

KARL SCHUBERT/BERGER / Los Angeles Times

"I'm a Japanese, but my feeling is different—America is my mother country," says islander Jerry Savory, 76.

# Facing Both East and West



Jerry Savory was attending St. Joseph's College in Yokohama when he was drafted into the Imperial Japanese Army...



Moses Savory, 77, says World War II was tough. "But I'm content now."

## Descendants of American, European Settlers Find Island of Acceptance Among Japanese

By KARL SCHOENBERGER  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

**C**HICHIJIMA, Japan—Moses Savory is not your typical Japanese fisherman.

He grew up harvesting the abundant reefs around the Ogasawara Islands and knows these waters like few other men. A Japanese citizen who attended only Japanese schools, his gestures and speech are pure Japanese. But he has always looked as different as his name sounds.

Savory inherited a square jaw, a ruddy complexion and a rather prominent nose from his great-grandfather, Nathaniel Savory, the Massachusetts whaler and adventurer who led the first settlers to these remote islands in the western Pacific, 600 miles south of

Tokyo.

He looked different enough that during World War II, in the intolerant mood of those times, people derisively called him *keto*—"hairy barbarian." The military police harassed him as a suspected spy because he spoke English to his kinsmen, or mixed it with Japanese in the local pidgin. Wartime prejudice barred him from finding a wife on the island where his family had thrived for more than a century.

Yet Savory adapted and endured—and stayed. Today, at 77, he is a respected elder in a small and unique community of Japanese with American and European ancestry.

"I had some terrible experiences during the war," Savory said in his native Japanese, which he prefers to

**Please see BONIN, E2**



**Bonin Islands**



# ISLANDS

Continued from E1

English. "But I'm content now. This is my home. This is where I'm from."

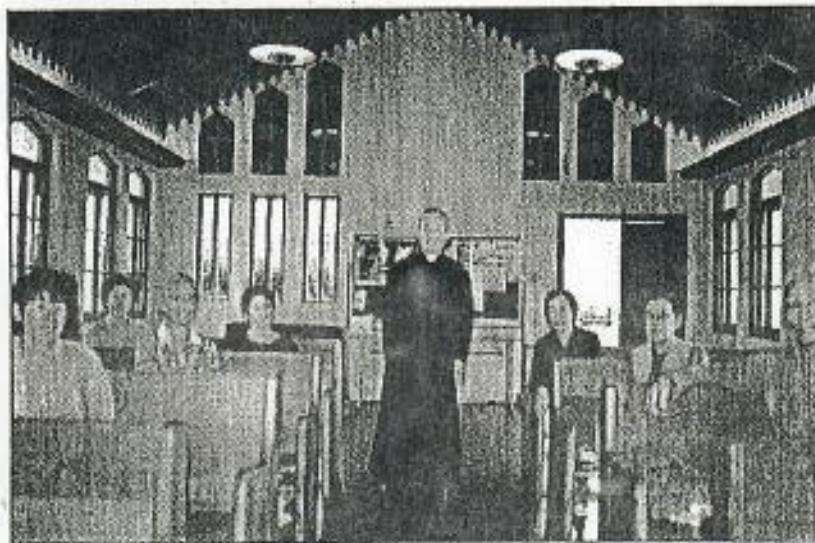
Japan is a country with few minorities. A stubborn aversion to ethnic diversity on the main islands has prevented generations of Korean and Chinese residents from assimilating fully. And Westerners who have put down roots in cosmopolitan cities like Yokohama and Kobe or even Tokyo must resign themselves to being emotionally quarantined as *gaijin* (foreigners) in perpetuity.

But an accident of history has seen Ogasawara's Western "barbarians" integrated meaningfully into rural village life. They were here first, after all. When patriarch Nathaniel Savory charted his course across the Pacific in 1830 with a mixed crew of 31 Americans, Europeans and Hawaiians, the subtropical islands were empty.

Indeed, scholars think their original name, the Bonin Islands, derived from *bunin*, an archaic Japanese word for "uninhabited" that apparently was marked on early maps.

