

482) Lord Mitsushige inherits his household in February, 1657 at the age of 26.

On February 19, Okabe Naizen and Tamba-no-kami summoned Nabeshima Izumi-no-kami Naotomo to Edo Castle, and informed that Lord Katsushige was admitted to retire and that Mitsushige, his grandson, was allowed to succeed to the household of Saga Clan.

On March 1 Prince Mitsushige paid a visit to the castle to express his gratitude to the Shogunate. He donated a sword inscribed with the name of Bungo Yukihiro, 300 leaves of silver, 100 hundred sheets of fine silk, while Lord Katsushige offered a sword made by Sadamune and a scroll of picture with a peony design. Nabeshima Mondo, Nabeshima Nui-no-suke, and Arita Kageyu, administrative retainers, also donated expenses to buy horses.

On January 18 a big fire broke out in Edo, burning our clan's Sakurada residence. Prince Mitsushige moved to the Aoyama residence, then again to the Azabu residence on May 4. On May 19 a gale blew and burnt Edo Castle and many more houses, though the secondary enclosure of the castle escaped the fire. Spreading to nearly 90 km, it claimed the lives of more than 37,000 people.

- * Okabe Naizen and Tamba-no-kami were high ranking officials for the Shogunate.
- * Nabeshima Izumi-no-kami was the lord of the Kashima branch clan.

483) The era name changes from Meireki to Manji in May 1658. The lord is aged 27.

Lord Mitsushige was admitted by the Shogunate to return to Saga in February, and left Edo on the last day, arriving in Saga on April 5.

In May all the lord's family members and the retainers chanted a sutra 10,000 times so that the clan would be governed peacefully.

On August 16 Lord Mitsushige visited the northern mountains and met the representatives of that area at Saho Jubey's house.

On February 5 Hiko-ho-shi, the lord's son, got his name changed to Saemon.

On May 12 Lord Mitsushige gave a general policy speech at the castle.

- * Saho Jubey, a big farmer, was a leader of the mountain area.

484) Lord Mitsushige is 28 years old in 1659.

On September 29 Lord Mitsushige started for Edo for his alternate attendance.

On December 28 Lord Mitsushige was promoted to the rank of *jiju* or a chamberlain, by the Imperial Family.

On October 6 a daughter was born at Saga Castle, and she was named O-hatsu.

Lord Mitsushige decided on the number of *chakuza* or lower administrative retainer and made them take the oath. In the reign of ex-Lord Katsushige, lower administrative retainers wore a long pleated skirt and were instructed by name to take their oath orally.

- * Alternative attendance is the system enforced by the Shogunate in 1635, and it went on to 1862. All feudal lords were made to live in Edo and in their domain alternately, usually one year. The lord's wife and children had to live in Edo as hostages. The lords of Saga and Fukuoka, however, lived half a year, because they were ordered to guard the port of Nagasaki every other year.

485) Lord Mitsushige is 29 years old in 1660.

In March Lord Mitsushige was admitted to return to Saga.

486) Lord Mitsushige is 30 years old in 1661.

On September 28 Lord Mitsushige left Saga for Edo for his alternate attendance.

On July 7 Nabeshima Naohiro or Seitoku-in died. He was the lord of the Shira-ishi branch clan, and the third son of Katsushige, the last lord. Lord Mitsushige forbade his retainers to follow Naohiro to the grave by *seppuku*. He declared that the prohibition applied to all retainers of Saga Clan. Tokugawa Mitsusada was deeply impressed with our lord's decision, and followed him in prohibiting it in his clan as well.

On May 20, 1663 the Shogunate announced its prohibition against committing *seppuku* on the death of the lord.

- * Tokugawa Mitsusada was the second lord of Kishu Clan, in present-day Wakayama Prefecture.

487) Lord Mitsushige is 31 years old in 1662.

In February Lord Mitsushige was admitted by the Shogunate to return to Saga.

Lord Mitsushige built a shrine at the site of the Koyo-ken residence.

488) Lord Mitsushige is 32 years old in 1663.

On September 29 Lord Mitsushige left for Edo for his alternate attendance.

On June 11 lightning struck over 80 places in Saga. Things like dandelion seeds colored white and black were seen falling from the sky.

On January 2 lightning struck Osaka Castle and burnt its keep.

On May 20 the Shogunate promulgated its prohibition of committing *seppuku* on the lord's death.

Princess O-kan, Chu-in Michizumi's daughter, came to Saga to marry Lord Mitsushige at the secondary enclosure of Saga Castle.

Reigen acceded to the Imperial Throne, and Isahaya Buzen-no-kami was dispatched to express our lord's congratulations.

In October Lord Mitsushige built a house for untouchables, placing images of Buddha at its four corners. Tomoda Hikobey was the administrative official in charge of building it. When the Shogunate envoys came to Saga after 4 years, the lord told them about it.

On April 8 Lord Mitsushige granted the mountains to the temples in the northern mountains, for firewood. According to a note by Nabeshima Roku-zaemon, they were Kan-non-ji Temple, Seiryu-ji Temple, Ryugo-ji Temple, Sogen-ji Temple, Tsu-ten-an Temple, and Yo-on-ji Temple. Let me check this in more detail.

* Chu-in Michizumi was a court noble.

* Reigen ascended the throne on April 27.

489) Lord Mitsushige is 33 years old in 1664.

On February 28 Lord Mitsushige was admitted to return to Saga.

On April 19 Lady Kan-hime, Lord Mitsushige's wife, gave birth to a son at the secondary enclosure of Saga Castle, and he was named Uhyo-e. It was said that a dragon was seen rising up into the sky from the moat of the castle at that time.

Lady Kan-hime's favorite image of Kan-non Buddha was transferred to Seishin-in Temple later. In the reign of Lord Yoshishige it was moved by him to a newly-built shrine.

490) Lord Mitsushige is 34 years old in 1665.

In September Lord Mitsushige left for Edo for his alternate attendance.

On June 23 Lady Eisho-in or Kan-hime, the lord's wife, passed away in giving birth to a baby, which also died with her. The baby was named Seiren.

* Lady Eisho-in was 34 years old at her death.

491) Lord Mitsushige is 35 years old in 1666.

In February Lord Mitsushige was admitted by the Shogunate to return to Saga.

492) Lord Mitsushige is 36 years old in 1667.

In September Lord Mitsushige left for Edo for alternate attendance.

In July Lord Mitsushige met the Shogunate envoys at Hasu-ike. Their names were Okano Mago-kuro, Aoyama Zenbey, and Ido Shin-uemon.

On December 25 Prince Saemon became 16 years old. Granted part of the Shogun Ietsuna's name, he changed his name to Tsunashige, and on December 26 he celebrated his coming of age.

In July the Shogunate envoys visited the ports of Tera-i, Takezaki, Isahaya, Wakitsu, Fukahori, Imari, and Hama. The names were Takeno Matabey and Mukai Saburobey. Lord Mitsushige met them at Tera-i.

In spring the foot soldiers practiced shooting guns and arrows at the Ushi-jima firing range. Nabeshima Naotaka, Lord Mitsushige's nephew, reviewed it on behalf of the lord.

In autumn all the retainers practiced horse-riding at the Katata-e riding ground, reviewed by Nabeshima Naotaka, Lord Mitsushige's nephew.

493) Lord Mitsushige is 37 years old in 1668.

On February 1 a big fire broke out in Edo, burning our clan's Sakurada residence. Lord Mitsushige moved to the Azabu residence with Prince Tsunashige, but in two days another big fire broke out, burning that house, too, so they had to move to the Aoyama residence of Izumi-no-kami Naotomo, lord of the Kashima branch clan.

In February Lord Mitsushige was allowed to return to Saga.

On December 21 Prince Tsunashige got engaged with a daughter of Lord Matsudaira Mitsumichi of Echizen Clan. The prince's side had asked for the marriage.

* Echizen is present-day Fukui Prefecture.

494) Lord Mitsushige is 38 years old in 1669.

In September Lord Mitsushige left Saga for Edo for his alternate attendance.

495) Lord Mitsushige is 39 years old in 1670.

In February Lord Mitsushige was allowed by the Shogunate to return to Saga.

496) Lord Mitsushige is 40 years old in 1671.

On February 12 Prince Tsunashige married Princess O-fuyo at the age of 22. She was 18. Nabeshima Wakasa, Nabeshima Yahei-zaemon, and Sagara Kyuma went up to Edo.

On November 1 Lord Mitsushige arrived at the Edo residence. On the morning of November 3 he met Itakura Naizen-no-sho, the envoy.

497) Lord Mitsushige is 41 years old in 1672.

Prince Tsunashige was allowed to return to Saga and left with his father on March 12, arriving at Saga Castle on April 13. Prince Tsunashige stayed at the house of Taku in the castle.

On March 6 in the morning Tsuchiya Tajima, the envoy, left Saga after greeting Lord Mitsushige.

On September 13 Lord Mitsushige went to Nagasaki with Prince Tsunashige and came back to Saga on 22.

In October Prince Tsunashige went up to Edo for alternate attendance.

498) Lord Mitsushige is 42 years old in 1673.

In September Lord Mitsushige went to Edo for alternate attendance.

499) Lord Mitsushige is 43 years old in 1674.

In February Lord Mitsushige was allowed to return to Saga.

500) Lord Mitsushige is 44 years old in 1675.

In September Lord Mitsushige went to Edo for alternate attendance.

501) Lord Mitsushige is 45 years old in 1676.

In February Lord Mitsushige was permitted to return to Saga.

502) Lord Mitsushige is 46 years old in 1677.

On November 11 Lord Mitsushige arrived in Edo for alternate attendance.

On November 30 Prince Tsunashige was permitted to return to Saga.

In December Lord Mitsushige was given a crane by the Shogun.

Lord Mitsushige reduced the number of the attendants to follow him for alternative attendance. Soon the Shogunate gave notification that the same would apply to all *daimyo*.

503) Lord Mitsushige is 47 years old in 1678.

On January 29 O-kira married. Lord Mitsushige had adopted O-kira, a daughter of Nabeshima Naoyoshi, the lord of the Ogi branch clan, and married her to Mi-ura Iki-no-kami, the lord of the Nobeoka Clan.

On February 15 Princess O-haru, daughter of Lord Mitsushige, married Ito Izumi-

no-kami, the lord of Obi Clan.

On February 18 Lord Mitsushige was allowed to return to Saga and left Edo on March 2, arriving at Saga Castle on April 2.

On December 3 a fire broke out by the side of the storage room of the Sakurada residence, burning the residence of Honda Echizen, the lord of Yokosuka Clan. Niwa Shinbey was sent to express our lord's sincere regret over our carelessness. He was told not to worry about it.

* Nobe-oka is in the northeast of present-day Miyazaki Prefecture/

* Obi is in the southeast of present-day Miyazaki Prefecture.

504) Lord Mitsushige is 48 years old in 1679.

On October 11 Lord Mitsushige started for Edo for his alternate attendance.

In April Tsuchiya Tajima-no-kami, a senior counselor for the Shogunate, died. So did Kuze Yamato-no-kami in the same month. He was also a senior counselor.

On May 22 Lord Mitsushige was granted the Sakurada-nishi residence, because he transferred the Atagoshita residence to Matsudaira Wakasa-no-kami. He also conveyed his Takanawa residence to O-tahara Bizen-no-kami, the lord of O-tahara Clan, so Bizen-no-kami handed over the Sakurada residence to us, at the request of our lord.

505) Lord Mitsushige is 49 years old in 1680.

On January 29 Prince Tsunashige came back to Saga and on September 13 left for Edo. On April 5 Lord Mitsushige arrived in Saga.

On May 24 at Zojo-ji Temple, Edo, Naito Izumi-no-kami, the lord of Toba Clan, murdered Nagai Shinano-no-kami, the lord of Miyatsu Castle, during a memorial service for the late Shogun Ietsuna.

In February Lord Mitsushige was allowed to return to Saga.

On May 8 Shogun Ietsuna passed away. Lord Mitsushige dispatched Nabeshima Wakasa, while Prince Tsunashige dispatched Nabeshima Judayu, to express their

condolences. Lord Mitsushige told Murata Oki, his messenger, to convey his congratulations on Prince Tsunayoshi inheriting the throne.

506) Lord Mitsushige is 50 years old in 1681.

On September 26 Lord Mitsushige left Saga for Edo for alternate attendance. He stopped taking boy attendants from this year on. He arrived in Edo on November 6, having taken the Tokaido and Mino trails

On November 26 Prince Tsunashige left Edo for Saga.

On March 22 Lord Mitsushige declared that Kinoshita Gohey would be sent to Edo Castle for the Noh festival in the following year. The Noh festival had been announced by Tokugawa Tsunayoshi, the new Shogun.

In July Lord Mitsushige met the Shogunate envoys at Hasuiki near the castle. They were Okuda Hachiro-uemon, Tagawa Moku-no-suke, and Shibata Shichi-zaemon.

507) Lord Mitsushige is 51 years old in 1682.

On February 9, 13, and 16, the Noh festival was held, sponsored by the Shogun. On the 21st Lord Mitsushige entertained the attendants of the Shogun with a feast.

On March 1 Lord Mitsushige was allowed by the Shogun to return to Saga, and was granted a sword by him to mark his having taken the throne.

On March 7 Lord Mitsushige left Edo for Saga, arriving there by way of Mino and Chugoku.

Two days after that he went to Nagasaki, where he told his retainers how important their duty was. They were Nabeshima Mondo, Fukahori Shima, and Chiba Tarosuke.

508) Lord Mitsushige is 52 years old in 1683.

On September 29 Lord Mitsushige left Saga for Edo for alternate attendance, arriving on November 12.

Prince Tsunashige was allowed to return to Saga and left Edo on December 5.

On May 28 Tokumatsu, a son of the Shogun Tsunayoshi, died.

509) Lord Mitsushige is 53 years old in 1684.

On March 1 Lord Mitsushige was allowed to go back to Saga. However, Shogun Tsunayoshi told all the *daimyo* to return the certificates of merit and letters of appreciation he had issued. Noguchi Shin-uemon and Sagara Ichi-uemon were sent to Saga for that. Noguchi came back with certificates of merit and Sagara Ichi-uemon brought back a letter of appreciation for Shigesato.

On March 22 Lord Mitsushige left for Saga.

On May 2 Prince Tsunashige left for Edo for alternate attendance.

