

steamers and the storeship *Caprice* for the Loo Choo Islands, where he lay for several weeks before he established satisfactory relations with the Regent of that little kingdom.

Having been joined at Loo Choo by the *Plymouth* and *Saratoga*, Commodore Perry sailed with his entire force for the port of Yedo, the reputed capital of the empire, anchoring at the entrance of the Bay of Yedo on the 8th of July. In the morning the fleet moved up the bay, the sloops in tow of the steamers. Many native boats were seen darting hither and thither in apparent excitement, while groups of people along the hills that hem in the bay were closely watching the strange vessels, many of them using long telescopes. Quite a fleet of boats put out from shore with the apparent intention of obstructing the passage of the ships; but paying no attention to them whatever the vessels moved steadily on, their progress without oars or wind being a marvel to the natives, who had never before set eyes upon a steamship. The fleet soon came in sight of the little town of Uragawa, whose small harbor was protected by a rude fort on a commanding headland. The fort mounted two or three old, diminutive cannon, whose discharge threatened death to every man within a hundred feet. There were also several large logs worked into the semblance of huge guns, the bore in the centre being represented by a round patch of black paint. Terrifying as these wooden siege guns were supposed to be by their designers, there was on board of each steamer an apparent weapon of war of a far more threatening aspect. On the voyage from the Loo Choo Islands the fleet had encountered a cyclone, and the topmasts and yards had been sent down for safety. The tall smoke-stack had also been lowered, and lay upon the deck like a monster gun, pointing directly forward.

As the vessels arrived opposite the fort a small shell was fired by the garrison, bursting directly overhead. A second skipped along the crest of the waves directly in front of the advancing vessels, exploding some distance beyond. This was recognized as an order to "Heave to," and the Commodore complied by heading the fleet directly toward the fort and dropping anchor in the harbor within three cables' length of the shore. To see four vessels change their course and glide toward them without the use of sails or oars, at the same time emitting fire and smoke, and to hear the rattle of 180 feet of iron cable as the huge anchors sought a resting place at the bottom of the bay, a noise which, for all they knew, might be preliminary to a deadly eruption from that huge black engine of destruction whose yawning mouth was pointed directly at them, was too much for the courage of the garrison, and to a man they abandoned their guns and fled to the hills. During the night they crept back, and morning revealed the garrison again at their posts and a throng of natives along the shore, who had evidently come in from the surrounding country to see the big ships of these audacious foreigners.

After a time a boat put off from the shore, containing an official of rank, as was plainly indicated by his gaudy

apparel and retinue of attendants. Commodore Perry had adopted a manner of conducting himself in his negotiations in full keeping with the peculiar customs of the Orientals. Knowing that they looked upon their sovereigns as too holy to be approached by any save the most noble of their subjects, while even their lowest officials were considered good enough to carry on all intercourse with foreign barbarians, he had determined to conduct himself in a similar manner. Upon the supposition that the President was the equal of the Mikado, he, as the special representative of the President, would not personally hold communication with any one but the Mikado himself or some specially delegated official of sufficient rank and dignity, all preliminary negotiations with inferior officials being delegated to his subordinate officers. Accordingly, when the Japanese boat approached, he retired to the seclusion of his cabin. The boat was hailed by the officer of the deck asking the purpose of its occupants, to which it was responded that the gorgeously arrayed official desired to come aboard and confer with the American commander. He was informed that the commander was a personage of too much importance to be seen by any save one of the highest rank; but if he was possessed of sufficient authority to transmit a message to the Mikado he would be received on deck by the officers, otherwise the best thing he could do would be to return to the town and let some one of sufficient rank come aboard. Upon assurances from him that he possessed the authority desired he was received on deck by the officers. He proved to be the Vice-Governor of Uragawa, and when put to the test acknowledged that the authority to receive a communication did not rest in him, but in his superior, the Governor. He was dismissed with an injunction to send the Governor in person. Not long afterwards a still more gorgeously arrayed official, accompanied by a more imposing retinue, made his appearance, who proved to be the Governor himself. He was received with great ceremony, the men being at their quarters and the marines under arms, and escorted to the captain's cabin. He asked to be conducted to the commander of the fleet, but was informed in the most impressive manner that the Commodore was too sacred to be seen by any save the highest dignitaries of the court, but that the captain, who was also an officer of distinction, would hear anything he had to say. The Commodore, screened from observation by the lattice-work of his stateroom door, was seated within a few feet, where he could hear every word that was uttered, and where his officers could secretly communicate with him when necessary. There was no lack of interpreters or languages in which to communicate. On board were Rev. S. Wells Williams, who spoke Japanese; Mr. Portman, who spoke English and Dutch, the latter language being well known in court circles of the empire, and a Chinese scribe who could read and write the official language of Japan. Among the visitors, also, was a dignitary who could speak English fluently. The Governor opened negotiations by expressing a desire to know to what fortunate circumstance they were indebted for the honor of this visit from the