Japanese who migrated to the islands under claim of sovereignty in the latter half of the 19th Century classified the Savorys, the Webbs, the Gilleys and the other Western clans as *zairai tomin*—"native islanders." They came with the territory, which Japan considered its own because a seafaring feudal lord named Sadayori Ogasawara "discovered" the islands in 1593, half a century after the Spanish explorer Francisco de Vilalobos first touched ashore.

The Civil War-era American government looked the other way, Victorian England abandoned its tentative claim, and Japanese settlers soon took control.



KARL SCHÖENBERGER / Los Angeles Times

Episcopal priest Aisaku Ogasawara oversees a congregation, composed mostly of Japanese with roots in the West, at St. George's.

This cluster of 103 islands, four of which are inhabited, has no airport. The only regular transportation linking Chichijima to the outside world is a 3,500-ton passenger ship that sails about once a week and takes 28 hours to reach Tokyo—at a cost of \$350 round-trip, in steerage. One in every three jobs in Ogasawara is in civil service, mostly in the Tokyo Metropolitan government, which subsidizes as well as administers the islands.

Even though nearly all of Bonin's *zairai tomin* consider themselves Japanese, some greatly emphasize their Western roots. One of Moses Savory's second cousins, Jerry, 76, boasts of sending his three sons to the United States after the islands reverted to Japan 23 years ago.

"The Savory clan has returned to the U.S.," he said. "I'm very proud of that. The Savory name is br..."

marrage with Japanese, meanwhile, have softened Western features so that many blend in physically with their neighbors from the interior.

The population of Chichijima and nearby Hahajima, the other main island in the chain, totals about 2,000, and about two-thirds of the inhabitants are *shin tomin*, or "new islanders," who wandered this way over the past two decades. These people came in pursuit of Ogasawara's pristine environment and Florida-latitude climate, and they form the backbone of a fledgling tourist industry.

The rest are so-called *kyu tomin*, "old islanders"—ethnically pure Japanese with pre-war roots. They dominate local politics, run the construction industry and have the greatest clout with the administrators from Tokyo. Even today, *kyu tomin* are given priority in obtaining public housing, a fact that can irritate some with the "wrong"

The accident repeated itself in 1946, when occupying U.S. naval forces built a base on Chichijima, the administrative center of the Bonins and the Volcano chain—which includes the notorious World War II killing grounds of Iwo Jima to the south.

Ogasawara's civilian population had been evacuated in anticipation of an American assault, which never came. After Japan's surrender, the U.S. military sealed off the chain, except to a group of about 130 islanders—people of Western heritage and their families. Thousands of ethnic Japanese were not permitted back until 1968, when the islands reverted to Tokyo's rule.

Savory, who returned from Yokohama in 1946 with a new Japanese bride, was classified like the others as an "enemy national" by the U.S. Navy. Still, the Navy shipped his fish to market in Guam and gave him odd jobs around the base for \$3 a day.

Even that ambivalent status brought relief after years of repression under militarist Japan. Nearly 50 years later, Savory softens his bitter wartime memories with wry humor.

"They accused me of being a spy, but if I had the brains to be a spy, I wouldn't have been on an island like this," he said. "I would have been in a much bigger place."

Savory's four daughters attended high school in Guam and all have immigrated to the United States, a pattern that is not unusual among Ogasawara's fifth-generation *zairai tomin*, considering the limited economic opportunities here.

ack.

Jerry Savory was attending St. Joseph's College in Yokohama when he was drafted into the Imperial Japanese Army under his naturalized name, Yoshihiko Seberl. He read English books in secret to keep his language skills from getting rusty. During the U.S. Navy's rule over the Bonins, he was one of the island's two civilian health care workers. When Japanese administrators regained control of Ogasawara in 1968, he changed his legal name to Jerry Savory out of spite.

"I'm a Japanese, but my feeling is different—America is my mother country," Savory, who runs an inn called Silver Moon, said in halting English. "I worked very hard not to lose my ancestors' language. They brought it here and left it to us, and we should respect that."

Making the abrupt switch from English-language schools under the Navy to compulsory Japanese education was a traumatic one for many Bonin youth.

