

seeing their native land, as some of them had already been converted to the Christian religion. The father of Lieut. Lakmann, [the enibassador heading the expedition which finally returned them to Japan], a scientific German gentleman, living at that time in Irkutsk, and engaged in a manufacturing establishment, advised Shelikoff, (Chief of the Company bearing his name), to confer with the Empress Catherine and suggest that the wrecked Japanese be forwarded to their country, as through this means Japan might become better known and a successful commercial treaty established. The Empress answered that the plan was excellent, and immediately [1792] ordered an expedition to carry the Japanese home. Accompanying the expedition was a letter from the Governor-General of Siberia and valuable presents to the Japanese Government. The ambassador entrusted with the enterprise was Lient. Adam Lakmann, the Captain-Commanding Larkoff. The expedition was kindly received by the Japanese Government, and the Emperor gave permission that one Russian vessel should yearly be allowed to enter Nagasaki for the purpose of commercial intercourse with Japan."

Hawkes gives a somewhat different account of their return. He says they were detained ten years in Russia, and sailed in the fall of 1792, from Ockotsk, in a transport ship, called the "Catherine." They soon made a harbor in the northern part of the Island of Jesso, and there wintered; in the succeeding summer they entered the harbor of Hakodadi. The Japanese were polite, but refused to take back their country-men, and Lakmann left without landing the Japanese.

"In September, 1862, a Japanese vessel was wrecked on