On May 15 repair of the keep of Saga Castle was completed. All the family members went up to it with their retainers. Nabeshima Mondo, who was in charge of the work, was rewarded with clothing.

On August 28 Inaba Iwami killed Hotta Chikuzen-no-kami at Edo Castle. Hotta was a *tairo* or the highest ranking official next to the Shogun. Inaba was a *waka-toshiyori*, the position next to *tairo*.

On January 28 the ceremony was held for the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Ko-koku-in, Lord Mitsushige's father.

Lord Mitsushige built a shrine at Ryu-un-ji Temple for the spirit of Genka, a son of the late Lord Katsushige who died while still young. He held a Buddhist mass for the repose of the boy. Thereafter he visited the temple in mid-summer every year. Man-chiyo was the name of the boy.

510) Lord Mitsushige is 54 years old in 1685.

On February 22 Taku Nagato brought back a certificate signed by the Shogunate. It was a document appointing the Nabeshima family governors of Saga Clan. On February 29 a grand party was held, attended by all the family members and retainers and their attendants, where Lord Mitsushige personally served wine to all of them.

On June 3 Lord Mitsushige brought a portrait of the late Lord Naoshige to Kodon-ji Temple, when surprising news was brought in. A foreign ship had come to Nagasaki! Lord Mitsushige returned to the castle immediately and made preparations to hurry to Nagasaki. On June 7 he reached Nagasaki and came back to Saga on the 13th.

On September 30 Lord Mitsushige left for Edo and arrived on November 11.

On December 4 Prince Tsunashige left Edo to return to Saga.

On March 24 a portrait of Ryuzoji Takanobu, the late general of Saga Clan, was dedicated to Koden-ji Temple.

* A Dutch ship arrived with 12 Japanese sailors who had been rescued by it.

511) Lord Mitsushige is 55 years old in 1686.

In February Lord Mitsushige was allowed to return to Saga.

Lord Mitsushige told the representatives of each group to practice Noh: “Takasago” for Yahei-zaemon, “Yashima” for Mondo, “Kamo” for Shima, “Tamura” for Zusho, “Funa-benkei” for Kazuma, “Fujito” for O-ki, “Genji-kuyo” for Okabe Shichi-no-suke, “Tadanori” for Sadayu, “Basho” for Taku Hyogo, “Kiyotsune” for Baba Katsu-uemon, “Hashi-benkei” for Ishi-i Shuri, and “Gempuku Soga” for Hyakutake Zen-zaemon.

* Takasago, Yashima etc. are tales of Noh theater.

512) Lord Mitsushige is 56 years old in 1687.

On March 16 Lord Mitsushige moved in to the house of Yahei-zaemon, because the Koyo-ken, his residence, was under repair.

In September Lord Mitsushige left for Edo for alternate attendance.

On December 25 Joshin, a Buddhist, reported to the magistrates’ office of Nagasaki that Shungaku was a Christian. After examination, however, he was found not to be one and was freed.

On April 28 Kumashiro Danjo was dispatched to Edo on the change of Shogun.

513) Lord Mitsushige is 57 years old in 1688.

On January 16 Prince Tsunashige returned to Saga by way of Mitsumizo on account of the epidemic of smallpox.

On February 28 a fire broke out at the Sakurada residence in Edo. It started in the administrative retainer’s house on the ground floor. Lord Mitsushige refrained from going out for some time.

On March 7 Lord Mitsushige enjoyed a Noh play at Edo Castle.

On April 5 he was allowed to return to Saga and left Edo on the 12th, arriving at Saga on May 7. (He did not take any administrative retainer with him that year.)

On May 16 Prince Tsunashige left for Edo for alternate attendance.

On September 30 the new period called the Genroku Era commenced.

In December Matsudaira Umon-no-suke retired, and Hizen-no-kam Tsunamasa inherited the household of Fukuoka Clan.

514) Lord Mitsushige is 58 years old in 1689.

It was in the middle of September that Lord Mitsushige had a secret discussion with his retainers at Gansho-ji Temple. On the late evening of the 23rd he met Izumi-no-kami and Settsu-no-kami again. He then examined Nakano Shogen and Baba Katsu-uemon at Yamato-no-kami's house. On the 26th Nakano Shogen was ordered to kill himself by *seppuku* with Yamamoto Gon-no-jo as his second. Baba Katsu-uemon was dismissed from his post.

On October 1 Lord Mitsushige left Saga for alternate attendance. Lord Kuroda Tsunamasa or Hizen-no-kami went to Nagasaki for the first time as the lord of Fukuoka Clan. As he passed through Saga, he met our lord at Gansho-j Temple. The number of the new lord's attendants was 1300 in all.

- * Settsu-no-kami was the second lord of the Hasu-ike branch clan, and Izumi-no-kami was lord of the Shira-ishi branch.

515) Lord Mitsushige is 59 years old in 1690.

On January 26 Prince Tsunashige returned to Saga.

On February 28 Lord Mitsushige was permitted to return to Saga, where he arrived on April 11.

On April 21 Prince Tsunashige left Saga for Edo for alternate attendance. On the same day Nakano Kazuma was appointed as an administrative retainer and was granted 800 *koku*.

516) Lord Mitsushige is 60 years old in 1691.

On September 30 Lord Mitsushige left for Edo, arriving there on November 5.

On December 16 Prince Tsunashige left Edo for Saga.

On May 23 Lord Mitsushige was awarded by Shogun Tsunayoshi a silver stick as his 60th birthday gift. He entertained his retainers with a feast, where he showed the walking stick to them.

517) Lord Mitsushige is 61 years old in 1692.

On March 13 Lord Mitsushige left for Edo for alternate attendance.

518) Lord Mitsushige is 62 years old in 1693.

On September 29 Lord Mitsushige left Saga for Edo for alternate attendance and arrived at Osaka on October 29. While he was staying there, good news was brought from Edo that Saga had won the case against Fukuoka Clan concerning a border dispute. Lord Mitsushige related his thoughts about it to his attendants.

On October 29 Lord Mitsushige was told at Numazu that a fire had broken out in the house of Tajiri Danju at the Edo residence.

On November 7 Lord Mitsushige arrived in Edo. For some time after the fire Lord Mitsushige confined himself to the residence, but having received a letter from the Shogunate on the 15th, he went to Edo Castle on the following day.

519) Lord Mitsushige is 63 years old in 1694.

In March Lord Mitsushige left Edo and arrived in Osaka on the 25th, returning to Saga on April 15.

520) Lord Mitsushige is 64 years old in 1695.

On February 8 the Azabu residence in Edo was burnt down in a spreading fire.

On May 16 Princess O-mitsu left Saga to marry Sakakibara Shikibu-dayu on August 16, having been adopted by Lord Tsunashige. She was presented by Lady Tsunashige, with a set of clothes with an emblem together with two sets of household utensils.

On October 5 Lord Mitsushige left Saga and arrived in Osaka on the 22nd. Leaving Osaka on the 25th, he arrived at the Aoyama residence in Edo.

On November 29 Lord Mitsushige stepped down in favor of Prince Tsunashige, and retired from his post as lord of Saga Clan.

On December 15 Mitsushige visited the Shogunate with Tsunashige, the new lord of Saga with a gift of a sword inscribed with the name of Yoshihiro, 200 gold leaves, a special payment, and a set of fine brocade. They donated to Lady Tsunayoshi two sets of the Shin-kokin-shu, an anthology of poetry, and 25 scrolls of calligraphy written by Tameshige. They offered to Lady Keisho-in a set of Wakan-roei-shu, an anthology of poetry, and 25 scrolls of calligraphy by Nijo Tameyo. They offered to Mito a copy of the Seisui-ki and a scroll of calligraphy by Mikado Nobue. To Saisho they presented a scroll of poetry and ten scrolls of calligraphy by Nijo Sadatame. To Okubo they donated 20 swords inscribed with the name of Yoshifusa; to Tsuchiya 20 swords inscribed with the name of Kanemitsu; to Abe 20 swords inscribed with the name of Enju Kokusuke; to Toda 10 swords inscribed with the name of Joshu; to Yanagisawa 10 swords inscribed with the name of Bizen Nagamitsu; to Matsudaira Ukyo 10 swords inscribed with the name of Bizen Kanemitsu; to Akimoto 10 swords inscribed with the name of Bizen Yoshikage; to Kato 10 swords inscribed with the name of Sue Aoe; to Matsudaira Danjo-no-chu 10 swords inscribed with the name of Sadayoshi; to Ogasawara 10 swords inscribed with the name of Miha; to Doki 6 swords inscribed with the name of Sadamatsu; to Miyagi 5 swords inscribed with the name of Bizen Morikage; to Niwa 5 swords inscribed with the name of Aoe; to Honjo 13 swords inscribed with the name of Ryokai; to Rokkaku 10 swords inscribed with the name of Koresuke; to Hayashi Daigaku-no-kami 6 swords inscribed with the name of Nobukuni; to Matsudaira, the lord of Fukuoka 25 swords inscribed with the name of Rai Kunimitsu; a pot to Matsudaira Uemon-no-suke; to Matsudaira Sakyo 30 saddles and 15 stirrups inscribed with the name of Suruga-no-kami. They also presented gifts to all family members.

521) Lord Tsunashige, the third lord, is 44 years old in 1695.

On November 22 Lord Mitsushige was permitted by the Shogunate to retire, and on the 29th he visited Edo Castle with Tsunashige, his son. They were told by the senior counselor that Mitsushige was permitted to retire and Tsunashige was permitted to serve as lord of Saga Clan.

On December 18 Lord Tsunashige was promoted to *jijū* or a chamberlain, and on the 28th he expressed his gratitude to the Shogun.

522) Lord Tsunashige is 45 years old in 1696.

On March 1 Lord Tsunashige visited the Shogunate with his father to hear an address by Shogun Tsunayoshi.

On February 27 Toda Yamashiro-no-kami, an envoy, visited the Saga residence to inform Lord Tsunashige that the Shogunate had permitted him to return to Saga. He was given a short-sleeved *kimono* and 500 silver coins. The following day Tsunashige visited the Shogunate to express his gratitude, and was presented with a horse. He was encouraged by Shogun Tsunayoshi in his duty of guarding the port of Nagasaki.

On March 14 he left Edo and arrived at Saga on April 11. Since this was the first time for Lord Tsunashige to return to Saga as lord, he dispatched Nabeshima Yahei-zaemon to the Shogunate to offer thanks for having been granted permission to govern.

On March 9 Lord Tsunashige invited the *roju*, the highest ranking official of the Shogunate, to celebrate his inheritance of the household.

On April 1 Mitsushige was allowed to return to Saga and was awarded a horse by the Shogun. Leaving Edo on 7, he arrived at Saga on May 12 and moved in to the east residence.

On November 10 the former Emperor Reigen passed away. Myosho-in was his posthumous title.

In January Lord Tsunashige succeeded to the duty of guarding the port of Nagasaki.

523) Lord Tsunashige is 46 years old in 1697.

Lord Tsunashige transferred oversight of Nagasaki to the lord of Fukuoka Clan.

In spring an image of Sarasvati or Benzaiten was completed in Kyoto and was brought to Saga.

The Sakurada residence in Edo was returned to the Shogunate, following the decision that it was to be inhabited by Tokugawa Ienobu. In return we were granted the residence of Mizutani Sakyo at Mita-shinbori-bata.

On April 21 the former Lord Mitsushige left Saga for Edo and arrived on June 15. He stayed at the Azabu residence.

On September 29 Lord Tsunashige left Saga for alternate attendance, followed by

Nabeshima Ju-zaemon, Harada Kichi-uemon, Nabeshima Shobey, and Kanoe Izaemon.

On October 7 ex-Lord Mitsushige left Edo. After meeting Lord Tsunashige at Ishibe, he arrived in Osaka on 23.

On October 9 Lady Keiko-in, grandmother of Princess Kan-hime, died.

On November 17 a baby was born to Nishi-Sanjo, a court noble, and named Yachi-maru.

Lord Tsunashige expressed his gratitude to Shogun Tsunayoshi after arriving in Edo. During his stay in Edo Lord Tsunashige appointed Muto Zembey and Niwa Ki-zaemon as senior advisors. He employed Mizoguchi Shume, at the request of Tsuchiya Sagami-no-kami. Lord Tsunashige allowed Nozaki Goro-zaemon to serve and granted him about 35 *koku*, at the request of Takagi Ise-no-kami, superintendent of the Shogunate.

An attendant of O-kubo Aki-no-kami slashed at an unruly horse, emboldened by having drunk at Azabu-minami-cho, Edo. He was arrested by the gatekeeper, and the horse was taken care of at our residence by Kuwahara Shingo-zaemon, a veterinary surgeon. When the horse recovered, it was sent back to his owner. The man was jailed.

During his stay in Edo Naotsuka Mohey, a superintendent of the foot soldiers, reported to Lord Tsunashige that three *samurai* visited the red-light district. They were Koichi Sen-uemon, Noda Niueemon, and Gondo Shichibey. They were put into the Naeki-yama prison, and soon were sentenced to death by *seppuku*.

* The Naeki-yama prison in Edo was kept by Saga Clan.

524) Lord Tsunashige is 47 years old in 1698.

In February Lord Tsunashige was allowed to return to Saga and left Edo, arriving at Saga on April 12.

Lord Tsunashige took over from Fukuok Clan the defence of the Nagasaki port.

On August 2 Lord Tsunashige purchased the residence of Mizuno Mimasaka in Kyoto. He gave up the residence in Sakai-machi there.

Lord Tsunashige built the Nishi-yashiki residence in Saga.

Niwa Uzaemon was appointed head of caretakers of the Edo residence. Soejima Go-zaemon and Hamuro Sei-zaemon were also appointed caretakers there.

Ex-Lord Mitsushige cancelled his trip to Edo, due to illness.

525) Lord Tsunashige is 48 years old in 1699.

In April ex-Lord Mitsushige was required to visit the Shogunate but he declined to do so because of his lumbago.

On April 12 Lady Tsunashige died at the Azabu residence. Jakko-in was her posthumous name, though it had originally been Daiju-in. A letter of condolence by Shogun Tsunayoshi was brought by his envoy. It was brought to Saga Castle in just 5 days by the Tokaido road, by Nodomi Kyubey. As soon as he arrived, a man was dispatched to the Shogunate to express the lord's gratitude.

Nabeshima Chikara was summoned by the Shogunate and asked to report to Lord Tsunashige that he was being granted the residence of Mizuno Matsu-no-jo and that we should return our Mita residence to the Shogunate.