Consider Johnson Washington, 42, son of Joji Washington and great-grandson of a Portuguese-African cabin boy who deserted his whaling ship during a port call at Chichijima, then known as Peel Island, in 1843. Washington did all his schooling in English and had to teach himself how to read and write Japanese.

"For the first five years it was really bad. We still thought in English; we dreamed in English," said Washington, who works at a marine research center. "I'm doing OK now, but it's still a struggle to write those Chinese characters."

No one seems to know exactly how many descendants of the *zairai tomin* remain on the island, but the number may be near the 200 who lived here at the time of reversion. Generations of inter-

pedigree.

"I don't want to call it discrimination, but we've had to deal with a lot of problems," Washington said. "But on a small island like this, you can't focus on the differences if you're going to get along. We depend on each other, so nobody tries to make a big deal about our backgrounds."

Kunio (Ping) Uebu, 70, the descendant of a British sailor named Webb who found his way to Nathaniel Savory's Pacific paradise in the mid-19th Century, scoffs at questions about his family roots.

"Don't ask me about my ancestors, because they don't have anything to do with my life," said Uebu, a white-haired fisherman with craggy eyebrows who lost an arm fighting for the Imperial Japanese Army in Manchuria. "I don't have any interest at all in the past."

Yet for Takashi (Jonathan) Savory, 33, one of Moses Savory's nephews, genealogy has become an obsession. A bureaucrat at the Ogasawara Village Office, he has visited Massachusetts twice over the past two years to explore the Essex County origins of Nathaniel Savory, his great-great-grandfather. In March, he succeeded in tracking down the American branch of the Savory family and held a reunion with about 50 relatives.

He plans another reunion this year, this one including uncles and cousins from Ogasawara and their offspring in America.

"My mother is Japanese, my wife is Japanese, and my children speak no English at all," Savory said. "As the blood ties get thinner and thinner, I decided it was important to research our heritage. I want my children to know where we came from."

Bonin's "native islanders" all received Japanese citizenship in 1882, eight years after Nathaniel Savory died at the age of 80, and their story since then has been one of adaptability and resilience.

After the American whaling industry died out with the switch to fossil fuels, Bonin men shipped out on seal hunting expeditions and fished the island waters in outrigger canoes while Japanese settlers

tilled the volcanic soil. The Ogasawara Yankees ate traditional chicken dinners on the Fourth of July.

Moses Savory recalls how his grandfather, Horace Perry Savory, forbade the speaking of Japanese in his home, even though the children studied in Japanese at school. Moses' own daughters studied in English in school and spoke Japanese at home.

During World War II, Jerry Savory's older brother, Fred, painted "YANKEE TOWN" in bold letters on the rooftops in Okumura, the quarter where many of the *zairai tomin* lived. American planes pummeled the island with bombs but spared the neighborhood until the final days of the war.

During 23 years of U.S. occupation rule, the Navy refused to let the islanders move back into Yankee Town.

"They said, 'You're Japanese, and this is an occupation,'" Moses Savory said. "What choice did we have but to go along with them?"

After reversion, the Yankees went to great pains to adopt a low profile. Many took on Japanese names. Washington became Kimura, Savory became Sebori or Okumura, Webb became Uebu or Uwabu. People took a chameleon approach to survival.

"When the Navy was here, we picked up American gestures and patterns of speech, but when the Japanese returned our gestures and even our faces started looking more Japanese," said Aisaku Ogasawara, who before 1968 went by the name Isaac Gonzales.

"But there is no feeling that we're foreigners on our own island," said Ogasawara, pastor of St. George's Episcopal Church, founded in 1909. "Our faces may be different, but inside we are Japanese."

