this amazing declaration.
Then he answered, kindly, but sadly:

"To send you back now & your people with a wish of divorce, and without any fault on your part, would be a shame-
ful thing. If you will tell me any good reason for your wish,—any rea-
son that would enable me to explain the matter honorably,—I will write
you a divorce. But un-
less you do so I cannot
divorce you,—because the
honour of our house would
be questioned.
There comes the bridal day, — just such a day as the people had been praying
for: a perfect day, — while sunshine
flooding the world out of a perfectly pure
sky. For generations the wedding-days
of the Imperial Princes had been thus
clear, — probably for the reason that
by their ancient calendar the Japanese
could predict the weather. Better than
modern science or meteorology can
yet show... Pardon a digression. I
cannot help thinking that it was a
serious necessity for the Japanese to abandon
(officially) their old calendar. Based
upon the experience of an agricultural
race, accustomed for centuries of years
to note every detail of every month of season,
every mood of Nature, every occurrence,
every incident of the exceptional in
superstition, every habit of both
clinically recurrent, every habit ofboth
man-on-kind and man-on-replica
became something astonishing. If you hap-