On September 29 Lord Tsunashige left Saga for Edo for alternate attendance.

On September 21 Princess Isemine was born at Saga Castle.

Lord Tsunashige was living at the Tame-ike residence in Edo.

On August 12 there was a big flood and a landslide in Isahaya, causing death to many and the loss of much livestock.

526) Lord Tsunashige is 49 years old in 1700.

In February Lord Tsunashige was permitted to return to Saga.

Nabeshima Ichibey and Muto Shume were appointed head caretakers of the Edo residence. Hamuro Sei-zaemon and Otsuka Heiji-bey were appointed caretakers.

Lord Tsunashige took over the duty of guarding the port of Nagasaki from Fukuoka Clan.

On May 16 ex-Lord Mitsushige died. His body was taken to Koden-ji Temple and was cremated on the 20th. On the 22nd his ashes were collected, and on June 14 the funeral ceremony was held. The whole family went into 17 days of mourning for the late lord. It was decided that a sutra should be chanted 1,000 times between May 29 and July 2. Nabeshima Naiki was appointed as the master of a series of memorial events.

On June 3 Murata Ukyo, an envoy from the Shogunate, visited our Tameike residence in Edo with a monetary offering of 300 silver leaves. Mikami Shinsuke and Nakashima San-zaemon brought back a letter of condolence from Shogun Tsunayoshi together with condolence money. They arrived in Saga on June 18. Lord Tsunashige took them to Koden-ji Temple very soon.

The posthumous name Jorin-in was given to the late lord by the priest Ryoi of Koden-ji Temple.

On December 20 an attendant of Takagi Hiko-uemon had a fight with Fukahori San-uemon, and Shiwahara Bu-uemon in Nagasaki. That night Hiko-uemon's attendants avenged themselves on them. At dawn the following morning 19 attendants of Fukahori San-uemon burst into Hiko-uemon's house, and they killed Hiko-uemon and several of his attendants.

Soon after Lord Mitsushige passed away, Ushijima Genzo and his wife, Yamamoto Jin-uemon, or Jocho, and his wife, renounced the world and shaved their heads. The following men cut off their topknots; Ezoe Hiko-jiro, Noda Moto-uemon, Muraoka Gohey, Hara Sei-uemon, Takagi Chu-goro, Takeshita Hachi-bey, Toda Jirobey, Mitani Tasu-uemon, and Yamasaki So-uemon. Several other *samurai* had their topknots half cut.

* It is a custom to offer money for a bereaved family.

527) Lord Tsunashige is 50 years old in 1701.

On April 17 Lord Tsunashige met Niwa Tomi-no-kami, the administrative official of Nagasaki, at Terai, when he came down from Edo. Lord Tsunashige saw a copy of the certificate issued by the Shogunate, which he had long wished to look at. Soon afterward, he sent an envoy to Edo to return the generosity.

Lord Tsunashige handed over the duty of guarding Nagasaki to the lord of Fukuoka Clan.

On October 1 Lord Tsunashige left Saga for alternate attendance, accompanied by Isahaya Buzen and Naridomi Kurobey. On arriving in Edo, he visited the Shogunate and expressed his thanks to Shogun Tsunayoshi. He stayed at the Tameike residence.

In January Tsuru-hime came down with smallpox. She was a daughter of Shogun Tsunayoshi, and wife to Kii Tsunanori, the lord of Kii Clan.

All the servants from senior counselors to reserve soldiers had their family members examined by Lord Tsunashige, including their cousins and second cousins.

528) Lord Tsunashige is 51 years old in 1702.

In February Lord Tsunashige was allowed to return to Saga. He arrived at Saga on March 29.

Hei-uemon was appointed as the head caretaker of the Edo residence. O-tsuka Jihey and Kanegae Moku-zaemon were appointed as caretakers.

Lord Tsunashige took over the Nagasaki duty from Fukuoka Clan.

On March 9 Lady Keisho-in, Shogun Tsunayoshi's mother, was granted the rank of *Ju-ichi-i*.

In July some districts in the northern mountains of Saga were hit by floods and landslides. In August a typhoon struck Saga.

* *Ju-ichi-i* is the second highest rank granted to commers.

529) Lord Tsunashige is 52 years old in 1703.

The Shogunatge envoys came down from Edo. They were Inagaki Tsushima-no-kami, Ando Chikugo-no-kami, Hagihara O-mi-no-kami, and Ishio Oribe. During their journey, they inspected various places in the country. When they passed through Saga, Lord Tsunashige met them at Kanzaki to have a talk with them.

Lord Tsunashige handed over the Nagasaki duty to Fukuoka clan.

On October 1 Lord Tsunashige left for Edo for alternate attendance.

Lord Tsunashige expressed his gratitude to Shogun Tsunayoshi and returned to his residence at Tameike.

On November 18 the Azabu residence was burnt down in a spreading fire. Sakabe Dan-uemon and Niheda Bun-uemon were killed in it.

On the night of November 21 there was a big earthquake, and a man maid was killed by a falling wall.

* Kanzaki is a town about 6 km east of Saga.

530) Lord Tsunashige is 53 years old in 1704.

In February Lord Tsunashige was allowed to return to Saga. Leaving Edo on March 5, he arrived in Saga on March 31.

On March 31 it was declared by the Shogunate that the name of the era was changed to Hō-ei.

On April 12 Tsuru-hime died from smallpox.

On May 8 the 25th anniversary memorial service was held for Genyu-in, the late 4th Shogun Ietsuana.

On September 17 Abe Bungo-no-kami, one of the highest officials for the Shogunate, died.

Nabeshima Ichibey and Muto Shume were appointed head caretaker, and Kanegae Ri-uemon and Ishi-i Ya-uemon were appointed caretakers.

531) Lord Tsunashige is 54 years old in 1705.

On January 9 a celebration was held on the 60th birthday of Shogun Tsunayoshi.

On March 5 Shogun Tsunayoshi was raised to the rank of *U-daijin* by the Emperor. Ienobu, the adopted son of Shogun Tsunayoshi was raised to *Ju-ni-i Dainagon*, the next rank to *U-daijin*.

On June 22 Lady Ichi-i, Shogun Tsunayoshi's mother, passed away.

In June chanting of sutras 10,000 times was held by the priest Kakuken of Honjo Shrine.

On October 1 Lord Tsunashige left Saga for alternate attendance, arriving in Edo on November 10, accompanied by Nabeshima Ju-zaemon. Narimatsu Matabey was made to return to Saga and he arrived on October 7. Kumashiro Danjo, Lord Mitsushige's son, left Saga on the 15th, and arrived in Edo on December 10.

On December 26 Lord Tsunashige summoned Danjo, his brother, and told him in the company of the Shogunate senior counselors that he would grant his wish and adopt him, at the request of Akimoto Tajima-no-kami. Danjo changed his name from Naotoshi to Tomoshige.

Lord Tsunashige handed over the Nagasaki duty to the lord of Fukuoka Clan.

Kumashiro Danjo was 42 years old, though he had reported his age to the Shogunate

as 40.

- * *U-daijin* was the second highest rank of assistant to the Emperor.
- * *Ju-nii Dainagon* was also a very high rank.

532) Lord Tsunashige is 55 years old in 1706.

On February 2 Lord Tsunashige was granted the Sakurada residence. He returned the Azabu residence to the Shogunate.

In February Lord Tsunashige was allowed to return to Saga. On March 5 he left Edo and arrived in Saga on the 29th.

On April 4 Lord Tsunashige took over the Nagasaki duty from the lord of Fukuoka.

Soejima Godayu and Narimatsu Sada-uemon were appointed head caretakers of the Edo residence, and Kanegae Hei-zaemon and Ishi-i Yazaemon were appointed caretakers. Godayu and Sada-uemon were also told to serve Danjo as his advisors. They were told to live in the house to the northeast of the Tameike residence.

On March 24, the 50th anniversary service was held for the death of Taisei-in, the first Lord Katsushige, at Koden-ji Temple. Sutras were chanted 1,000 times there.

On May 16 the 7th anniversary service was held for the death of Jorin-in, the late Lord Mitsushige.

On December 5 Danjo was summoned to the Shogunate for attestation of his adoption by Lord Tsunashige. He was given part of the Shogun's name and it was changed to Yoshishige. He was awarded a sword inscribed with the name of Norimitsu. On the same day he visited Shogun Tsunayoshi to express his gratitude.

News of Lord Tsunashige's illness was brought to Edo from Saga. Since he had asked for a good doctor, Nagashima Teki-an was sent to take care of him. Prince Yoshishige asked to return to Saga to care for his father, and at the house of O-kubo Kaga-no-kami, the senior advisor for the month, he was told to return on December 6. He was given a passport, too. He was told that he did not have to return to Edo to report even if he heard some news of his father's condition on his way, because his order to return to Saga came from the Shogunate. Leaving Edo on the 7th, Prince Yoshishige heard the news of his father's death on the 13th at Atsuta. He was told that his father had died on December 2. He arrived at Saga on December 28.

On December 6 Prince Yoshishige had received, through the caretaker of his residence,

a letter from the Shogunate asking about his father's condition.

On December 22 Mizuno Kenmotsu, the Shogunate envoy, brought a monetary offering of 300 silver leaves on the death of Lord Tsunashige. The letter of condolence by Shogun Tsunayoshi was delivered to the head caretaker. Murata Kunai and Nabeshima Naiki were appointed to take charge of the procedures concerned with the lord's death. The priest Gyojaku was to perform final funeral rites.

- * Danjo or Yoshishige was Lord Tsunashige's younger brother and a son of Mitsushige, the former lord. Since Tsunashige had no sons, Danjo became the fourth lord in 1706.

533) Lord Yoshishige is 44 years old in 1707.

On April 21 Lord Yoshishige handed over the Nagasaki duty to the lord of Fukuoka, and on the 26th left for Edo for alternate attendance, arriving in Osaka on May 9 and in Edo on the 25th. Lord Yoshishige was supposed to learn about the alternate exchange from the Shogunate.

On January 28 the priest Gyojaku of Koden-ji Temple retired, and was succeeded by the priest Jakusho of Shoin-ji Temple, Kawakubo.

On May 20 Matsudaira Uemon-no-suke Mitsuyuki died for illness at his retreat in Fukuoka.

534) Prince Mitsushige impresses Lord Katsushige with his verbal message.

In 1651 Shogun Ietsuna inherited the throne from Iemitsu. At the end of that year Lord Katsushige left for Edo to convey his congratulations to the new Shogun, but he fell ill on the way. Knowing how important his mission was, he anxiously hurried as much as he could, but was late in arriving.

Lord Katsushige had to see the highest ranking official of the Shogunate to explain his delay, and was drafting his excuse, but could not think of a good way of expressing himself. As time was approaching for the officials to arrive at the castle, Lord Katsushige became uneasy.

Prince Mitsushige appeared from the next room and said, "We have to give our excuse to the officials this morning. If you go out too early in the morning, it may look suspicious, because it was illness that made you late. Please allow me to go in place of you.

You can make your visit in the evening, can you not?"

"I quite agree with him," said Lady Ko-gen in. "We should entrust it to him."

"I agree," said Lord Katsushige. "But we have to give him a memorandum in case he is at a loss what to say."

"I have thought of it myself. You do not need to give me anything," said the prince.

"Then let us listen to your statement," said the lord to his son. Prince Mitsushige instantly recited what he had prepared.

"Yours sounds better than mine!" said Lord Katsushige, and Lady Kogen-in thought so, too. Later they said, "We little imagined he was so gifted." Prince Mitsushige was praised by them and their relationship improved greatly, though it was not always good. Prince Mitsushige was 19 years old at the time.

535) Prince Mitsushige composes a poem at the age of 14.

"I will freeze to death if I fall asleep naked on a very cold night." This was the first poem he composed when he was 14. It is said that the prince became interested in writing poetry after learning something about it from Taku Mimasaka, his uncle.

536) Requisition of the Sakurada residence makes the ex-lord feel envious.

In 1697 the Sakurada residence was requisitioned by the Shogunate, as a residence for Tokugawa Tsunatoyo, the Lord of Kofu Clan. Lord Tsunashige was told about it in April, on his way to Edo for alternate attendance. All his attendants felt very sad about the decision and thought ex-Lord Mitsushige must also be sad. When he heard the news, however, the former lord said, "How lucky Tsunashige is! We must thank the Shogun for that."

When he arrived and visited the Shogunate, ex-Lord Mitsushige said to the senior counselors, "I heard that our Sakurada residence is to be requisitioned. We are delighted that it will be of some use to the Shogunate. I am afraid I have made little contribution to the Shogunate during my service as lord of Saga. Tsunashige is very fortunate, because in his time our residence is to be used by the Shogunate. I rather feel envious of my son."

* Kofu is present-day Yamanashi Prefecture.

537) Lord Mitsushige visits the senior counselors in his own way.

According to Mr. Kanamaru, Lord Mitsushige made it a rule to visit the senior counselors of the Shogunate according to their rank, not according to the street where they lived.

538) Lord Mitsushige always talks of the Shogunate retainers respectfully.

When talking to his attendants about the Shogunate retainers, Lord Mitsushige was always very respectful, even behind their backs. It was the same with low-ranking attendants of the Shogunate.

539) Lord Mitsushige has a unique habit of eating.

Some years ago Lord Mitsushige was late in his departure for Nagasaki, on account of his children's illness. When he was urged to leave by the senior advisors, he said, "All right, let us make a start now." He told his men to bring some food, but it was not ready, so he ate his fill of the half-boiled rice.

Strange as it may seem, Lord Mitsushige did not eat anything on his way there or back to Saga, though the journey took him six days. His way of eating was extraordinary. He ate a large amount at one time and would not eat anything for several days. Everyone said he was a man of extraordinary constitution.

540) Lord Mitsushige volunteers at temples.

When he visited a temple for religious observation, Lord Mitsushige would volunteer for the chanting priests. For instance, he would bring an ink dipper by himself when the priests copied Sutras.

541) Lord Mitsushige never sleeps with his feet pointing to Edo.

Wherever he went, Lord Mitsushige told his attendants to place his pillow towards Edo when they prepared his bed. He would always ask them in which direction Edo was before he went to bed.

542) Lord Mitsushige always mitigates a penalty.