DU 12 B 41	FOUR ISLANDS Decey, F. W. Narrative of a Voyage to the Pacific and Beering's Strait...in...Ship Blossom, under the command of Captain F. W. Decey...in...1829-30. Vol. 2, pp. 229-240; 433-436. London, 1831. 8vo. The same...New edition. London, 1831. 8vo.	DU Hist. Pam. 204	SOUM ISLANDS Coat, Ross H. Bonin Islands' story, with maps, old and new. Privately printed. 1846. 30 pp. 8vo.	DU 12 L 41	SOUM ISLANDS (1) DeCaso, James An account of the discovery of a group of islands in the north Pacific Ocean, by Capt. James DeCaso, in the ship Margaret, of Boston, in his run from Canton toward the N. E. Coast of America. Extricated from his log-book. (Massachusetts Hist. Soc., Collections for the Year 1795, pp. 231-262, 298)	DU 12 U 1	SOUM ISLANDS Hearst, John Voyages made in...1795-1799 from China to the north west coast of America... London, 1796. 1to., 2 copies. pp. 94-97. ...the same. London, 1791. 2 vols. 8vo.
G 55 F 86	SOUM ISLANDS Sowers, Seal M. The Mariana, Tolouco, and Bonin Islands. IN Freeman, Otis W. Geography of the Pacific. N.Y. 1861. pp. 206-235.	DU Pan-Pam. -569	SOUM ISLANDS Gilman, Lavelle Hawaii war diary (the Bonin Islands) (Honolulu Advertiser, July 9, 1944)	DU 12 M 48	SOUM ISLANDS looked case	DU 12 R 96	SOUM ISLANDS Rochard, Hippolyte ...as Régions Nouvelles. Mémoire de sciences et de civilisation au nord de l'Océan Pacif. ique. pp. 311-314. Paris, 1856. 8vo.
GL 737.C4 B 91	SOUM ISLANDS Ballou, Frank T. The cruise of the Cashalot. With illustra- tions of contemporary scenes and a foreword by Curtis Dahl. New York: Deed, Reed and Company. 8vo. (1947) (15)+301 pp. (pp. 221-24)	GL 1 J 56	SOUM ISLANDS Machida, Masuji A Journey to the Bonin Islands. (Bull. of the Biogeographical Society of Japan, Vol. 2, 1930, pp. 59-60)	DU 12 R 96	SOUM ISLANDS looked case	DU 12 R 96	SOUM ISLANDS Basolmberger, (N.S.N.) Narrative of a voyage round the world... 1856-57...London, 1859. 2 vols. 8vo. Vol. 2, pp. 299-313.
DU 12 H 33	SOUM ISLANDS Chalonsley, Lionel B. The history of the Bonin Islands from the year 1627 to the year 1875 and of Nathaniel Savory, one of the original settlers. Vestibule and Co. London, 1816.	DU 12 H 33	SOUM ISLANDS Barbier, Georg Die Inseln des Grossen Ozeans im Natur- und Völkerverehen...pp. 634-644. Wiesbaden, 1901. 1vo.	DU 12 R 96	SOUM ISLANDS looked case	DU 12 R 96	SOUM ISLANDS looked case

DU  
55  
8DU  
1  
U 1DU  
1  
A

*Catalog of the Library of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum*

<p>107 153 5 78</p> <p>WHITE ISLANDS Standish, Robert</p> <p>Being a novel. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1944. 8vo. ix + 288 pp.</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS ... BIRDS</p> <p>See BIRDS SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>107 153 5 78</p> <p>SOUTH ISLANDS</p> <p>Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Civil Affairs Handbook, OPIAV SO 8-9114 and South Islands. 10 July 1944.</p>
<p>SOUTH ISLANDS ... ACTIVITY</p> <p>See NOTARY SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS ... FISHES</p> <p>See FISHES SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS ... FLORA</p> <p>See FLORA SOUTH ISLANDS</p>

