

Return to
Kumura,
Sapporo Japan.

米会堂
国力



Mr. W. E. Simons.
Daily Journal World
Lawrence Kansas
U. S. A.

Sapporo, Japan,
Aug. 5th. 1921.

Mr. W. B. Simons.

The Lawrence Daily Journal-World.

My dear Mr. Simons:—

Your letter of June 5th was duly received and needless to say that it gave me a great pleasure but I must say that I felt rather ashamed of myself; for as you know I have not written you since I left Kansas some twenty years ago. In Baldwin I enjoyed my two years' college work, and in Lawrence I spent three years with Jay-hawkers most delightfully by the help of many friends in those towns but while in Lawrence my chief help came from your office.

You say when I left your employ you were guilty of rudeness in accepting my gifts without giving me something in return. Indeed I have never thought of your rudeness. Nor is it a Japanese

~~Japanese~~ custom to expect any return for a token of gratitude. If any thought of that kind ever came across my mind, how much guilty I must be of ingratitude; for I cannot quite remember what a great kindness I received from men and women of those two towns without giving anything on my part.

Did my neglect of writing cause you such a misunderstanding? I am heartily ashamed of it and frankly beg your pardon. The same thing must be said to all of my American friends in Kansas, for I have been negligent in writing to them all.

As you say misunderstanding may be the cause of sad results; and race-problem is the hardest problem to solve and never to be well solved under radical and intemperate leadership. But

The thoughtful statement of both the United States and Japan are taking every caution to avoid needless collision, and I believe we can safely depend upon them.

Politics is not my region, but I stayed so many years in the State of Kansas where the people are so kind to the Japanese, no anti-Japanese feeling existed while I was in your state, and I believe it is so still. It has been my privilege to tell the Japanese that there are, besides ministers and missionaries, many American citizens who bravely stand for the cause of righteousness, working not only for the benefits of the States but for those of mankind in general. In this connection I am once more ashamed that I did not know until I hear from ~~of~~ you that Rev. Frank Herren Smith was my class mate working for Japan for so many years.

In a Japanese paper some days ago it was stated that when Baron Megata of Japan visited Senator Lodge his old school-mate, the first question brought up by the American Senator was "It is rumored Japan is going to take Shanghai together with the Philippines and Hawaii. Isn't Japan too greedy?" The paper adds what brought such a noted American statesman to such a great misunderstanding must be the influence of the propaganda of the Chinese. Surely misunderstanding is the cause of every evil.

You are very kind ^{to} tell me about the new Chancellor of my alma mater. A prosperous future to the University under such a wonderful leader is my prayer. Assuring you and yours my sincere love and admiration, I am ever,
yours, truly,
Isami Kimura,

June 6th. 1921.

Mr. Isami Kimura,
Sapporo University,
Sapporo, Japan.

My dear Mr. Kimura:-

I am writing you under the assumption that you are the young man who carried papers for us while attending the university of Kansas, many years ago. We had two or three Japanese carriers, but if you are the one I think you are, you were the largest one in stature, and as I understand it, are above the average height of Japanese men.

Recently I asked Rev. Frank Herren Smith about you, and he very kindly gave me your address. By the way he is a splendid fellow, a good christian and a good friend of Japan.

When you left our employ we were guilty of an almost unpardonable rudeness in accepting your gifts without giving others in return, but it was because of our ignorance of Japanese customs. We have many employees and they come and go and the parting gift is almost unknown to American business, but I have often thought, since I learned of your custom, of our unintentional rudeness.

And do not misunderstandings of this kind frequently occasion bad relations between nations as well as between persons. As I see it there should be no occasion whatever for a rupture between Japan and the United States, and I do not believe it will come, but if it does come it will be because of misunderstandings, which should not occur.

A primal tendency is to distrust those outside of our own group, and this seems to be emphasized when it comes to races, especially if there is a difference in color. Civilization and culture strive to eradicate these instincts, but under radical and intemperate leadership the veneer of the centuries frequently gives way and the return to virtual savagery is so rapid and complete as to astonish the world.

The industrial change in the past few months has been tremendous. Prices have been greatly reduced in many lines and instead of a shortage of labor, there has been an oversupply. Good authorities believe that the readjustment has reached the point where from now on a steady improvement may be expected.

Dr. Lindley, the new chancellor of the university, was formally inaugurated this week and the school has brilliant prospects for the future. Dr. Lindley is a wonderful man, full of enthusiasm, and is making the people of the state understand what a great asset they have in the state university.

Trusting that the traditional friendly relations between the United States and Japan may continue for many years, and with the best of wishes to you, I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

W. C. Simons.