Whenever he was told of someone being sentenced to death, he would not give his approval immediately, but kept it under consideration for some time. Even if it was unavoidable, he would lighten the offence by one degree.

543) Lord Mitsushige is fair in the treatment of his attendants.

When speaking to his direct attendants, Lord Mitsushige always said, "I wonder if my other attendants will not see this as favoritism." He never discriminated against any one in the treatment of his attendants.

544) Lord Mitsushige abhors slandering.

Lord Mitsushige detested slanderers. He would sometimes ask one attendant about another he had sent. "Is he here yet?" If the attendant said, "No, he has not appeared," Lord Mitsushige became very angry at him for not defending his fellow worker.

When the lord asked about an attendant who was late in coming to his office, the man would say, "What can the matter be? Let me go and check." And he would send for his colleague.

Since all the retainers knew the lord's character well, nobody would give a name when he asked, "Who has made such-and-such a mistake?"

545) Lord Mitsushige dismisses a Noh player.

Lord Mitsushige instructed Tanaka Kakubey to teach Noh to the boy attendants serving his son. "How are the boy attendants getting on with learning Noh?" he asked. Tanaka Kakubey replied, "They are not practicing it diligently." Lord Mitsushige was furious and said, "You slander them!" He was dismissed from his job at once.

546) Lord Mitsushige says, "Pretend not to have seen it."

Since he was so compassionate, Lord Mitsushige would always tell his retainers, "See to it that everyone in the domain is free from pain and hardship."

Last year Hotta Genshun came to Saga with the intention of serving our clan. One evening Lord Mitsushige held a poem-writing party at his residence. Guests were supposed to write poems about the rising moon. Hotta Genshun was sitting in the room next to the lord's together with Fujimoto So-gin and Onda Josei.

Genshun happened to see fireworks being set off near Mizugae and talked about it with the other guests. Overhearing them, Lord Mitsushige stepped in and said to Genshun, "You seem not to be familiar with our regulations. It is against the law to set off fireworks. Do not say anything about the fireworks outside. If you mention it, they will be strictly examined and sentenced to some penalty. Do not ever say you saw it, even if you saw it with your own eyes."

Genshun was moved to tears at the lord's compassionate teaching. "No other lords as compassionate as you can not be found anywhere in the country," he said. "Now I am completely determined to serve you, regardless of the size of the payment offered to me." He was soon employed by the lord. Actually he had long wished to serve the Shogunate and had refused Lord Mitsushige's invitation in the past on account of that long-cherished dream. He had just come to Saga for a probationary employment.

547) Lord Mitsushige does not blame his young attendants for going out.

It happened a couple of years ago. The day after Lord Mitsushige stayed at Kuba, Nakano Shichi-uemon and Koga Genta-zaemon went out to Kaida in a boat without telling any senior advisors. "They should be sent back to Saga right away," said their seniors.

"Did they go to the red light district of Miyajima? Do ask them," said the lord. After examination it was found that they had not gone there. "Then let me overlook their conduct just this once," he said. "They ought to be punished for going out without telling anyone, but they are not grown up yet, though they are part of our retinue. Send them to Osaka in advance as a punishment."

* This took place in present-day Hiroshima Prefecture.

548) Lord Mitsushige thinks of mitigating criminals.

One day in April, 1696, ex-Lord Mitsushige stayed in Osaka after retirement, guarded by Mawatari Kakubey and Yajima Hikobey. He happened to awake at night and called their names, but they did not answer. Hikobey had gone to the toilet, and Kakubey had fallen asleep.

The lord tried to rise up, but he was unable to do so because of his lumbago. So he crawled into the next room, when Hikobey returned from the toilet. "Who is your fellow guard?" said Mitsushige, but Hikobey did not reveal his name as he sat upright,

for he knew the lord's character. Kakubey was asleep, sitting slumped forward.

Mitsushige confirmed that the sleeping man was Kakubey and told them to leave the room. Then he summoned the senior advisors and said, "It was quite careless of them not to keep awake," said Mitsushige. "They are the only men I can depend on at night, but made a big mistake. Examine them strictly and report to me what you discover." Soon they told Mitsushige the two had been quite remiss and that they should be sent back to Saga. They also said the ex-lord should sentence them as he saw fit.

Mitsushige summoned the officials again and said, "Hikobey is not to blame. I wonder if Kakubey was using a pillow. Ask him again to make sure." After examination it was confirmed that he had slumped forward in his sleep. Listening to their report, he said, "Then he is not to blame, either. Everyone falls asleep when he is exhausted. If they are returned to Saga, they will be dismissed from their posts. Besides, Tsunashige might sentence them to death for their behavior. As a punishment, send them in advance to Edo."

It was usual for him to allow a culprit to make an excuse after examining him strictly, after which he would often pardon him. Even if the man could have no excuse, Mitsushige would pardon him by drawing attention to some mitigating factors. Everyone was impressed with his compassionate treatment.

549) Lord Mitsushige does not blame his attendant for breaking a glass bottle.

During his stay in Osaka in April, 1696, ex-lord Mitsushige entertained Ito Yamato-no-kami, the lord of Hyuga Clan, at his inn. At that time Endo Rokubey in charge of waiting on them, broke a bottle of wine with the guard of his sword, casting a chill over the room. His attendants said to Mitsushige, "We should send him back to Saga right away."

"Who would break a wine bottle on purpose in the company of guests?" said ex-Lord Mitsushige. "He did it by mistake. He is not to blame." He was pardoned, as a matter of course.

550) Lord Mitsushige puts reports in a box.

Lord Mitsushige would not accept any petition, unless it was logical and reasonable. All the reports from the superintendents were received by the chief direct retainer, before they were brought to him. Receiving them, the lord would say, "Retreat to the next room a while," and would put them in a box. After he had read them, he would

have them burnt at the end of the year.

551) Lord Mitsushige orders the death penalty for an adulterer.

Some years ago Lord Mitsushige was told of a case of adultery in which a man raped another *samurai's* wife. "I have never heard of such an abominable case in my life," he said. "He should be put to death."

552) Lord Mitsushige studies poetry in secret.

When he was young, Lord Mitsushige became overly enthusiastic about anything once he got interested in it. The senior advisors would try to persuade him out of it in vain, though they tried their best, thinking his monomania must impede career in the future.

At 19 years old he became interested in writing poetry. The senior advisors thought it would not influence his character very much even if he was absorbed in it, because it was a kind of learning. Prince Mitsushige, however, used it as a golden excuse to immerse himself in composing poems, to the neglect of everything else.

Hearing of this conduct, Lord Katsushige got furious and scolded him. He had all the books of poetry burnt, and dismissed the two senior advisors from their post. He ordered his grandson never to look at books of poetry. The lord also told him to promise not to do it again. "Poetry is nothing but a hobby of courtiers," said Lord Katsushige. "It is of no use to us *samurai*. What will become of our family if we abandon the practice of martial arts and forget politics? You are a prince of Saga Clan. Do not forget to apply yourself to those two goals, my grandson."

Since then, the prince had not been studying poetry at all. However, after several years he came to think like this. "My grandfather was quite right when he forbade me to lose myself in it, neglecting my duty as a prince," he said to himself. "But what if I take up poetry to the extent it does not interfere with my duty? It will be all right even while my grandfather is still alive. My ancestors were born in turbulent times and were known for their bravery. It is really regrettable for me to disappear from the world without making a name for myself. If I was living in turbulent times, maybe it would be possible to make my name immortal with feats of bravery as my ancestors did. This is peacetime, though. As far as I know, only Hosokawa Yusai has been awarded the certificate of the *Kokin-shu*. I am sure that is the best way to make my name known nationwide. It will make a good legacy as well. Unless my study of poetry

interferes with my duty, I will be able to justify it, though I should keep it secret as long I have my duties.”

As a result Lord Mitsushige began to study poetry very hard, and finally succeeded in being granted the certificate of the *Kokin-shu* on his deathbed. His endeavor was really remarkable. And all the while, Lord Mitsushige was so afraid his work would become known to the public.

The certificate Hosokawa Yusai was awarded had parts missing in it, but what Lord Mitsushige obtained was a perfect one. It is said that apart from him, only the last Emperor and the Nishi-sanjo family own the perfect certificate.

- * The *Kokin-shu* is an anthology of 1,111 poems edited in 905 under Emperor Daigo.
- * Precise understanding of the *Kokin-shu* was transmitted to very few by the expert of the anthology. To receive it as a certificate was very honorable in those days.

553) Lord Mitsushige asks about the ceremony for the 50th anniversary of his father's death.

Lord Mitsushige asked the priest Eho to chant sutras on the 50th anniversary of his father's death.

554) Lord Mitsushige sympathizes with the lord of Fukuoka Clan.

While he was in Osaka in 1693, Lord Mitsushige was told that we had won the dispute over the border with Fukuoka Clan. He said, “That is good news, but I cannot help feeling sorry for Lord Kuroda. He is the lord of our neighboring clan, and we take turns in our duty to guard the port of Nagasaki every other year.”

555) Lord Mitsushige composes a poem about the dispute over the border.

When the dispute broke out, Lord Mitsushige sent a letter to Lord Kuroda in which he proposed that they treat the area as one belonging to neither side. He composed a poem about the dispute, too.

“How foolish it is to quarrel about the border! Have we not often yielded land to each other in the past?”

556) A bird on the roof of Edo Castle

On December 15, 1683, a crow was seen on the roof of Edo Castle. Several *daimyo* were discussing whether it could be brought down by shooting. When one of them asked Lord Mitsushige the same question, he said, “I could shoot it outside the castle, but cannot say whether or not I could do it here, because it is on the roof of the Shogun’s castle.” All the other *daimyo* were impressed by his answer.

557) Lord Mitsushige does not change out of his formal dress.

In May 1683, Lord Mitsushige was told in Saga of the death of Tokumatsu, a son of Shogun Tsunayoshi. He remained sitting in his chamber in the same formal dress for several days. He did so in order to mourn the dead prince.

558) Lord Mitsushige’s veneration of the Imperial Family

Lord Mitsushige really venerated the Imperial Family in Kyoto.

559) Lord Mitsushige goes round Edo on the day of a big fire.

On January 18 and 19, 1657 an overwhelming fire broke out in Edo, and Lord Mitsushige went round the city at night.

560) Lord Mitsushige teaches the importance of guarding the port of Nagasaki.

In April, 1682 at our clan’s watchhouse in Nagasaki, Lord Mitsushige told Nabeshima Mondo, Nabeshima Kan-zaemon, and Chiba Taro-suke how important their job was.

561) Lord Mitsushige divides the number of attendants.

On the day of a big fire in 1668 Lord Mitsushige was about to go round the city. All the attendants raised their hands to volunteer to follow him. Seeing this, he told the attendants who were then on rota to accompany him and the others to stay behind.

562) Izumi-no-kami visits Lord Mitsushige at his sick bed.

Lord Mitsushige lay ill in bed, where Izumi-no-kami, his uncle, visited him. Since he

thought it rude to receive his uncle in bed, he tried to get up. The moment he turned over, he fainted with dizziness.

563) Lord Mitsushige admonishes Tsunashige, his son.

In April, 1671, Prince Tsunashige came to Saga for the first time, accompanying Lord Mitsushige, his father. He was 21 years old. Since it was the first visit for the prince, everyone welcomed him by the roadside. They bowed to him as he passed by. Later that day Prince Tsunashige said to his father, "They were bowing to me as I passed by." "Do not be conceited, son," said the lord. "Never think you are so great a person as to be worshiped by the people."

564) Lord Mitsushige does not change his expression in agony.

While he was sick in bed, he had bedsores but would not complain at all. He never appeared to be in agony as he gave instructions with a cheerful expression.

565) Lord Mitsushige sits up straight when the Shogun passes by.

Whenever he was told by his attendant that the Shogun was passing by his residence to go to Zojo-ji Temple, Lord Mitsushige would sit up straight for some time in his uniform in the living room.

* At Zo-jo-ji Temple six Shoguns are buried.

566) Lord Mitsushige pays a visit to his ancestors' graves.

At the Bon festival in mid-August, Lord Mitsushige always visited the graves of his ancestors in the order of their ages, making a detour once in awhile.

567) Lord Mitsushige is well acquainted with Mito Mitsukuni.

Lord Mitsushige was quite well acquainted with Mito Mitsukuni and was invited by him to dinner once in a while. One day Mito Mitsukuni talked of ships and said, "You are from Saga, the western district of our country, so you must have a good knowledge of them. Is that right?" "Yes, but I am impressed with your knowledge of ships," said

our lord.

When he returned to Saga, he said, "Some of the questions he asked were beyond my ability to answer, but how could I tell him that I did not know? I managed to find a response."

- * Born in 1628, Mito Mitsukuni was a grandson of Tokugawa Ieyasu and deputy of Tusnayoshi, the fifth Shogun. He is well-known for his nickname "Ko-mon."

568) Mito Mitsukuni tells Nabeshima Mototake about the tradition of Saga.

Mito Mitsukuni said to Nabeshima Mototake, the third lord of the Ogi branch clan, "It seems to me that the tradition of Saga Clan will disappear with Lord Mitsushige. It is true that Settsu-no-kami, the second lord of the Hasu-ike branch clan, resembles him to some extent, but is no match for him. I suppose you would be good enough to be direct retainer of the Shogun."

569) Settsu-no-kami sees his old servants off in tears.

Some years ago several attendants of Settsu-no-kami, the second lord of the Hasu-ike branch clan, got into trouble at Edo. The senior advisors asked the lord to dismiss them from their posts. "Since they were at fault, it cannot be helped," said Settsu-no-kami in tears. "But I am really sorry for them. I am afraid many hardships await them." Listening to the lord's words, his senior advisors were also in tears.

Settsu-no-kami said to one of his direct attendants, "Let me know in secret when they pass by." "They are supposed to leave tonight," he said. "Tell them to come over and see me by the gate of the garden, which I will keep open," said the lord.

Late that night all of them crept close to the lord's living room. Seeing them, he said, "I feel very sorry for all of you. How are you going to live from now on? I could not do anything for you, because the decision was made at a magistrates' meeting. As I am old, I will not live to see you return to your posts. I sent for you because I thought this would be the last time to see you while I remain alive. Spend your days taking good care of your health. How I would like to see you again!"

All the dismissed *samurai* wept with their lord as he addressed them in tears. Soon their leader said, "It is time to go." They left the residence for the last time.

- * Nabeshima Naoyuki, Settsu-no-kami, died in 1725.

