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April 3rd to May 4th, 1871

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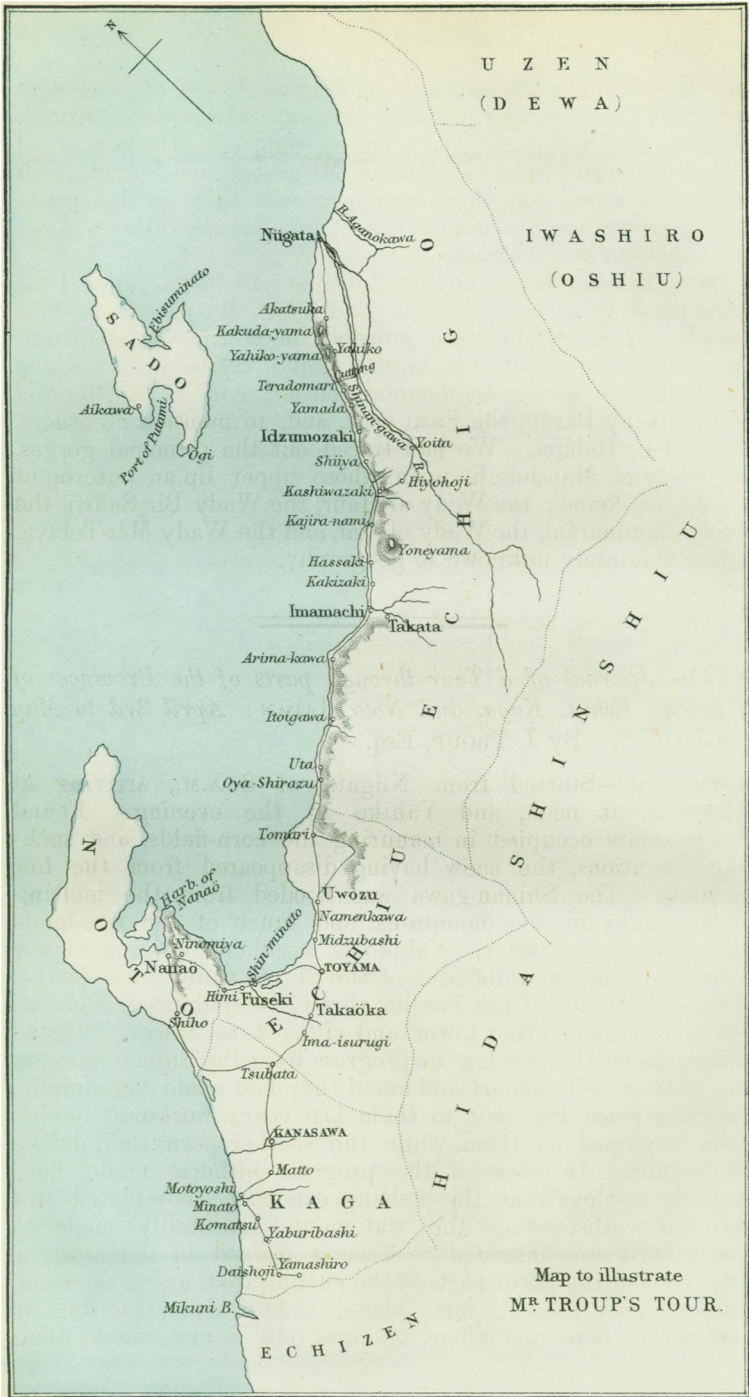
half their pauper homes had been destroyed, and the rest were threatened with ruin by certain villainous usurers under British protection. On the next morning we rode into Damascus, *viâ* the well-known Wadys of Minnín, Ma'araba, and Barzah, rich and well-watered gorges, whose dark green lines in the barren yellow hills are miniatures of the typical Barada valley. They are known to every handbook.

Our excursion over the Anti-Libanus had lasted eight days, between July 31 and August 7 (1871). We had seen four temples, of which three are probably unknown. We had prepared for local habitation in the map of Syria and Palestine the names of five great mountain-blocks, Abú 'l Hín, Rám el Kabsh, Naby Bárúh, the Fatlí apex, and, to mention no others, the curious Haláim. We had traced out the principal gorges, the Wady el Manshúrah, upon whose upper lip an outcrop of copper was found; the Wady el Haúr, the Wady Bir Sahríj, the Wady Zummarání, the Wady el Mál, and the Wady Már Tobíyá, before absolutely unknown to geography.

XVII.—*Journal of a Tour through parts of the Provinces of Echigo, Echiu, Kaga, and Noto, JAPAN: April 3rd to May 4th, 1871.* By J. TROUP, Esq.

