland Mail, for Shanghai, thence to find my way to Kanagawa, Japan. Of the three ports, then about to be opened to foreign trade, Kanagawa appeared to me to be the one, which would quickly grow to the highest commercial importance;—it being placed on the richest and largest island of the empire,—situated in a noble bay, and distant only sixteen or seventeen miles from Yedo, the metropolis and capital of the kingdom.

From Shanghai, I sailed for this port, calling on the voyage at Nagasaki, another port of Japan, situated on the southern island of Kiensieu, and long known to the western world through the Dutch factory of Decima, a small isolated settlement there. At the end of August I arrived at Kanagawa, having experienced, on the voyage from Nagasaki, the dangers of a typhoon and the sudden gales, so frequent off the Japanese coast. My first business was to procure a house, or a habitation of some kind, or ground on which to build one, as well as a warehouse to provide for the accommodation of