570) Settsu-no-kami orders the prisoners to be released.

When Settsu-no-kami, Lord Naoyuki of the Hasu-ike branch clan, passed by Imajuku, he happened to see a shabby building and said, "What is that building for?" "It is a jail, sir," said his attendant. "It must be so hot and stuffy inside," said the lord. "I am very sorry for the plight of the inmates."

After he returned to his own residence, he said to his retainer, "Is anyone in jail?" He said, "Yes, we have two men in the jail at Shiota Village."

"This afternoon I saw a jail in Saga and came to think that we should not shut men up in such a hovel," said the lord. "I cannot help feeling sorry for the prisoners. Let them be released immediately."

* Hasu-ike is about 5 km southeast of Saga.

571) Nabeshima Naoyuki continues to study calligraphy after his father's death.

Nabeshima Naoyuki, the second lord of the Hasu-ike branch clan, would practice calligraphy every day after being told to do so by his father. He wished to live up his father's expectations even after he died. Whenever he went up to Edo for alternate attendance, he never failed to visit his father's grave first, and greet the tombstone as if he was talking to his living father. He did the same when he set out on the return journey to his castle in Hasu-ike.

A couple of years ago he said to an acquaintance, "I would like to retire as I am old enough, but I am still in office. I am afraid everyone will feel at a loss if I retire. I think I must remain in office till my son grows compassionate towards them."

* There were two graves of his father's in Edo and Saga.

572) "Is it not disgraceful to marry another man?"

After Princess O-sen married Doi Oi-no-kami, Lord Mitsushige, her father, said, "I do not think he is suitable as your husband. Let me take you back from him and get you married to some other man more desirable."

"I do not think it shameful to marry an ordinary man," said O-sen. "Is it not rather disgraceful for a woman to divorce her husband to marry another? Please do not think

about it again.”

573) Lady Doi Ohi-no-kami determines to die in the fire.

On February 1, 1668, there was a big fire in Edo. Lord Mitsushige went to the Yanagi-hara residence where O-sen, his daughter, lived with Doi Ohi-no-kami, her husband. Fire had reached the apartments of the *samurai*. “Did she escape somewhere?” he said. “No, she is still inside the residence, sir,” said an attendant.

Surprised, Lord Mitsushige hurried to the living room to see her. When he asked her why she remained, she said, “I have told the attendants to leave as soon as possible, but my husband is away on business. How can I leave here when my husband is away? I will not do so. I am determined to die in the fire.” Lord Mitsushige walked away with her right away.

574) Nabeshima Naoyuki prays for the security of all his servants.

Nabeshima Naoyuki, the second lord of the Hasuiki branch clan, invited a prominent priest known for being of the highest degree, and had him pray for Benzaiten Sarasvati. Then the lord said to his servants, “Worship Benzaiten to save yourselves.” Later he also studied hard to learn the secret teachings of Benzaiten.

“I am old now, and have nothing to pray to Benzaiten for,” said the lord. “But after Kai-no-kami, my son, inherited the household, all the retainers had 30 % of their land confiscated by a decision of Saga Clan authorities. I am very sorry for my attendants and their families for the execution of such a policy. How will they manage in future? Fearing that some of them might end up starving to death, I cannot help sympathizing with them. I have learned the god’s special teachings, because I wanted to protect them from hardship, even to a small degree. My dear attendants, I would like you to worship Sarasvati, and I am also praying for your happiness.”

* Benzaiten is one of the gods who protects Lord Buddha. In Japan it is worshipped as a god of wealth.

575) Lord Tsuanshige does not accuse Ushijima Genzo of misconduct.

When Ushijima Genzo was working in Kyoto as a caretaker at the Saga residence with Yamamoto Jin-uemon, who was in charge of poetry, a letter from ex-Lord Mitsu-

shige was brought in. It said that he had been told something bad about Genzo earlier by the magistrates, but had forgotten what it was about. "I was told that Jin-uemon was also working with him, so I asked him about Genzo, but I have forgotten what he told me, too," he wrote. "In any event Genzo had better reform his behavior."

After some time, the magistrates reported to Lord Tsunashige about his misconduct, and it was decided to summon him to Saga and examine afresh. Hearing this, ex-Lord Mitsushige said to Lord Tsunashige through his direct attendant, "Genzo was such a nice fellow that I always enjoyed his company. I would like you to investigate about him again, but if he was found to be no great harm to the clan, please forgive his sin and leave him to me. I want to use him as an attendant by having him enter the priesthood."

"I did not know he was so important to the former lord," said Lord Tsunashige. "I do not think he will do any harm to the clan. Besides, filial duty is not to be neglected. In this case, at least, let me do something for him." Then he told his retainer, "Ignore the case. Send him back to Kyoto immediately to serve in some way." His case was no longer mentioned.

* Ushijima Genzo died in May, 1715 aged 72.

576) Takayama Uhey

Takayama Uhey was a foster brother of Lord Mitsushige, so the lord employed him as his attendant. However, he had to dismiss him for his bad behavior. His mother was allowed to live in Saga, though.

O-sen had a foster brother named Ohta Ryo-an, and O-haru's foster brother was Hamuro Sei-zaemon.

577) Lord Mitsushige abhors smallpox.

When Lord Mitsushige was in Edo, a direct attendant of the Shogun, said, "You dislike smallpox but it does not seem to me that such an attitude is suitable for a *daimyo* like you." "I dislike it because it was the killer of my father," he said on the spot.

578) A brief summary of Lord Mitsushige's career

He was born in 1632.

In November, 1632 he celebrated his first wearing of *hakama*.

In November, 1633 he was met by Shogun Iemitsu, accompanied by his mother.

On December 22, 1648 he celebrated his coming of age.

On December 25, 1648 he had his forelock ceremony.

On April 16, 1649 he held his wedding ceremony.

In September, 1650 Princess O-sen was born.

In October, 1650 his skin broke out in a rash.

On January 18, 1652 he was allowed to return to Saga by the Shogunate.

In February, 1652 he left for Saga with Lord Katsushige, his grandfather.

In March, 1652 he became ill with smallpox.

In May, 1652 Hiko-hoshi, the prince, was born.

In November, 1652 he went up to Edo for alternate attendance.

On June 26, 1653 he visited the Nikko Toshogu Shrine.

In October, 1653 Princess O-iwa was born.

On March 26, 1654 he went up to Edo for alternate attendance.

In November, 1654 he arrived at Edo.

On January 7, 1655 he was entertained by his aunt's bridegroom and his wife.

On January 9, 1655 he went to the Yamanote residence to be entertained.

On January 10, 1655 he was invited to the home of Sakai Sanuki-no-kami and went there with Matsudaira Uemon-no-suke, Kuroda Ichimasa, O-kubo Kaga-no-kami, Matsudaira Yamashiro-no-kami, Niwa Ecchu-no-kami, and So-shun.

On February 1, 1656 he was given a goose caught with a hawk by the Shogun, through the envoy Shimosone Sanjuro.

On April 4, 1656 he showed the goose to all his family and retainers.

On July 22, 1656 he was given 30 skylarks by the Shogun, and so was his grandmother, through the envoy Sanjuro.

On August 12, 1656 he showed the skylarks to his family and retainers.

On September 29, 1656 he received a request by letter from the Shogunate to visit Edo Castle on the day of *inoko* festival.

On October 8, 1656 he received a request by letter from the Shogunate to visit Edo Castle in formal attire, to meet a party of Korean guests.

On December 13, 1656 he visited the highest ranking official of the Shogunate to express his grandfather's gratitude at being presented with a crane by the Shogun.

On December 14, 1656 he went up to Edo Castle to express his grandfather's gratitude to the Shogun.

On February 3, 1655 he was presented a goose by the Shogun.

On March 4, 1655 he showed it to his family and retainers.

On February 5, 1656 O-sen celebrated her *obi*-bearing ceremony.

In February, 1656 Princess O-haru was born.

In August, 1656 Prince Hiko-hoshi had his *hakama* ceremony.

On December 23, 1656 Lord Mitsushige went up to Edo with a present on behalf of Lord Katsushige, his grandfather.

On January 2, 1657 he went to Edo Castle and was permitted to drink from the Shogun's wine cup.

On January 19, 1657 he moved to the Aoyama residence with his daughters, after a fire.

On February 18, 1657 Abe Bungo-no-kami, an envoy, came to see Lord Katsushige in his sickbed. Mitsushige paid a visit to Edo Castle with Kamio Bizen-no-kami to express his gratitude.

On February 19, 1657 Okabe Naizen-no-sho, Tamba-no-kami, and Izumi-no-kami were informed by the Shogunate that approval was granted for Prince Mitsushige to succeed to his grandfather's household. That evening he visited the Shogunate.

On March 1, 1657 he went up to Edo Castle again to express his gratitude for inheritance of his household.

On May 4, 1657 he moved from Aoyama to the Azabu residence.

On May 16, 1657 he went to see the highest ranking official of the Shogunate to report to him that the period of mourning was over.

On May 26, 1657 he was presented 5 ducks by the Shogun.

On June 13, 1657 he showed them to his family and retainers.

On June 16, 1657 he went up to Edo Castle to take his seat for the first time.

* Iemitsu was the third Shogun.

* Toshogu Shrine in Nikko, present-day Tochigi Prefecture, is where Tokugawa Ieyasu is buried.

* The *Inoko* festival was celebrated at the Shogunate on October 1 to prepare for the winter.

579) Ex-Lord Mitsushige makes Nakano Kazuma take an oath.

Nakano Kazuma was appointed as the former lord's attendant to go up to Edo after discussion among the important retainers. He was summoned and was instructed to make a pledge. The lord said to Nakashima Zundayu, an attendant, "Read the first

part of his pledge.”

“Having served Lord Tsunashige since his youth,” he read aloud. “I am familiar with his personality but I will reveal nothing about him to the former lord. If I should break my pledge...” The rest of the article was not showed, though.

Nakano Kazuma was moved to tears and said, “Tears came in spite of myself with joy and gratitude.”

* Nakashima Zendayu wrote the pledge for Nakano Kazuma.

580) The relationship of the three branch clans with the main Saga Clan

The lords of the three branch clans of Saga were told by the Shogunate to assume certain responsibilities, and their gifts to the Shogunate were also directed to be upgraded to equal those offered by the main Saga Clan. In a word, the three branch clans were treated as if they were independent from the parental clan.

At that time Prince Tsunashige had not succeeded to the throne, and lived in the Edo residence. Being told of the elevation of the three branch clans, he reported to Lord Mitsushige, his father, his grave apprehension about that decision.

Lord Mitsushige brought the situation to their notice, but none of the branch lords would listen to him. Gradually their relationship deteriorated. The senior advisors and counselors of the main Saga Clan put their heads together on the serious situation, but in vain.

In those circumstances, Nakano Shogen, the senior advisor, appealed to Lord Mitsushige. He said, “We have been discussing the matter, but without coming to an agreement. I am afraid our clan will face a serious crisis sooner or later, if such a situation continues. Please allow me to make a suggestion.

“I deeply appreciate your kindness in allowing me to serve you and granting land not only to me but also to my children. Your kindness to me makes me glad, but I feel even more thankful on my children’s part. I really appreciate that you treat us as if we were your children.

“I think the present situation of our clan is quite different from that of the Shogunate with its three families. The lords of our branch clans are all sons of the former lord Katsushige, and they are also working for the Shogunate. I think we can accept them as ex-Lord Katsushige’s sons working for the Shogunate, just as you accept Prince Tsunashige, your son, as doing the same. If you think like that, I believe the present situation will change for the better. It will never do any harm to Saga Clan for the

three lords of our branch clans to serve the Shogunate. It will rather help raise the fame of Saga Clan.

“Prince Tsunashige felt jealous that they were in the Shogun’s favor. As a result, the branch lords felt offended by him, and they came to criticize you. What will become of our clan if this unfortunate relationship continues? In the reign of ex-Lord Katsushige, all the three families’ servants would come to the castle as soon as they were called, and he never discriminated between them and his direct attendants at any ceremony. But today they are thought of as the three lords’ subjects, not as your own. As a result, most of them have retreated to their own villages away from Saga. If you think the three branch lords are treated too well by the Shogunate, they will not understand what you mean and feel angry with you.

“Frankly speaking, it is we who are to blame. We should summon Lord Naoyoshi, the lord of the Ogi branch clan, and apologize to him. This is what you should say to him: “I admit having accepted Tsunashige’s complaint without question. It resulted in our blaming each other. But the blame is mine. I was in the wrong. I would like all of you to cooperate with my son and unite together to support Saga Clan. Since you are the senior counselor, please tell the other two lords what I have said to you. I will tell Tsunashige. I believe he will understand me.”

Listening to Nakano Shogen’s appeal, Lord Mitsushige quite agreed with him. He said, “You are right, Shogen. Please go to Ogi and fetch him.” But Shogen thought the lord of the Ogi branch clan would not see him in the current circumstances, so he thought of sending Fukae To-uemon instead, who was related to the lord’s family. He instructed him to tell the lord of the Ogi branch clan that he would hear good news from Shogen before long. Fukae To-uemon met with Lord Naoyoshi and asked him to see Shogen.

Thanks to Fukae To-uemon’s groundwork, Shogen was warmly welcomed by the lord of the Ogi branch clan. “Lord Mitsushige wants to see you, though I am not sure what he intends to discuss with you,” he said. “Would you please come to Saga in a couple of days? I hope it will turn out to be a pleasant visit for you.” Nakano Shogen returned to Saga with Lord Naoyoshi’s answer that he would visit Saga.

Soon Lord Naoyoshi arrived at Saga Castle with his son. “You might be wanted, so wait at the western enclosure,” he said and entered the castle. “I feel sorry to three of you for making you feel unhappy,” said Lord Mitsushige. “I admit I was in the wrong.” As the lord expressed his thoughts, Lord Naoyoshi was moved to tears by his words. “Please do not say any more,” he interrupted. “I fully understand what you mean. I am very sorry for them having criticized you. I was in the wrong, my Lord. Please do

not worry about this matter any further. I promise to make them understand what you have said.” Then he told Lord Mitsushige he had brought his son Mototake and asked the lord to see him. The son joined them, and father and son offered Lord Mitsushige their pledge sealed in blood. This was how the entanglement was resolved.

Nakano Shogen never attributed their reconciliation to his own efforts, but kept it secret as long as he lived. He would always say, “They came to terms with each other on the proposal from Lord Mitsushige.” Was Shogen not a truly faithful retainer? One day in 1683, however, he confided about it to me.

