

- 1865 - Today I received an assignment from the famous Rothschild bankers to go to Japan. The Japanese government has applied for a £ 10,000,000 (\$ 50,000,000) to aid in that country's development. I was to file a report describing the geographic conditions in Japan. From the report, the Banks Board of Directors will determine if it would be worthwhile to loan the Japanese the money they requested.
- Oct 1, 1866 - We arrive. Our ship has docked off the West coast of the country in the Sea of Japan. We must be very careful while docking since sunken and emerging rocks line the shore. However, the deeply indented coastline would provide a number of excellent harbors. Huge mountains dominate the Japanese landscape. The sky is a lead gray and the biting winds seem to go through all of my protective clothing. There are hundreds of fishing boats along the shore. The fishermen look very grim, even quite sad. We later discovered that they had suffered a terrible disaster - as one of periodic tidal waves rocked the coast causing many deaths and property destruction.
- Oct 6, 1866 - We moved eastward - inland - miraculously on the other side of the western mountains - the weather is delightfully bright and sunny and we no longer see the lead gray skies or feel the biting wind. We see very few crops growing which is probably due to the fact that the soil is only moderately fertile. The people on this side of the mountains seem much happier and friendlier. They seem different in other ways from the coastal fishermen - their appearance, dialect, customs and characteristics. Many of the inland mountains which are throughout Japan - some are even volcanic.
- Oct 26, 1866 - Today, our first on Japan's Pacific coast began with a frightening experience. At 8 A.M. I was awakened by a tremendous jolt. The ground was shaking. The another tremendous jolt and another and another. It seemed that the earth would cave in. Fortunately, it did not develop into a full earthquake which usually occurs in this area once every 7 years.
- 9, 1866 - We depart