April 3rd.—Started from Nügata at 8 A.M., arriving at Akatsuka at noon, and Yahiko in the evening. Found the peasants occupied in manuring the corn-fields, and such-like operations, the snow having disappeared from the low grounds. The Shinan-gawa was flooded from the melting of the snows in the mountains, and much of the rice-lands were still under water. Yahiko is a village of some eighty houses, and is the chief seat of the Shinto worship in Echigo.

4th.—Proceeded from Yahiko, through Teradomari, Yamada, Idzumozaki, and other towns and villages, to Shüya. Visited the works on the cutting in progress from the Shinan-gawa to the sea near Teradomari, and found they had made considerable progress since my visit to them last year; workmen having been employed on them, while the weather permitted, during the winter. In view of the progress hitherto made, however, it is clear that the cutting cannot be completed this year, notwithstanding the statements repeatedly made to me that it was intended to have it opened in the autumn. Observed in the lower parts of the cutting that, under the sand, beds of slaty clay in some places, and of shale, showing an inclination here and there to turn into lignite, made their



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appearance. Idzumozaki is a town of some 2500 houses, and has a small coasting trade, similar in kind to that of Nügata. Observed scarcely any articles of European manufacture in the shops, either here or at Teradomari. Shüya, the residence of a small Chihanji, contains only from 200 to 300 houses.

5th.—Left Shüya, and passing through the town of Kashiwazaki and a number of villages, arrived at Hassaki in the evening. Observed at Kashiwazaki a few European goods in the shops,—such as overcoats, blankets, leather-bags, glass-ware,—and was informed that they came from Yokohama overland. Kashiwazaki contains about 6000 houses, and has a small shipping trade like Idzumozaki. It is the residence of a Chihanji, with whom I exchanged complimentary notes in passing through. In the afternoon, the weather being favourable, proceeded by boat from Kujira-nami to Hassaki, and thus avoided the laborious road over the lower ranges of Yoneyama. The rocks abutting here on the sea are of a trappean formation. Observed several earthworks facing the sea, and apparently intended to protect the road, which here runs along the top of the bluffs overhanging the sea, from interruption from that quarter. Only two of these, however, seemed fit at present to receive guns. This is within the Takata territory. In the evening, at Hassaki, an officer from the Takata Han arrived to meet me, and I was escorted by him and another through the territory of the Han.

6th.—Proceeded from Hassaki to Arima-kawa, through the port of Imamachi and several post-towns and fishing villages. Violent storm of wind and rain all day. Imamachi ranks as a port next to Nügata on this coast. The bluffs abutting on the beach, after this place is passed, are of a shaly nature, with traces of lignite cropping out on the shore. From here, leaving the beach, the road runs over a range of hills, but strikes the beach again before Arima-kawa is arrived at. Found snow in some places still lying here to the depth of 3 and 4 feet.

7th.—Fine weather again. Left Arima-kawa in the morning, and proceeding through a number of drowsy-looking fishing villages, and the town of Itoigawa—the seat of a small Chihanji—arrived at Uta in the evening. In the forenoon passed along the foot or spurs of a high range of bluffs, of stratified alluvial deposits, which intervene between the beach level and the higher mountain ranges farther inland. Snow was still lying on our path in many places, but the spring flowers had already made their appearance where the ground was open. The flowers of the tussilago covered the slopes, and, in a few favoured spots, clusters of a wild anemone showed themselves. Observed that small earthworks were placed at intervals along this coast,

usually near the villages—none of them, however, contained guns. In the afternoon, just before arriving at Uta, passed along the foot of a range of grey granite cliffs, with patches of limestone here and there towards their eastern end. The limestone is burned here on the spot, in kilns, with charcoal brought from Noto.

8th.—Left Uta in the morning, and proceeded still along the beach, between the mountains and the sea. Passed the place named “Oya-Shirazu,” where, in stormy weather, it is evident—as I had been assured so often before arriving here—that passage between the mountains and the sea must be impossible. As no inland road appears to exist through these mountains, the barrier must then be a very effective one, and the cutting a good road through the cliffs, which are high, and consist of the hardest silica, would be no trifling undertaking. It is nevertheless an instructive commentary on the spirit of exclusiveness, which has maintained itself so long among the princes of this country, to know that such is the main high-road between the important provinces under the jurisdiction of the Prince of Kaga and Yedo. A short way beyond Oya-shirazu, crossed the small stream which separates the Provinces of Echigo and Echiu, and the territories of Takata and Kaga. Shortly after entering Echiu, the road emerges from between the mountains and the sea, and it was a relief, after passing such a length of beach—viz., all the way from Teradomari—to have the view of the plain of Echiu stretching out before the eye. Found on entering Echiu that the breaking-up of the rice-fields had already been commenced. At noon stopped at the post-town of Tomari, passed through several others in the afternoon, arriving at Uwozu in the evening. The district passed through, although fertile, compares disadvantageously with the rich plains of Echigo. Much of it is periodically laid waste by the violence of the streams crossing it, and which are subject to great and sudden inundations, against which no efficient precautions appear to have ever been taken.