My teacher told me about the episode in his cabin on December 7, 1713. He said, “On the whole it seems to me that men of talent and eloquence tend to disgrace the lord when they boast their own service. I have known many cases. A retainer should attribute every good result to the lord, even though he is the one who has brought it about. It is very important to make everyone think the lord did it by his own judgment. On the other hand, he should take the lord’s guilt upon himself. Nakano Takumi never disclosed that he had been the first to attack Arima Castle in 1637. Criticism offered confidentially by a faithful retainer will be accepted by the lord. Regarding the future of the Nabeshima family, several men of senior rank have said that it will fall if the good relationship between the three branch clans and the parental clan ever collapses.”

In the reign of Lord Katsushige he treated the three lords of the branch clans without any discrimination at all, because they were all his sons. Tadanao, his eldest, and the other three sons were always treated equally. The three lords’ houses were inside Saga Castle, and they were also guarded by able attendants at their castles in Ogi, Hasu-ike and Kashima as well. When they had anything to tell Lord Katsushige, their father, they came up to the room next to his and entered after greeting him. When he had guests, they could leave a message with his direct attendants. Also on the days of festivals and ceremonies, Lord Katsushige had the three branch lords attend them equally.

But Lord Mitsushige, the new master, had little knowledge of the traditional customs of Saga Clan, because he was born and brought up in Edo. Okabe Kunai, the senior advisor, had been a direct attendant for the Shogunate and Sagara Kyuma was employed in Edo. Neither of these was familiar with our customs. They even moved the grave of Getsu-do, the first lord of the Ogi branch clan, in the grounds of Koden-ji Temple, and partitioned it with a wall. Following the Shogunate, they set up a system of Three Families. The Ogi, Hasu-ike and Kashima branch clans were called the

“Three Families” like those of the Shogunate. The attendants of each clan were treated as branch clans’ attendants, not as ones of the parental Saga Clan. When they came to Saga Castle, they were made to wait by the entrance. Okabe Kunai and Sagara Kyuma would not see them readily, making unreasonable excuses. In such ways they discriminated against them. As a result, most of the attendants of the three lords left Saga in anger. “Who laid the foundation of our clan?” they said. “We cannot put up with such haughty and cold treatment from those newcomers. We will not come to Saga Castle again!” The three lords also retreated to their own castles. The discord became conspicuous when the grave of Getsu-do was moved again to Sochi-ji Temple about 3 km north of Saga Castle.

The attendants of the three branches began to call Lord Mitgsushige’s main clan the “parents’ home” and their own masters “lord,” in reaction. Different from other clans, we had maintained a good system of branch families in the reign of Lord Katgushige. Unfortunately, that was changed completely by the new lord’s retainers. However, I am delighted to say that recently it has improved.

According to Yamamoto Jin-ueemon Shigezumi, Jocho’s father, the Ogi branch clan has been supported by elite retainers selected by Nabeshima Naoshige, the founder of Saga Clan. Half of them committed *seppuku* on his death, but those remaining were still very strong and trustworthy. Some say that even if all the *samurai* of Saga Castle attack them, they would not be able to defeat the Ogi *samurai*.

581) “Ugly-looking *samurai* are a specialty of Saga Clan.”

O-haru, Lord Mitsushige’s third daughter, was watching parades passing by with her attendants. They were admiring the colorful and charming processions of the Shogunate and other clans, when her father’s group came along. However, it was so vulgar that O-haru, the princess, felt very offended. Dressed in shabby clothes, those short and simple-looking bumpkins went by so awkwardly. In contrast, how gorgeous the other clans’ parades were!

Some days later, when she met her father, she complained to him. “The other day I was watching the parades with my attendants. All the other clans’ processions were so beautiful and exciting, but alas, yours was terrible. I felt so embarrassed. Your men were vulgar, short, and ugly-looking! Please scold them for their bad manners at least!”

“It is none of your business, O-haru,” said the lord to the princess frowning.

"What do you mean, Father?" she said.

"I am afraid you do not understand," he said to her.

"Why? Please tell me why, Father."

"Well, let me explain, O-haru," said the lord. "The other clans' processions are made of men selected to look good in a procession, hired for the occasion simply because they were tall and good-looking. They will flee at full speed in an emergency, abandoning their lord. But mine is composed of the rank and file who have been serving the clan for generations. They are really faithful and will not act in such a despicable way. They are prepared to give up their lives at any time. Remember, O-haru, the specialty of my clan is ugly-looking servants!"

582) Lord Mitsushige holds to the last in the big fire.

On February 1, 1668, a big fire broke out and was spreading to our Sakurada residence. Seeing his servants working hard to extinguish it, Lord Mitsushige said, "Look, everyone, most of the *daimyo* residences have burnt down. It is of no use for ours alone to survive. Leave it to burn."

When he went out with Tsunashige, his son, most of the houses in the neighborhood burnt down and the streets were blocked with wood and rocks, and other debris. "Let me go ahead and check, sir," said Nakano Kazuma. He was in charge of transportation and so was familiar with the topography of Edo. He did splendid service for the lord.

Finally at dawn the following day Lord Mitsushige returned to the Azabu residence, when another fire broke out and it was threatening the location. "Do your best to put out the fire this time!" he cried. Prince Tsunashige issued instructions from the top of the roof with his baton, but his father said as he looked up at him, "Poor commander!"

Soon the fire spread to our residence and burnt various buildings. "It is out of control. Please, please leave this place!" they implored the lord and the prince to retreat, but he refused to do, instead shouting, "Do your best for your lives!" In the end several attendants were burnt to death or badly injured in the fire.

Sagara Kyuma came out and said to them, "We have already lost some men, and more are injured. Please retreat from the residence for heaven's sake, sir." Lord Mitsushige said, "We will follow your advice." Since the gates were blocked with obstacles, Nonaka Mokubey, a foot soldier, struck at part of the fence and it was pushed down by his comrades. The lord and the prince were able to leave the residence through the fallen wall.

583) Nabeshima Naoyuki is ordered to entertain the Imperial envoy.

Nabeshima Naoyuki, the second lord of the Hasu-ike branch clan, was told to entertain an envoy from the Imperial family. He said to himself, "Most of us *samurai* are not used to these things, and are likely to make mistakes in our service, so it is better to employ someone who is familiar with such affairs." Then he employed two men who had entertained envoys in the past.

When the envoy came to the castle, Lord Naoyuki bowed his head to the floor, being the respectful person he was. The Imperial envoy was so embarrassed by his bowing low, and in return touched the floor with his hands. When the feast was over, the two receptionists said to the lord, "It was such a success. You need not worry. We have never seen an Imperial envoy put his hands to the floor."

Later the envoy said to his attendant, "The lord is very courteous. Do not forget to be polite to him."

584) Why was Lord Mitsushige angry with his retainers?

When Lord Mitsushige retired to the Aoyama residence, Nakashima Zendayu and Ezoe Hikojiro, senior advisors, showed him several items written "For the previous Lord." Seeing them, ex-Lord Mitsushige was very angry. "I have handed over my household to my son," he said. "What is in the hands of a retired person like me? If I run short of something, I can borrow it from him. Do not label things again like these. It only serves to separate me from my son. You are quite misguided." They were severely admonished.

Then Mitsushige was asked repeatedly what to do with the gifts to Prince Tsunashige. "Make a list of all the items to be given to my son," he said. Ex-Lord Mitsushige surrendered all of them to his son, but regarding an ink-stone he said, "This ink-stone is a treasure of the Nabeshima family, and has to be passed on in accordance with our tradition." He himself handed it over to the prince at Saga Castle, with certain directions.

Ex-Lord Mitsushige had nothing with him at the Aoyama residence. When he had a guest, he would ask for some items from the Sakurada residence. Only the books belonged to him at the Edo residence.

585) A list of the attendants who became monks at the death of ex-Lord Mitsushige

The following attendants asked the clan to be allowed to become monks at the death of Lord Mitsushige:

Ushijima Genzo, Yamamoto Jocho, Seien, Myosetsu, Jishun, Keishitsu, Ku-getsu and Ishi-i Kyu-ya. The last-named man was told to become a monk, though he did not ask for it.

The following attendants renounced the world of their own will:

Noda Moto-uemon, Matsuzaki Hiko-uemon and his wife, Nakashima Zendayu, Maeyama Matabey, Mitani Jokyu and his wife, Noguchi So-kei's wife, Ushijima Genzo's wife, Yamamoto Jocho's wife, and Chokusen, a kitchen maid.

Five farmers of Nabeshima and Honjo Villages shaved their heads and took on the clothing of a monk.

Ima-izumi Chu-zaemon and Ima-izumi Shin-uemon of Nabeshima Village, Yamagata Gyo-uemon, Chika-uemon, and Mikuriya Ri-zaemon of Honjo Village

586) Why did Lord Naoyuki converse with the monks?

One day Lord Naoyuki of the Hasu-ike branch clan visited Koden-ji Temple, where he was involved in talking with some of those who had become monks after renouncing the world. He talked with them about Chinese tea making, bean curd cooking and so on. After enjoying the Chinese tea and bean curd served to him, he said to the head priest, "Pardon me for interrupting your duty. I am afraid you found it tiresome, but I did so to let my attendants take a rest. Thank you." Then he left away.

587) Ogura, the nurse of Prince Mitsushige, dedicates herself to bringing him up.

Prince Tadanao, the eldest son of Lord Katsushige, died of smallpox at the age of 23 at the end of January 1635. O-suke, his only son, was only 4 years old. Discussing it with Kogen-in, his wife, Lord Katsushige decided to pass his household to Naozumi, his fifth son, because O-suke was so young. Lord Katsushige made Esho-in, wife of the late prince, marry Naozumi, with the purpose of realizing his plan.

Ogura, the nurse of O-suke, got furious at his way of doing things, and would not

attend the wedding procession, but remained at the castle to take care of the infant prince. She devoted herself to his upbringing day and night, feeding with soup with dried fish and shavings of dried bonito.

Most of the retainers also objected to the lord's giving up his household to his fifth son. Taku Mimasaka, an administrative retainer, was sent as a representative to Edo to discuss the matter with Lord Katsushige. "We do not understand why you transfer your household to Naozumi while O-suke, the late prince's son, is alive," he said.

"I understand what you mean," said the lord. "But I am afraid that O-suke is too young to become engaged in duties like guarding the port of Nagasaki. Also, I am getting older." The administrative retainer said, "Perhaps it cannot be helped if the prince is found to be of no use, but who knows if he is useless or not? Please understand that your idea will not be supported by us, and that is our consensus." Lord Katsushige agreed with him at last, but Lady Kogen-in decided to invite the senior counselor for the Shogun to their residence, to acknowledge his recognition.

One day before that, the lord of the Ogi branch clan called O-gura to his residence and said, "This is for the sake of O-suke. Could you bring him tomorrow to the room where we are gathering? Lord Katsushige might get very angry and punish you, though." "Thank you very much for your advice," said O-gura. "I am ready to lose my life for O-suke at anytime."

On the day itself, Lord Katsushige and Lady Kogen-in were entertaining key figures of the Shogunate, like Sakai Sanuki-no-kami, with rice wine. It had been decided that Naozumi would appear as soon as the administrative retainer put his cup on the wooden stand. The next moment, however, O-gura appeared with O-suke in her hands. She appeared at a sign from Taku Mimasaka, which they had decided upon the previous day.

"Here is the prince to inherit the throne!" said O-gura, to the great surprise of all of them. "He is the son of the late Prince Tadanao," said Taku Mimasaka to the highest ranking official. "We wish you to recognize him as the legitimate son to inherit the household. A cup of wine from you will be most welcome."

All the administrative retainers were delighted with the appearance of the prince and said to Lord Katsushige, "We little expected to see him today. What a blessing it is for you! You must be proud of him." They offered a cup of wine to the infant prince, of course. There was nothing that Lord Katsushige and Lady Kogen-in could do.

Even after Prince O-suke grew up to be called Mitsushige, he would stop making demands if he was told, "Very well, let me get O-gura to scold you." She had summoned up her courage and appealed to the Shogunate officials, and never ceased doing her

best to bring up the prince as long as she lived. When the prince was invited to someone's residence, she would always accompany him and sit across the table, and give him shavings of dried bonito as a side dish. She would not have it any other way. Thanks to her devotion, he grew up to be a healthy person, they said.

After O-gura retired in old age, Lord Mitsushige never omitted to provide her with food, clothes, and all she needed, as well as daily meals. However, all presents from him were donated to her favorite temple, due to her faith in Lord Buddha.

588) Administrative senior counselors in the reign of Lord Mitsushige

These were Sagara Kyuma, Ikuno Oribe, Nabeshima Yahei-aemon, Nakano Kazuma, and Harada Kichi-uemon.

589) Caretakers of Mitsushige in his childhood

Nodomi Kurobdey, Mawatari Ichi-no-jo, and Soejima Go-zaemon were in charge of him.

590) Last request of Nabeshima Motoshige, lord of the Ogi branch clan

Hearing, while on his way to Edo, of the serious condition of Nabeshima Motoshige, Lord Mitsushige made haste as much as possible. When he stayed at an inn, he ate everything on the table, surprising O-ishi Kosuke, the attendant. "He is usually particular about what he eats," he said. In spite of his efforts, however, he could not arrive at the Edo residence in time.

But Naoyoshi, Motoshige's son, was in time for his father's last moments. He was so pleased to see his son and said, "I have been waiting for your arrival, my son. I have one thing to tell you before I depart. As I have told you before, we must serve Lord Mitsushige in good times and bad. If you agree, show me your decision to share your fortune with the lord."

"Yes, I am prepared for that," said the son. He wrote his oath on a piece of paper and swallowed it in front of his father, as he was told. "I feel content and have no more to say." Soon after that he passed away in peace.

* It was on November 11, 1654 that Lord Motoshige passed away aged 53.

591) Lord Mitsushige is congratulated on his succession to the household.

When Lord Mitsushige was visiting other *daimyo* and other persons, he called at the residence of Tokugawa Yorinobu, the tenth son of the late Shogun Ieyasu. He was immediately ushered into the living room by the steward, who had been told to do so by his master. Lord Mitsushige was entertained with an array of delicious food for lunch.

