

bors of the crew—the captain, mate and a boy—were alive, while fourteen had died on the long drift across the ocean. The vessel had been disabled in a typhoon off the coast of Japan and had drifted helplessly across the ocean to be wrecked on the shores of America; it was loaded with cotton cloth, pottery and rice. The Makahs made captives of the living seamen, and permitted them to send a letter to the Hudson Bay Post at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. Commodore Wilkes learned the particulars of this wreck when in the Columbia River in 1841, and says of it: "The officers of the Hudson Bay Company became aware of this disaster in a singular manner. They received a drawing on a piece of China paper, in which were depicted three shipwrecked persons, with the junk on the rocks, and the Indians engaged in plundering." <sup>(6)</sup> In this wreck we see how certainly the *Kuro shiwo* may have been the route of migrating, though involuntary, civilization to America; here were Buddhists, with a hieroglyphical letter, on paper, among the rude tribes of America; here was cotton cloth and pottery, both of which, by the way, the Aztecs and Mayans manufactured, thrown upon the continent; here was the seed of the Mongolian civilization; it only needed the good soil to propagate it. Grant that this seed has been drifting, as it certainly has, to this continent for long centuries, and you have the story of the growth of an Asiatic plant upon American soil. The Aleutian Islands have been strewn with Asiatic junks ever since the beginning of their history. Japonski Island, near Sitka, received a living crew that had drifted to that coast; they have been cast ashore on Queen Charlottes and Vancouvers Islands, and upon the shores of Washington, Oregon and California. "In 1845 the United State frigate "St. Louis" took from Mexico to Ningpo, in China, three shipwrecked Japanese, being survivors of the crew of a junk which had drifted from the coast of Japan entirely across the Pacific Ocean and finally stranded on the coast of Mexico, where they remained two years" <sup>(7)</sup> Every Japanese vessel for thirteen centuries has carried the calendar of China,

(6) U. S. Exploring Expedition, vol. 4, p. 295. Wilkes.

(7) Japanese Wrecks, p. 12, Brooks.