<p>OK SOUTH ISLANDS 1 A. 75 Wilsen, E. H. The South Islands and their ligneous vegetation. (Journal of the Arnold Arboretum, 1:87-115, 1912)</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS HYDROA see HYDROA SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS HYMENOPTERA see HYMENOPTERA SOUTH ISLANDS</p>
<p>SOUTH ISLANDS see also FRESH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS GIBBERIDIA see GIBBERIDIA SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS INSECTS see INSECTS SOUTH ISLANDS</p>
<p>SOUTH ISLANDS ALGONARIA see ALGONARIA SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS DISCOVERY &amp; EXPLORATION see Barnaby, James Chronological history of the discoveries in the South Sea or Pacific Ocean... London, 1803-1817, 4to, 6 vols. Vol. 2, pp. 201-207. " 5, pp. 189.</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS MAMMALS see MAMMALS SOUTH ISLANDS</p>
<p>SOUTH ISLANDS ALPHEIDIA see ALPHEIDIA SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS SCHEIDTIA see SCHEIDTIA SOUTH ISLANDS</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLANDS MAPS see Air target maps and photos selected targets, U. S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas. A.T.P. 122. Hango Photo, Ii-Nokai and Izu Is. 139. Tokyo area, Formosa 140 a. North Formosa, Peasonoras 162 a. Singo to Canton 164 a. Southwestern Honshu 165 a. Kyushu 166 a. Tokyo Bay area</p>





# VOYAGE OF THE NYANZA

R. N. Y. C.

BEING THE RECORD OF A  
THREE YEARS' CRUISE IN A SCHOONER YACHT  
IN THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC, AND  
HER SUBSEQUENT SHIPWRECK

BY

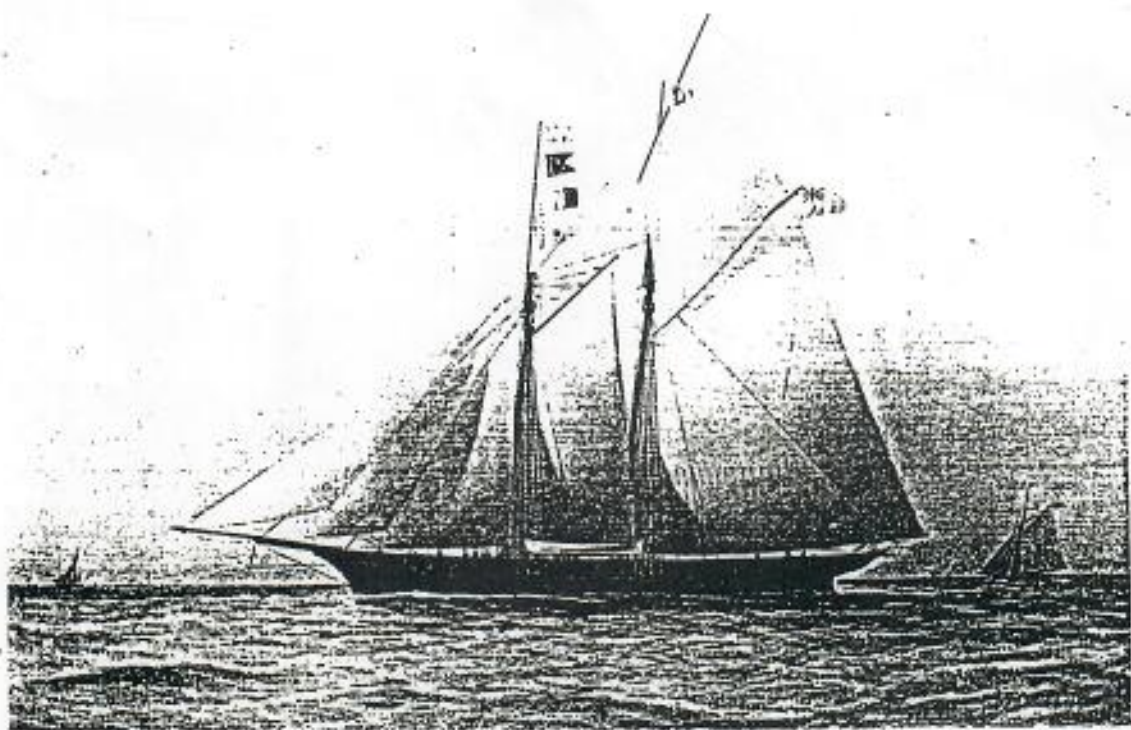
J. CUMMING DEWAR

LATE CAPTAIN KING'S DRAGOON GUARDS AND  
11TH PRINCE ALBERT'S HUSSARS

With a Map and Illustrations

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS  
EDINBURGH AND LONDON  
MDCCCXCII

11  
V7  
1051  
N.C.



*The Nyanza under sail.*

us on our way. We had met with much courtesy and kindness at several places on our voyage, but never had we encountered warmer, heartier cordiality and generosity than we had at this little group of Spanish islands. At a quarter-past three we got under way, and by four o'clock the pilot had left us. We now sailed for Port Lloyd in the Bonin Islands, distant 850 miles from Port San Luis d'Apra.

