

THE LIFE AND THOUGHT OF JAPAN

I

CHERRY BLOSSOMS

My purpose is to make known, or try to make known, to you what Japan and her people are, and this would be no easy piece of work to accomplish with credit for an experienced writer—a hundred times less so for me who, with no mastery of the foreign language in which I am to express myself, am to interpret one series of social phenomena attendant on a nation in the East, to another nation in the West with an entirely different history of development.

One way in which this arduous task can be attempted is certainly that of trying to tell you some of my own private impressions about Japan and the Japanese, as one born and bred in the country, and deeply imbued with her ideals in her past as well as her present life as a nation. And, in fact, that is just what I am going to do in these pages; for, after all, how else can anybody explain his own nationality than by essaying to interpret his own being in its

日本の生活と思想

I

桜花

わたしの目的は、日本および日本人とはいかなるものであるかをあなた方に紹介することです。経験豊かな著述家のようにこれを成し遂げるのは、簡単なことではありません。わたしは自分のことを外国語で表現することに慣れていませんし、東洋の国民に生じるさまざまな社会事象を、まったく異なる歴史を有する西洋の国民に説明する機会は、それほど多くはありませんでした。

この困難な仕事をするにあたってのひとつの方法は、日本と日本人についての私自身の個人的な印象をあなた方に正確にお話しすることです。日本人は日本に生まれ育ちながら、ひとつの国民として今も昔もこの国の理想に満ちた生活を送っています。これが実際、本書でお話ししようとすることです。

(後略)

<訳文は筑波大学准教授平田諭治氏にご協力いただきました>