

Arnold Bennett,
67 Bluff, Yokohama, Japan.

State
and
12/16/07

President of the United States,
Honored Sir:-

While I suppose the sub-
closed has been presented to your
me more formal way, for fear there
have been the case I beg leave to en-
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JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

The American missionaries resident in Japan have taken a step which will be hailed with deep satisfaction by every lover of peace and good will among nations. One hundred and sixteen of the more prominent among them, representing more than twenty Christian organizations in the United States, have put their names to a document, reproduced elsewhere, with a view to removing "misunderstandings and suspicions which are tending to interrupt the long standing friendship" between Japan and America. In that document they bear testimony, among other things, "to the sobriety, sense of international justice, and freedom from aggressive designs exhibited by the great majority of the Japanese people, and to their faith in the traditional justice and equity of the United States." They also record their "belief that the alleged 'bel-

ligerent attitude' of the Japanese does not represent the real sentiment of the nation." Living, as they do, among our people in daily and close touch with them, and free as they are from the taint of political ambitions and interests, the testimony of these men concerning our national sentiments carry far more weight than that of professional journalists or even of accredited Ambassadors. And their testimony in this instance is strong, unreserved and convincing. If there be any lingering doubt among the thoughtful section of the American people about the sentiment of our nation toward them, we have no doubt that it will be dispelled by the remarkably clear and unanimous testimony of these hundred and sixteen representative American missionaries in Japan.

By taking this wise and opportune action, they have earned the commendation of all lovers of peace and

Servant
Arnold T.
Baptist M.
(m.)

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the lasting gratitude of the Japanese. We feel grateful to them because of their noble exertions in behalf of peace which we all so ardently desire, but more particularly because of the fearless and unhesitating manner in which they bear witness to our friendly sentiments to the United States. Nothing could be more painfully regrettable to a self-respecting nation than to be persistently described as thirsting for the blood of a people toward whom it entertains nothing but feelings of the most cordial kind. That is exactly what has happened to the Japanese, whom a section of the American Press has systematically represented as wanting to fight the Republic. We hope and trust that the opinion recorded in so influential a manner by practically the whole body of American missionaries in Japan and which will be placed before the whole American public, will go far in removing the false impression

which prevails among a section of the American people concerning our sentiment and attitude.

This is, as far as we can remember, the third time during the past forty years that American missionaries in Japan have taken public action in connection with important international questions, and in each instance their action has been of a character to do credit to their calling and to enlist the heartiest gratitude of the people among whom they have for the time being cast their lot. The first instance was in connection with the abolition of the system of extra-territorial jurisdiction. While Japan was struggling hard for the abolition of that offensive institution and long before the justice of our aspirations had been practically recognized by any of the foreign Powers, it was these preachers of the Gospel that publicly recorded their sympathy with us and openly endorsed the justice of our claims.

Servant
Arnold Bennett
Baptist Missionary

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BUREAU
OF
POSTAL
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Most respectfully
Your obedient servant
Albert Arnold
(American Baptist Missionary
in Japan.)

The next important occasion when they exerted their powerful influence in the interests of international justice and humanity, was during the late war with Russia. When cowardly attempts were made by mischief-makers in Europe to create prejudice against us on the score of religion and race, these missionaries did not hesitate to take infinite pains to set the Occidental public right on these points. For their noble and beneficial interference on these important occasions they have earned our most sincere appreciation and gratitude, and their latest interference on behalf of peace between their country and ours will be thankfully remembered to their everlasting credit.

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