“Congratulations on your inheritance of the household!” said Tokugawa Yorinobu. “You probably do not know this because you are so young, but your grandmother and I were brought up in the same house long ago. So I feel really attached to you. I hope your grandparents are in good health. Please let them know how pleased I am.”

When Lord Mitsushige was stepping into the palanquin, he told Hyakutake Iori about his conversation and sent him to see his grandparents and report the good news to them. Soon after that, ex-Lord Katsushige and Lady Kogen-in visited him to express their gratitude.

592) Lord Mitsushige tells his son about learning military strategy.

When he was young, Prince Tsunashige, the eldest son of Lord Mitsushige, became a student of Hojo Awa-no-kami and studied military strategy under the tutorship of Fukushima Dembey, a prominent disciple of Hojo Awa-no-kami. Hearing of this, Lord Mitsushige summoned him and said, “We have inherited our traditional strategy and tactics, so you do not have to enter other schools.” As a result, the prince stopped studying there.

However, Yamamoto Jocho, my teacher, was told by the prince himself that he left because something had occurred to cause the expulsion of Hirose Den-zaemon, another famous teacher.

593) Lord Mitsushige applies for a promotion of his late father.

At the 50th anniversary of the death of Kokoku-in, Lord Mitsushige’s father, he said to the administrative retainers of the Shogunate, “I was only four years old when my father died. I admit I have done nothing particular for him since then. On his 50th anniversary ceremony I would like to do something for him, though a long time has passed. Being so young, my father died with a lower rank. If possible, I would like you to grant him the rank of *jiju*, though I understand it is an extraordinary request.”

He was told that his request was too ridiculous to accept because it was unprec-

edented. He replied, "Then I would like to surrender my present status of *jiju* in favor of my father." They were deeply moved by his filial piety. After discussion, it was decided to grant request as an exception.

Very soon a set of clothes for a *jiju* was ordered from a tailor in Kyoto. When it was finished, Naka Goro-uemon brought it to Saga and offered it to Koden-ji Temple. A new mortuary tablet was also ordered from Kyoto, which was brought back by Ito Shingoro. He also offered that to Koden-ji Temple.

594) The infant Mitsushige utters a word of wisdom to his grandfather.

When his grandfather, Lord Katsushige, went to the Battle of Shimabara in 1637, Mitsushige was only six years old. It is said that he made some wise remark to his grandfather.

595) Those who were allowed to shave their heads at the death of Lord Mitsushige

Ezoe Hikojiro (senior advisor), Noda Moto-uemon (senior advisor), Muraoka Gohey (in charge of treasury), Takeshita Ju-suke (in charge of records), Hara Gonbey (in charge of records), Takagi Chugoro (in charge of records), Toda Jirobey (in charge of records), Yamasaki So-uemon (in charge of stables), Tani Suke-uemon (in charge of palanquin)

4 palanquin aids were allowed to shave their head partly. Fukae Roku-zaemon was not allowed to shave his head, and several other persons were not allowed to partially shave their heads.

596) The intrepid Lord Mitsushige

A fire started at the house of Kinoshita Gohey, a senior advisor. When it was approaching the residence of Lord Mitsushige, several firefighters came with the news. It was reported to the lord by Nakano Ichi-zaemon through Sagara Kyuma and Yamasaki Kurando, senior advisors.

Hearing the attendant's report, Lord Mitsushige said, "I undersand, but I am tired, so let me take a nap. Let me know if the fire reaches here. I do not mind the house being burnt down, but do not forget to position a firefighter on the roof of the library." Then he went to sleep.

597) Noda Sago-uemon remits his oath.

When Lord Mitsushige was at his Aoyama residence after retirement, Noda Sago-uemon, the cook, produced the breakfast menu for the following day. It was returned to him after amendment. According to the notice, the lord was supposed to breakfast with a guest, too. But Sago-uemon made the mistake of assuming that all the lord would eat was a breakfast with the guest, and did not prepare any other food for him.

Soon after the guest left, Sago-uemon was told to bring Lord Mitsushige his food, but of course, none was ready. The cook set about preparing it in haste, but could not do so in time, though he was able to serve up a bowl of rice. Lord Mitsushige told him to prepare shavings of dry bonito as a side dish. It was in the evening that the lord finished his meal.

Later the lord summoned his retainers and said solemnly, "You have done wrong in keeping me hungry all day in the cold. Look into how this happened." When they asked Sago-uemon about it, he said, "I made a big mistake." Then he withdrew to his house to await his punishment. Hearing of this, Lord Mitsushige said, "Sago-ueon was foolish to make me go hungry. Tell him to take an oath not to make the same mistake again. Then he may serve in the usual way."

598) Lord Mitsushige deals with several jobs simultaneously.

While listening to an official reading a decision by the court, Lord Mitsushige would also listen to another official. At the same time, he would do some writing as he gave an order to a third official. He could handle several jobs at the same time. To their great surprise, it turned out that he had made no error, and had correctly heard what each had said.

599) Sitting on horseback is the same as doing so on the *tatami* mats.

In Edo Lord Mitsushige was asked by a retainer from another clan, "I have been wondering how you can keep fit on horseback riding so long. I feel exhausted when I ride one day or two. Please tell me how you do it."

"There is nothing to tell you," said the lord. "I do not feel tired at all on horseback, since I just imagine I am on a *tatami* mat at home."

600) Lord Mitsushige goes through Hakone Pass rapidly.

When he took the land route, Lord Mitsushige would ride on horseback to and back from Edo for alternate attendance. Only a strong horse could carry him all the way. When he went through Hakone Pass, he would go as swiftly as possible.

As for food, he took only one meal at the inn, never eating between meals. He would tell his attendant what time to prepare the meal at the next inn. The man would rush to the inn in advance to prepare his meal. If the lord happened to arrive at the inn late, he did not mind taking his meal cold.

* Hakone Pass lies south of Mt. Fuji.

601) Lord Mitsushige's abnormal appetite

One day Lord Mitsushige ate ten meals in a single day. Matsunaga So-un, the doctor, examined him, only to find his bowels in their normal state.

602) Lord Mitsushige writes a letter to his uncle.

August 16, 1658

Dear Lord Naoyoshi,

“Please accept my gratitude for holding such a pleasant party for me last evening. I really enjoyed myself. Also thank you very much for the gifts. According to a legend, an old man found a most pretty girl in the bamboo. I wonder if he found such delicious food in it, too? The bamboo sprouts were so delicious I would like to dig them up and eat them myself, forbidding them to all my attendants for a while. How pleasant it was to drink wine and be entertained by such good-looking boy attendants till late at night.”

603) Two recording officials are allowed to join their Noh team.

Lord Mitsushige had told all groups to perform a Noh play, but Ushijima Genzo and Yamamoto Jocho were excused, because both were too busy with their duty as recording officials. However, on the very day of the Noh performance, the lord said to his attendant, “I do not think it very good that they should be absent while all the other attend-

ants join. Tell them to appear today with the others.”

Lord Mitsushige also asked about the party which was supposed to be held, and said, “I understand the writing officials are too busy to attend such events and parties, but their leaders will not be happy if they cannot join in, all the year round. Tell them to attend it.”

604) Nabeshima Naoyoshi stamps on a man's *hakama*.

When Lord Mitsushige was leaving Edo Castle, someone trampled on his *hakama*, making him stumble. Seeing this, Nabeshima Naoyoshi, his cousin and the lord of the Ogi branch clan, went up to the man and stamped on his *hakama*, and the man fell down on his face.

605) Lord Mitsushige rejects a flattering suggestion from Kira Kozuke-no-suke.

One day Kira Kozuke-no-suke said to Lord Mitsushige, “Excuse me but I do not think your title is suitable for as prominent a lord as yourself. Why not apply for the rank of *shosho*, in exchanging it for half your land?”

“However high a rank I hold, it is of no use if we run short of food,” said the lord and rejected his suggestion.

* *Shosho* was a high rank established in 765.

* Kira Kozuke-no-suke was a direct retainer of the Shogun.

606) Farmers in the northern mountains carry rocks to Saga.

At the death of Lord Mitsushige, many farmers in the northern mountains carried rocks down to Saga of their own free will. They were to be used for building his grave.

607) Lord Tsunashige's foster brother

Sakabe Mata-ueemon was a foster brother of Lord Tsunashige.

608) Those who renounced the world at the death of Lord Tsunashige

The following people asked Saga Clan to be permitted to become monks at the death

of Lord Tsunashige in 1706.

Ikuno Mago-zaemon (senior advisor), Noguchi Sen-zaemon (direct attendant), Tahara Genbey (direct attendant), Tajiri Ji-uemon (master of materials), Ito Kihey (in charge of Shinto ceremonies), Ishiyama Genchu (in charge of tea ceremony), Akiyama Ryoho (in charge of tea ceremony), Fukahori Chobey (reserve soldier), Koide Sampo (reserve soldier), Ryoshin-in (Sakabe Mata-uemon's mother), Shokai-in, Shinkan-teishin, Ryokei,

Three persons were ordered to become monks: Niwa Ki-zaemon, Hara Ihey, and Haraguchi Gyo-zaemon.

Aiura Seigo-zaemon had been serving Kojo-ji Temple as a gatekeeper. Seeing the funeral parade, he decided to shave his head and become a monk. His household was inherited by his son.

The following people also shaved their heads. Ishi-i Den-uemon, Kurinami Ya-uemon, Niwa Ki-zaemon's wife, Tashiro Magosuke, a retiree, and a farmer in Honjo Village.

609) A list of instructions given by Lord Mitsushige

In February, 1687, Lord Mitsushige gave the following instructions to the superintendents.

“Keep your eyes on my conduct and behavior.”

“Keep your eyes on Tsunashige, my son.”

“Collect as much information as possible on what is going in Edo.”

“Beware of the behavior of relatives and important retainers.”

“Keep informed about how Shogunate regulations are observed and how local regulations are kept also.”

“Pay attention to the quality of service by the attendants. Some will come to the castle even when they are sick. Others will be absent even if they are not ill. Some others will not resign from their posts even when they have become too old.”

“Remember that both I and my son are responsible for whatever you do.”

610) Nabeshima Motoshige helps O-gura in having Mitsushige inherit the household.

In 1636 Lord Katsushige invited Doi Ohi-no-kami to his residence. Previously, Nabeshima Motoshige had whispered to O-gura that she should appear in the room with O-suke in her hands and say in a loud voice, "Here is O-suke, the son of the late Tada-nao."

When O-gura, the nurse, appeared with the infant prince, Doi Ohi-no-kami said to Lord Katsushige in delight, "I congratulate you on your grandson!"

Actually this was arranged by Nabeshima Motoshige, because Lord Katsushige was thinking of leaving the household to Naozumi, his youngest brother.

Fujimoto Seishu, O-gura's father, was from Kawachi. Coming up to Kyoto at the age of eight, he was brought up by Murakami Suo-no-kami, his uncle, at his residence. O-gura's mother's marriage to Fujimoto Seishu, her father, was arranged by Murakami Suo-no-kami, who had been adopted by him. Her mother was a daughter of the lord of Hasu-dani-yama Castle, who was the youngest son of the lord of Togashi Castle. Soho, Kyutoku, O-gura and two more daughters were born to them. O-gura adopted Munenao, the son of Kyutoku, the second son, and they lived in Kyoto.

In 1615 Osaka Castle collapsed, and Lady Hideyori moved to O-hori with her three female attendants. One of them was a daughter of Fujimoto Seishu. With the permission of Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu, Matsudaira Shimousa-no-kami married her. Later their daughter was called Lady Esho-in. When Prince Tadanao married her, O-gura, her aunt, came to Saga as her attendant. She died on August 16, 1649.

611) Lord Katsushige prepares for a penalty from the Shogunate.

When the Arima campaign ended in 1638, Lord Katsushige was summoned to the Shogunate for violation of Shogunate regulations. He was determined to accept any sentence, such as abolition of his clan. He told Prince Mitsushige to withdraw from the Nebukawa residence through Nodomi Kurobey, the prince's care-taker. He also told his retainers to be ready to give up the seven residences at Sakurada, Naka-yashiki, Azabu, Mishima-cho, Uchikoshi, Aoyama, and Okura.

612) Prince Mitsushige enjoys the honor of meeting Tokugawa Yoshinao.

In the summer of 1643, the 12 year-old Prince Mitsushige went for a boat trip on the Asakusa River. Tokugawa Yoshinao happened to be there. Seeing him, he said to the

boy's attendant, "Who is he?" "He is a grandson of Lord Katsushige," said Nodomi Kurobey. Inviting Prince Mitsushige into his boat, he said, "Your grandmother is my elder sister. It is so nice to see you here. I hope we meet again," he said before parting with the prince.

613) Presents to the Shogunate and other *daimyo* at Prince Mitsushige's coming of age

On December 22, 1648, Prince Mitsushige celebrated his coming of age. A sword inscribed with the name of Kuniyuki, twenty padded garments, and 300 silver leaves were presented to Shogun Iemitsu. The following gifts were also presented: a sword, 200 silver leaves, and 10 padded garments to the Shogun's son; 10 silver leaves to the Shogun's wife; some silver leaves to the female maids; swords, *kimba-dai* or money to buy a horse, and padded garments to Sakai Shuri-no-suke, Matsudaira Kai-no-kami, Nakane Iki-no-kami, and Kuchigi Mimbu; swords, money to buy a horse, and padded garments to those in charge of music, officials in charge of the hostages, superintendents, and officials in charge of shrines and temples; swords, money to buy a horse, and padded garments to some other superintendents. Three kinds of presents loaded on two horses were offered to Tokugawa Yoshinao, Tokugawa Mitsusada and his son, and Mito.

614) Pledges of loyalty are handed to Prince Mitsushige.

On February 5, 1651, Lord Katsushige told several attendants to write an oath of loyalty, which he handed to Prince Mitsushige when he went up to Edo the following year.

615) Lord Mitsushige sends a letter of good news to Nodomi Kuro-zaemon.

On May 16, 1658, Lord Mitsushige wrote a letter by himself and had it delivered to Nodomi Kuro-zaemon. The following is a copy of his letter.

"I am deeply moved by your diligent service toward me, my wife, and my children, working for us so honestly even when I was in a bad humor. Your father also served me well when I was a child, so I would like to raise your stipend. It is only a token of my gratitude to you. Please accept it and apply yourself to your duty as diligently as you can."

616) Lord Mitsushige prays at Niiyama Shrine.

