

During much of my term in Japan Mr. Togo was head of the Europe and Asia Bureau of the *Gaimusho*<sup>1</sup> and both in the office and outside I found him enlightened, reasonable, simple, direct and sympathetic. He is a man of wide experience and of unusual intellectual as well as moral integrity. If I were asked to choose the Japanese official who best exemplifies the many admirable qualities of the Old Japan, my choice would unquestionably be Shigenori Togo.

Yet this is the man who has been appointed Foreign Minister in what is expected to be the most intransigent of Japanese Cabinets. Why he accepted the post is susceptible of several explanations; why it was offered to him is most difficult to understand.

Togo is essentially a sad man. He gives one the impression of having become thoroughly disillusioned but without finding refuge in cynicism. He has been very successful in his profession but—although he never admitted this—I am sure that with experience he found increasing difficulty in discerning any practical solution for the manifold and multiplying difficulties, internal and external, which face the people of Japan. I believe that he was profoundly disappointed by the failure of Japanese policy in China (the collapse of the Shidehara experiment, which was a real effort to build a “co-prosperity sphere” on a basis of friendship and mutual concessions), and he was undoubtedly alarmed by the effect of the introduction into Japan of western techniques and ideologies at a rate that made digestion or synthesis impossible.

In addition to the melancholy induced by his failure to see any solution for the psychological and social chaos from which his people were suffering, Togo had a personal problem that at least did nothing to ease his mind. During his early days in the Diplomatic Service he was stationed in Berlin (where he went later as Ambassador) and while there he married a German woman. Mrs. Togo is an unusually sensible and capable person and so far as outsiders could judge she carried off a very difficult situation with admirable success. But no Japanese who marries a foreigner has an easy time, and the fact that the Togos had no children was an additional source of embarrassment and distress. No matter how happy his relationship with his wife, Togo's relationship with his own family must inevitably have been a matter of strains and dissatisfactions.

Togo is, of course, a thorough-going patriot and like all good Japanese has a highly developed sense of responsibility. These facts combined with his intense realization of his country's problems would make it impossible for him to refuse to accept the appointment offered him by General Tojo. No matter how much he might fear and disapprove the course that Japan is following he would not refuse to serve when the call came.

<sup>1</sup> Le Ministère des Affaires étrangères.

<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.