The crops consist of the usual rice, wheat, barley, rape, root-crops, &c. The town of Uwozu is of some size, and has a small shipping trade in summer. The number of inhabitants may be put down at about 15,000. The manufacture of cotton-cloth is carried on in this neighbourhood, the raw cotton used being brought principally by sea from Osaka. Fish is largely exported from this place.

9th.—Left Uwozu in the morning, and travelling through a country similar in its nature to that passed through the previous afternoon, stopped at mid-day at Toyama, a large town of probably over 50,000 inhabitants, and the seat of a Chihanji.

The preparation of Japanese medicines, working in leather, and other industries are here carried on.

In the afternoon, after leaving Toyama, passed through a low range of hills, on which there were some tea-plantations, with mulberry-trees intermixed.

In the evening I arrived at Takaöka, having previously fallen in with an escort sent by the Chihanji of Kaga to meet me, and which continued with me from this time until I finally quitted the territory of the Han.

Takaöka is a trading town of some 30,000 inhabitants, and in its neighbourhood the manufacture of cotton goods is carried on, and some silk reared. Dyeing, hardware manufacture, and such-like, are carried on in the town.

10th.—Left Takaöka in the morning, and proceeding still through the plain of Echiu, and passing one or two post-towns or villages, arrived at Ima-isurugi, a town of say 8000 souls. The country towards the eastern part of Echiu, after passing Toyama, appears richer than towards the western side. The manufacture of iron-nails, leather-work, umbrellas, lacquer-ware, and wooden utensils is here engaged in, and some silk is also reared in this quarter. In the evening arrived at Tsubata, passing over two ranges of hills of no great height, on which considerable plantations of the mulberry were to be seen.

Crossing these ranges, and coming into the plain of Kaga, the wheat and barley crops were found to be further advanced than in Echiu, indicating a somewhat milder climate.

11th.—Proceeded from Tsubata to Kanasawa, arriving at the latter place about noon; on entering the town, was accompanied by an additional escort of mounted men, and received by several officers of the Han at my lodging.

12th.—Towards evening took a walk through the town with some officers of the Han. Kanasawa is a peculiarly clean town, an advantage which it probably owes chiefly to its situation on gently undulating ground, through which two large streams find their way in their course from the mountains to the sea. The hills above the town command a very fine view over the plain, which stretches both to the right and left, and in front from the town to the sea. The population of Kanasawa is so variously stated, that it is difficult to form a reliable estimate of it. Considering however the extent of ground covered by the town, I am disposed to think that the smallest estimate I have heard of it is probably the nearest approach to the truth. This places the number of houses at between 18,000 and 19,000 and the population at under 60,000—that is, of the mercantile and industrial classes—and if this is an approach to the truth, it

appears difficult to understand how such a figure as 400,000—at and even above which the total population has been stated—can be made up. The houses of the town are in general of a construction decidedly superior to the average of those of Japanese towns, and the principal streets are wide and clean. The pottery of the province—known as “Kutani-ware”—is to be met with here in quantity, and the manufacture of Japanese medicines and such-like is carried on. It is, however, from its being the capital of the wide and rich territories of the Chihanji of Kaga, that Kanasawa derives its chief importance.

13th.—Proceeded from Kanasawa through Matto, Matoyoshi, the castle-town of Komatsu, and some other places, arriving at the village of Yuburibashi in the evening. Matto and Matoyoshi contain some 1000 houses each, the former locality being the seat of some cotton manufacture, the latter a well-built, if small, trading port. Komatsu, the original capital of the Daimios of Kaga, is a place of some 3000 houses, where several petty industries, such as the manufacture of nails, &c., are carried on. The silk of Komatsu is of some importance. During the afternoon of to-day passed through plantations of the mulberry and of tea, the former of large extent. The grain and other crops appeared still further advanced as I proceeded.

14th.—Left Yuburibashi early in the morning, and arrived at Daishoji before 10 o'clock, passing through a fine country of rich land well cultivated. The low grounds are laid out in rice-fields, then comes wheat, barley, rape, &c., while mulberry-plantations and some tea occupy the slopes of the low hills along the foot of which the road runs. The hills are formed of a reddish-yellow clay, from which the pottery of the Province is made. Was occupied most of the day at Daishoji in official business. In the evening visited the potteries at Yamashiro and the sulphur-baths at the same place. Silk-culture is pursued in this neighbourhood, but not with much success. Daishoji, although the seat of a Chihanji is a small town of only some 1000 houses. The industries pursued here are not of much importance. Some tea is produced in the neighbourhood.

15th.—Left Daishoji by the road I had come by, and arrived at Komatsu about noon. Was stopped at the river at Minato by the floods, and had to remain there over-night.

