

86 明治16年10月24日 ネット・アレクサンダー

(英文巻末9頁)

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Transcript Office.
Boston. Oct. 24, 1883

My Dear Takeo,

I don't know how many times I have started to write to you, but several times at least, and in every instance I have been interrupted and the letter left unfinished. My duties so occupy my time that I have very little leisure, except in the evening, and, as my eyes are not very strong, I do not think it safe to use them to any great extent for writing or reading by artificial light. Consequently my correspondence is badly neglected. But I am delighted to think you have been so faithful in this respect. Just before you went away from here you said, "All the boys write once after they get

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home, but after that we never hear from them, when I get home I shall find out why it is." I conclude that you learned the reason and decided that it was no reason at all. I assure you that you have my sympathy in the loss of your father. It is a loss that never can be made good, but, as it is something unavoidable and inevitable to all of us, our grief may in part be assuaged by the thought that it is only a question of a few short years before the parting of friends and families in this way must occur. But the Creator has beneficently provided for this loss, and I rejoice most heartily with you over the accession to your family, and I trust your daughter will long continue a source of great joy to you and your wife. I thank you for your kind promise to send me her photograph, and I shall look forward impatiently for its arrival. I should be much pleased if you would also send a picture of your wife. You know I ought to have them both to place with yours in my album, and then of course I am interested in the lady who won the heart of my friend.

I want to thank you most sincerely for your kindness to Mr. and Mrs. McConnell. They are still travelling in Europe, and I do not expect they will return until next year. I do not know how much you saw of them, but in a letter to his cousin Mr. McConnell said, "It seemed like parting with an old friend when we left Mr. Kikuchi." When he gets here I shall learn more fully of his stay in Japan, and it will be the next best thing to meeting you in person to meet some one who has actually talked with you since you left Boston. Boston has not changed materially since you went away, although of course new buildings are constantly taking the place of old ones in the business section, while on the Back Bay new houses are springing up in every direction. The old brick structure, Joy's Building, on Washington street, just south of Sear's Building and directly in front of Young's Hotel, has been replaced by a marble building. The old granite building on the corner of Court street and Court square, opposite the Court House, has been replaced by a handsome freestone building which adjoins the rear wing of Young's Hotel and is used as an addition to the hotel. The old building at the corner of Tremont and Court streets has been torn down and a high building is being erected there. I mention these because they are noticeable changes in a locality with which you are familiar. The great exhibition buildings on the Back Bay — one with eight and the other with ten acres of floor space — have caused a "boom" in building in that section. We have a new theatre, the Bijou, which is the Gaiety altered over, but the others remain as you knew them. The Old Elm and Englehardt's are still flourishing.

Just at present we are much excited over the approaching election, which takes place Nov. 6. "Ben" Butler was by some means elected governor last year. I say by some means, but there is no mystery about it. It was what we call on "off" year, that is, the presidential election calls out a big vote, but other years there is less interest taken. Butler had made so many promises that a great many of those foolish persons who like experiments of that kind thought they would like to "give the old man a chance", and voted for him. The Republicans made a mistake in selecting their candidate. Robert R. Bishop, then president of the State Senate, was an honest and able man, but he was utterly incapable of arousing any enthusiasm. The result was that Butler was elected for governor and the rest of the Republican candidates — lieutenant governor, secretary, treasurer, etc. — were chosen. You have perhaps learned from the papers that Butler has acted in a most disgraceful manner and that all respectable persons are disgusted with him. He has, however, a strong hold upon the ignorant classes, and, consequently, the Democratic party have "swallowed" him and made him their leader. He is determined to be reelected if possible, but the Republicans are working hard and I think he will be defeated. The registration of voters in Boston is nearly

6000 greater than in any previous year.

It is now about two years since President Garfield died. It was hoped that the wounds inflicted by the assassin would not prove fatal, but after lingering for many weeks he passed away. His death was expected at the last and it was arranged that if it occurred during the night church bells should be tolled. Between one and two o'clock in the morning I awoke and heard the bell. I knew instantly that it meant our president was dead, and it had a most terrible sound. A change of the head of any great nation is always attended with more or less danger, but, fortunately, this change caused no disturbance. His successor, President Chester A. Arthur, has done better than it was expected he would do, and, although there has been no great crisis to test his courage and ability, he has made no bad mistakes in conducting the national affairs. It is interesting to think that this nation, which today stands among the first in the world, is governed by men who have risen from poor homes. Many of our senators and representatives were poor boys, also the governors of many States, and all the Presidents since I was old enough to know what a president was have been poor. Our earlier presidents, Washington and a few of his successors, belonged to wealthy families, but Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur were all poor boys.

I have given your several messages to Miss McIntosh, and if she had known that I was about to write to you she would undoubtedly have wished to be remembered to you. I have much enjoyed the society of Mr. Masujima, who came here with a letter from you. I have taken him out to see Miss McIntosh and Miss Hunneman and a friend in Worcester square, and as soon as we can get time I shall take him to some friends in Chester square, others in Chelsea and Newton and to my own home. I saw at Harvard, for a few minutes only on Class day, Mr. Chukichi Kikkawa of Tokio, who had just completed his studies here.

But I am to go with my brother to a concert this evening, and, as I have only half an hour to get ready and eat my supper, I must stop. I shall not again let such a long time pass without writing, and I shall hope to hear from you as often as your duties will permit you to write. As you may have noticed, I have on one or two occasions published in the Transcript extracts from your letters. I hope I did not offend in so doing.

With kindest regards to your wife and yourself, and a big "bachelor's kiss" for the bady, I remain.

Very truly your friend,
Ned Alexander.

(封筒表)

「 Takeo Kikuchi
Tokio
Japan
Judicial Department 」

(封筒裏)

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