The first three days we went along at a fair speed, averaging about five knots an hour; but after this the wind died away, and we did not reach Port Lloyd until the tenth day after leaving the Ladrones.

The weather was terribly hot during most of that time, and on Sunday, July 21, we noticed large quantities of pumice-stone floating on the surface of the water, evidently the result of the upheaval of some marine volcano, many of which are known to exist in this region. That day completed the second year of our voyage after leaving Plymouth, and it was noted also in the log-book on account of a large shark which we managed to catch and kill.

At 9.45 A.M. of July 22 we sighted Hillsborough Island, the largest of the Coffin or Bailey group, distant about 55 miles. Another island of the same group appeared on the horizon about five o'clock in the afternoon. A gigantic shark came alongside the yacht this day, and all agreed that it was the largest monster they had ever seen. It must have measured from 25 to 30 feet in length, and was at least eight feet across the shoulders. The colour was of a bluish grey, dotted with large white spots: as I afterwards discovered, it was a shark belonging to that known as the tiger species, which is extremely rare, and indeed is only found in the Indian Ocean and North Pacific. Two pilot-fish escorted him, swimming in front. We made several efforts to harpoon him, and to shoot him with a rifle; but unfortunately they were not successful, and after about an hour he swam away, and we saw nothing of him again.

The Collin Islands were so named from the commander of a whaler which visited them in 1823; and they form the southern group of the Bonin Islands, the largest of which is known as Peel Island. The Collin or Bailey group consists of four principal islands besides some smaller ones, all of which are barren, and many are mere rocks. Hillsborough, the largest of the group, had apparently little or no vegetation. Its shores were bold and precipitous, and numerous large landslips had evidently taken place recently. No signs of habitation were visible as we coasted along the island, though from time to time we saw the smoke of fires.

Captain Beechey of H.M.S. Blossom visited the Bonin Islands in 1827, and took formal possession of them in the name of Great Britain. In 1830 a motley colony settled on Peel Island, which up to that time had been uninhabited. This colony, which was connected with the whaling business, consisted of one Englishman, one Dane, two Americans, and fifteen Sandwich Islanders, five of the last-named being men and ten women. They claimed the protection of England, but the British sovereignty was never actually asserted over the islands; and they were formally claimed in 1878 by the Japanese Government, whose right to their possession was admitted by us. Some few descendants of the original British and Sandwich Island settlers are still to be found on Peel Island, but the majority of the present inhabitants are Japanese, the total population of the group now numbering 1460, of whom 840 reside on Peel Island. The principal articles of cultivation are sugar, indigo, maize, and vegetables, the first of which is by far the most important. The operations of crushing sugar-cane are primitive in the extreme, being chiefly done by hand, the few mills in existence being turned by oxen. The domestic animals consist of a small number of cattle and pigs, besides which, fowls, ducks, and turkeys are numerous and fine. The island boasts of one horse.

Deer, goats, and boars are found in the island in a wild state; but they are rapidly becoming scarce, a reward of 50 cents per head being paid by Government for their destruction. There are very few birds upon the islands. In certain seasons of the year great numbers of turtle frequent the harbour, and these are caught and kept in pens, their flesh being sold for 4 cents a lb. As many of the turtles weigh from 250 to 350 lb. apiece, their values range from 2½ to 3½ dollars. The salaries of the Japanese officials are miserably poor, the acting Governor only receiving 32 yen or about £5, 10s. a-month, whilst the doctor is paid fifteen yen or £2, 8s. a-month, and is not allowed to undertake private work. He is obliged, moreover, to find his own medicines, but for this he is allowed to charge the patients 5 sen or 2d. a-day.