16th.—Left Minato in the morning, and arrived about 2 P.M. at Kanasawa. Was occupied with business in the afternoon.

17th.—Left Kanasawa in the morning, and passing Tsubata, diverged thence into the road leading to Nanao. Passed the night in the village of Shiho. The road from Tsubata to Nanao is almost level all the way. The villages on it are not of any importance. Wheat and barley are the usual crops of the

district, until the rice-plain stretching backwards from Nanaö is reached. Fishing is also a principal occupation of the villagers. The hills near the road are of sand, gravel and clay, and usually wooded. Lime is burned not far off.

18th.—Left Shiho in the morning and arrived at Nanaö by noon. In the afternoon visited the iron factory on the eastern side of the town. It is now in the hands of private individuals, but is not much worked. A few men were engaged in making some iron castings. The coal used here is brought from Isobei,—distant some ten or twelve miles from Nanaö. Walked through the town, and out to the Bluffs on its western side, where a fine view is obtained over the spacious harbour. The town of Nanaö contains 1983 houses, and 8653 registered inhabitants, of whom 4175 are males, and 4478 females. There are five houses engaged in the business of shipping agencies, and thirty-four general merchants or brokers. Fifty-three junks are registered as belonging to the port. The houses of the town are by no means of superior construction. One or two good godowns are situated in the centre of the town. Awabi and other dried fish are exported from here. Nanaö derives its importance from its position as a port and emporium, and the possession of a fine harbour.

19th.—Left Nanaö in the morning, and crossing over the mountain pass which separates the province of Noto from that of Echiu, arrived at Himi for the night. There is said to be a vein of copper not worked, at Sekide-san, about a ri from Nino-miya, some six miles from Nanaö. Visited the coal-workings at Isobei. The seam appears to be about three feet in thickness of an anthracite coal; but where it has been worked, the coal is much mixed with gravel and earth. The working is carried on in a very intermittent and imperfect manner. Himi is a small port of some 1000 houses, and exists by a small coast trade and fishing.

20th.—Left Himi in the morning and arrived before noon at Fuseki, which together with the adjoining places, now united with it under the name of Shin-Minato, forms the largest port in Echiu. The river at this place is pretty large and admits junks of 800 to 1000 kokus burden. I counted 128 junks in the river, of from 200 kokus to 800 kokus burden, besides smaller craft. After passing along by the beach for some distance, the road diverges inland towards Toyama, through a rich well-cultivated district, with some mulberry-plantations on the way.

21st.—I had official business at Toyama which occupied me for the forenoon. Left a little after noon, and passing through the small seaports of Midzubashi and Namenkawa, arrived at Gwozu for the night.

22nd.—Left Uwozu in the morning, and, as the road next the sea-coast had been rendered impassable from the bridges having been carried away by the floods, passed round by the foot of the mountains, and across a finely-constructed bridge over the river at the gorge through which it issues from the mountains. The scenery here is very interesting. The road thus followed, passes through a well-cultivated district, where the usual crosses are raised. Arrived at Tomari at noon, and in the evening at Uta.

April 23rd to May 1st.—From Uta the road lay along the beach as in coming. Was detained by sickness from April 25th to May 1st at Kakizaki. Arrived in the afternoon of May 1st at Kashiwazaki.

May 2nd.—Kashiwazaki to Hiyohoji.

3rd.—Hiyohoji to the town of Yoita, the seat of a Chihanji. Passed by the petroleum wells near Hiyohoji.

4th.—Proceeded from Yoita to Nügata by boat down the Shinangawa.

The following are the approximate distances in English miles between the chief points on the route :—

Nügata to Kashiwazaki ..	54	miles
Kashiwazaki to Imamachi ..	27	”
Imamachi to Toyama ..	90	”
Toyama to Kanasawa ..	27	”
Kanasawa to Daishoji ..	34	”
Kanasawa to Nanaö ..	42	”
Nanaö to Toyama ..	35	”

XVIII.—*A Visit to Fernando Noronha*. By ALEXANDER RATTRAY, Esq., M.D., R.N.

FERNANDO NORONHA, situated in S. Lat. 3° 50', and W. Long. 32° 25', and about 194 miles north-east of Cape San Roque, the most eastern point of the Brazils, lies out of the usual track of ships, and is one of the seldom visited islands of the South-Atlantic. Hence it is so little known that the Admiralty chart, an imperfect one, chiefly from French authorities, is dated 1735. The visit of H.M.S. *Bristol*, a brief one of two days (August 22-3, 1871), was chiefly meant to add to our imperfect knowledge, especially of the anchorage, height of the principal peak, &c.*

The island is said to have been infested by Dutch pirates, from whom it was taken by the Brazilians and converted into a

* The result has been the issue of a new Admiralty chart, dated January 1st, 1872.