The principal harbour in Peel Island is called Port Lloyd, and it is really very beautiful, surrounded on all sides by hills clothed to their summits with cabbage palms and other tropical vegetation, while at the entrance of the port stand out several conspicuous rocks of curious and fantastic aspect. The harbour is provided with a well-built, substantial stone wharf, at which I landed soon after anchoring on the morning of Wednesday, July 24; and accompanied by an interpreter, I walked through the village, which was invisible from the harbour, being hidden amongst the trees. The place interested me greatly, it being my first practical experience of anything Japanese. It was prettily laid out, the principal street being planted on either side with trees, and the stores and houses being beautifully clean. An artificial stream, crossed by several rustic bridges, ran through the village, completing the picturesque appearance of the spot. The acting Governor, upon whom I called, was unacquainted with English, but I conversed with him through an interpreter, and he received me with the greatest civility. Upon

about fifty children, who were being taught a geography lesson. Compulsory education is in vogue on the island, the schools being free and maintained by Government. English is taught as a voluntary subject. On the shores of the bay I stopped to watch some boat-builders at work: their tools and modes of labour differed considerably from those to which we are accustomed. At a small store, the floor of which was covered with beautiful, fine, and scrupulously clean matting, I purchased some specimens of Japanese pipes, curious little things with bowls no larger than a pea, some of them made entirely of metal, and some having bamboo stems. The appearance of my yacht created great excitement amongst the Japanese, for I was the first that had ever put into the harbour of Port Lloyd. They came off in crowds to visit her; but I can bear testimony to the fact that they were all exceedingly orderly and well-behaved. In the afternoon I walked up to a small Buddhist temple upon a hill overlooking the harbour; but I was disappointed with my visit, for the place was fast falling into decay, and there was absolutely nothing of interest to be seen about it.

On the following day I went across in the ferry-boat to a village on the eastern side of the harbour. The shape of the boat was something like a punt, and it was rigged with a big lug-sail. It would not go to windward, and therefore when the wind was not fair, the ferryman sculled it by means of a huge sweep, working on a pin aft. The ferryman had a couple of daughters, bright, bonny little things of about eleven or twelve years of age. They begged so eagerly to be allowed to visit the yacht that I took them back with me. Their excitement when they had got on board was intense beyond description, and it was the most amusing thing in the world to see them running about and examining everything without the least shyness, yet without forwardness. The Japanese, from what I saw of them in this island settle-

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

A JAPANESE GOVERNOR—A CURIOUS CAVE—BOUND FOR JAPAN—  
 SIWO POINT—THE KII CHANNEL.—ISUMI STRAITS—KOE—A  
 HIDE IN A JINRIKISHA—A CURIO-SHOP—THE EUROPEAN  
 QUARTER—HIOGO—A JAPANESE TEMPLE—EXTORTIONATE PRICES  
 —A PAIR IN HIOGO—ARIMA—HOT BATHS—BASKET-WORK—A  
 KANGO—KIOTO—A SERIES OF INTERESTING TEMPLES—A JAP-  
 ANESE THEATRE—AN ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE—OTSU—LAKE  
 BIWA—ISHIYAMA—A CELEBRATED TEMPLE—OSAKA—A TEMPEST.

*July 26-August 18, 1859.*

ON Friday, July 26, I received a return visit on board the yacht from the acting Governor and the Paymaster at Port Lloyd. The Governor was attired in Japanese costume, with a black silk over-cloak, on which were several circular white patches: these, I was informed, were the distinguishing marks of the particular clan to which he belonged. The general effect of his appearance, however, was somewhat marred by a very seely European billycock hat which he wore upon his head. He displayed a very intelligent interest in all that he saw upon the ship.

An hour after his departure I called to say Good-bye, accompanied by Captain Carrington, and he gave us each a neat cigarette-case which had been made upon the island. I also obtained in the village some wood peculiar to the island, and afterwards went in the dingy to examine a curious cave in South Head, the entrance to which was wide

specimens of unaffected naturalness that I had ever met with anywhere.

We found a Swedish naturalist, called Mr H., staying upon the island. He had been there for the last three months collecting birds, but had only obtained twenty-five different species; and he told me that he was convinced that he had exhausted the number existing on the island.