On June 15, 1658, Lord Mitsushige visited Niiyama Shrine and offered his prayers to the god of the shrine.

“Allow me to offer my prayers to you on behalf of all my family and the Shogunate. I have observed that the god of this shrine is highly responsive to our prayers. Please accept my pledges and my thanks.

- a) I will build a smaller shrine to you at my residence to worship you more than ever.
- b) I will forbid all people in my territory to hunt monkeys, because they are your messengers.
- c) I will donate two horses every 12 years when the festival is held here.
- d) I am filled with gratitude to you for having granted my wishes until now.
- e) I have visited this shrine because today is festival day at the parent shrine in Edo.

“Please accept my pledges and my thanks. My deepest prayer goes to you for the peace of the Shogunate and the country of Japan. It is presumptuous of me to ask this favor, but allow me to pray to you to protect the Shogun from every misfortune. He is in his unlucky year for his age. If misfortune should be his, please let me suffer from it instead of him.

“I am greatly honored to have been appointed to guard the port of Nagasaki by the Shogunate.

“I would be happy to live long, but I am over forty now and will not regret losing my life at any time. I have already passed on my household to my son. My daughters have recovered from smallpox quickly. They are now married to good husbands. I would like you to allow me to survive as long as possible.

“As a father of my children, I pray to you to protect them from illness and to make them happy to their last day. I express my deep gratitude to you for keeping my four children in good health, even though there are a great many children in the domain under your protection.”

- * According to legend, the ages of 25,42 and 61 are unlucky for men, while 19,33,37 and 61 are unlucky for women. It is said misfortunes occur in those years.

617) Lord Mitsushige builds Choan-ji Temple for his father.

In 1658 Lord Mitsushige built Choan-ji Temple to pray for the repose of his father and put in charge of it the priest Bankyu, formerly of Kensu-ji Temple. He saw to it that the temple was granted 12 *koku* and was exempted from paying tax.

618) Lord Mitsushige offers gifts to Niiyama Shrine.

On April 4, 1659, Lord Mitsushige donated 30 *koku* to Niiyama Shrine for the longevity and fortune of his four children. Tsunashige, his eldest son, was at an unlucky age.

619) Lord Mitsushige builds Seiso-ji Temple for O-gura, his nurse.

On August 16, 1661, the 13th anniversary of the death of O-gura, his nurse, Lord Mitsushige told a 9 year-old boy to have his head shaved at Gansho-ji Temple, where he was supposed to pray for the soul of O-gura. The boy, a member of O-gura's family, was given a Buddhist name of Chikan.

Lord Mitsushige also built a temple for the repose of her spirit, permitted by Hongan-ji, the head temple of Jodo sect. Being named Seiso-ji, it was built in O-takara Village. On the 25th anniversary of her death in 1673, the temple was exempted from paying tax. Sagara Kyuma and Fujimoto Soshin were involved in the matter..

In the same year it was promulgated by the Shogunate that no new temples or shrines should be built. As a result, a new temple named Myo-an-ji was destroyed immediately after it was built. Lord Mitsushige suggested that the temple for his nurse be renamed the "Myo-an-ji," because that was her posthumous title.

620) Lord Mitsushige builds the Koyo-ken residence.

In 1662 Lord Mitsushige built the Koyo-ken residence for the prosperity and good fortune of his descendants and his family. Nagayama Jubey and Nishihara Yohey were in charge of building it. In 1666 he built a hall of worship for Tsunashige, O-sen, O-iwa and O-haru. Shigematsu Zen-zaemon and Nishihara Yohei were in charge of building it. Several smaller shrines were also built in the grounds.

Lord Mitsushige built seven smaller shrines at Mambu-shima, and three of which were moved to the Koyo-ken residence on June 18, 1705.

The following is a list of dates of the festivals of each shrine:

February 11, Kasuga shrine	June 15, San-o Shrine
February 15, Hikosan Shrine	June 19, Sumiyoshi Shrine
February 25 and June 25, Tenmangu Shrine	September 13, Tamatsushima Shrine
February 12, Minase Shrine	September 16, Daijingu Shrine
March 18 and May 25, Hitomaru Shrine	mid-November, Hachimangu Shrine
April 17, Toshogu Shrine	November 8, Inari Shrine
May 5, Kamo Shrine	

621) Lord Mitsushige visits Tokuzen-in Temple.

On September 25, 1665, Lord Mitsushige visited Tokuzen-in Temple and offered his prayers and a poem to it. *“On September 26, 1665, the lucky day, let me pray here to all the gods.”* He stayed there overnight. This is the prayer which he wrote down by himself.

“Today is a lucky day to offer my prayer. Let me offer it to the seven gods of Heaven, the five gods of Earth, the 32 descendent gods after the Sun Goddess’ grandson who came to Earth, the 3,132 gods worshipped by eminent priests inside and outside of Kyoto, the capital, and to all the other shrines where prayers are answered, all the holy spirits in the underworld unseen by us mere men, and the god of Hikosan Shrine at which our family has always worshipped devoutly.

“For long ages, all the land of our country has been blessed by Heaven and Earth. I know that coldness and heat, night and day are only manifestations of these. They can be ascribed to the mysterious purification by Behavior, Language and Mind, referred in Buddhism.

“Everythig under the sun is brought about by the great law of Yin and Yang. All the gods exist as they are on the Earth after descending to us according to that law. How grateful we are for such an orderly law!

“Of all those gods, the god of Hikosan Shrine, with his great power, has been particularly supportive of our family. Nabeshima Hei-uemon, our ancestor, worshiped the Hikosan god for every single day of 18 long years. Finally in the 18th year he was granted an image of Lord Buddha, after receiving a revelation, thanks to his earnest prayer.

“They say we are in a degenerated age now, but why on earth is our prayer not heard by the god of Hikosan Shrine? Not only myself but all the members of my family

believe in you just as our ancestors used to do.

“As far as I understand, we all suffer degeneration from wandering between hope and fear, although there is no need to go astray. All the gods come to this Earth which is soiled by man, to save us from our perplexity. How generous and compassionate the gods are! Please listen to my prayer and accept my sincerity of heart. Please accept it and support me as you have in the past.

“Oh god, please recognize my sincerity and save me, even if I should err through carelessness. Protect and bless me with your compassion.”

622) Ten districts in Saga Clan

In 1668 Lord Mitsushige was handed a document signed by Shogun Ietsuna. According to it, there were 10 districts in Saga Clan, though previously there had been only 8. Actually in 1613 ex-Lord Katsushige submitted a map of Saga Clan, in which 10 districts were shown. But in the report he remitted together with the drawing, he had integrated Matsu-ura and Korai districts into Sonoki district.

When Shogun Ietsuna inherited the throne, he was too young to dispatch inspectors around the country to check the number of the districts. Finally, the Shogunate inspectors visited our clan, when Lord Mitsushige explained the contradiction to them. Then he dispatched Taku Nagato, a senior advisor, to the Shogunate. As a result, we were admitted as a clan with ten districts.

623) The lord of Shimabara Castle has his territory confiscated.

In March, 1668 Khoriki Sakon, the lord of Shimabara Castle, had his territory confiscated. On April 26 many officials arrived at Khojiro Village and entered the castle on the following day. They were Matsudaira Bizen-no-kami, the envoy, and his 700 attendants including 37 men on horseback, Kato Shingoro, an inspector and his 75 attendants, Morikawa Kozaemon, an aide-de-camp to the envoy, and his 45 attendants, Uchida Zen-zaemon and his 45 attendants, Aoki Kono-ueemon, a treasurer, Sakai Jin-no-jo, Matsumura Kichi-zaemon, a local administrator, and Ono Cho-zaemon.

Ogasawara Takumi joined with his 3000 attendants including 100 men on horseback. So did Matsu-ura Hizen-no-kami with his 3000 attendants including 100 men on horseback. All of them arrived at Yue Village on April 20 and stationed themselves at Tabira Village. They were allowed to enter the castle on the 27th with the Shogunate envoy.

Lord Mitsushige sent messengers to each group which was to bivouac in the Saga domain. He sent another messenger to the Shogunate envoy after Shimabara Castle was surrendered to them.

624) Lord Mitsushige prohibits running behind pack horses.

In 1672 in Ibino Village, a man was holding the reins of his pack horse and running behind it, when the horse fell down and the man on its back was killed. When he heard of the incident, Lord Mitsushige sentenced the driver to death for his reckless behavior and issued a prohibition against running behind a pack horse while holding its reins. Later the prohibition was also made by the Shogunate.

* The incident occurred at a village in present-day Nagasaki Prefecture.

625) Lord Mitsushige allows Magoheita to burn incense for the soul of the late lord.

On March 24, 1657, ex-Lord Katsushige passed away at the age of 78. Soon after, Magoheita, a nephew of the late lord, came and said, "I feel very sorry for not having come to see him on his last day. Please allow me to burn incense for his soul." He was allowed to do so, but Lord Mitsushige would not see him.

626) Three English ships enter the port of Nagasaki.

On May 25, 1673, three English ships entered the port of Nagasaki. They asked to open trade with Japan, but in vain, and were told to leave the port. In order to take precautions, Kumashiro Sakyō was dispatched to Nagasaki. He was staying at Fukahori. On July 16, Ōki Katsu-uemon and Taku Hyōgo were sent to Nagasaki with Hiroki Hachibey, a magistrate.

The following men were also sent to Nagasaki. They were Nabeshima Shima, Nabeshima Aki, Nakano Kurobey, Kitajima Geki, Doi Kurando, gunnery captain Fukahori Shin-zaemon, Aiura Gen-zaemon, Fukahori Tanomo, Ishii Gon-no-jo, Tsutsumi Roku-zaemon, Nishi Godayu, leader of bowmen Hara Jirobey, Oya Hyō-zaemon, Hirakata Rihey, Ito Hachi-uemon, Takedomi Heibey, Tominaga Jiro-uemon, Ihara Hachiro-zaemon, Takagi Yozaemon, Uchida Saku-uemon, Shimauchi Sambey, Takedomi San-no-jo, Oba Roku-uemon, and Baba Shin-uemon.

At the suggestion of Kumashiro Sakyō, they left Saga in groups on plain palanquins,

so as not to draw attention to themselves. He also showed them a memorandum about guarding the port. It was dated July 19, 1673.

- a) The night before, set your boats at points not far from the English ships.
Nabeshima Shima and his group should anchor at Shirasaki.
Nakano Kurobey and his group should anchor in front of Kami-no-shima.
Nabeshima Aki and his group should anchor off Kami-no-shima.
Kumashiro Sakyo and his group should anchor between Bakuchi-shima and Hitotsuya.
Kitajima Geki, Doi Kurando, and Hara Jirobey and their groups should anchor north of Takahoko Daiba.
- b) Have your men prepare food in advance for the following day. We might have to stay in the port longer, so prepare enough food.
- c) Put only the clan's mark on boats and equipment. Do not use any other marks.
- d) Do not use covers, even if it rains.
- e) Be prepared with long hooks and rakes.
- f) Do not arm yourselves with guns.
- g) On the alarm, I will wave a large flag and blow a conch. Then cut the ropes and rush in to attack. Do not get underway unless I give the signal.
Do not move the gunboat even after the other boats leave.
- h) Fire the cannon when I sound the bell.
- i) Do not shoot from behind the gunboat.
- j) Shoot your arrows in the same way as you do with the cannon.
- k) When the English ships have surrendered or are sinking, surround them with your boats and keep them immobile. If I am injured or killed, select someone as commander and have him report the outcome to the magistrates' office, and at the same time send a messenger to Saga Castle. If I am unharmed, I will issue the commands. We must hand over the English ships to the magistrates' office first.
Then we should return to Fukahori in an orderly manner.
- l) If the English ships leave the port obediently, the Shogunate boats will return. However, you must wait until I give the signal by blowing the conch.
Weigh anchors and deploy oars at my first signal. At my second signal, all boats will withdraw, following my boat, in the order of Nabashima Aki group, Nakano Kurobey group, Nabeshima Shima group, Kitajima Geki, Doi Kuramndo, and the gunboats and bowmen.
- j) When you arrive at Fukahori Port, make an orderly landing

k) Nishi Godayu will give instructions in advance to all boatmen.

The three English ships left Nagasaki peacefully on July 25, and the whole force left Fukahori with Kumashiro Sakyo on July 27, arriving in Saga on 29. A total of 34 boats joined the operation. Totoki Settsu-no-kami, an administrative retainer of the Yanagawa Clan, visited Kumashiro Sakyo at Saga Castle to commend him for his good work.

627) Haraguchi Saku-uemon has a narrow escape.

In 1674 Haraguchi Saku-uemon was going up to Edo on an urgent business. When he dismounted from his horse at Arai, he happened to cut its neck severely, by accident. He did not notice that the blade of his sword was partly out. Seeing the horse bleeding violently, the driver demanded him to give him ten silver coins in compensation.

Three officials came out from the barrier and said to the driver, "What a rude fellow you are to make such an unreasonable demand! He is an express messenger from Saga on his way to Edo." Turning to Saku-uemon, they said, "Leave this to us and get on board at once."

He managed to avoid trouble in that way. Someone said he was able to do so because every lord of Saga used to give a tip at the barrier.

628) Lord Mitsushige in retirement gives his favorite possessions to his family members.

When he retired, Lord Mitsushige gave his favorite possessions to his family members, as follows.

A tea container to Matsu Hyobu, a saddle & stirrups to Sakakibara Suruga-no-kami, ten boxes of silk crepe to O-mitsu, a saddle & stirrups to Mizuno Hayato, a saddle & stirrups to Ito Izumo-no-kami, a sword to Mizu Chusho, a sword to Mizu Gyobu, three rolls of satin and two rolls of damask to O-cho, a sword to Ito Suruga, a saddle & a drawing scroll to Matsu Tomono, a saddle & stirrups to Matsu Sazen, a saddle & stirrups to Okabe Hyo-e, a drawing scroll to Sagara Kozuke-no-suke, five rolls of colored satin and five rolls of damask to Lady Okaga-no-kami, a saddle & stirrups to O-oki, a saddle to O-choshu, a saddle & stirrups to Utsu Unshu, stirrups to Okabe Tanshu, a sword to Okabe Hyogo, five rolls of silk crepe to O-kame, a sword to Aoe, and two rolls of

satin and three rolls of damask to Lady Takumi.

629) Lord Mitsushige offers several articles to Zen-o-an Temple.

On April 26, 1700, Lord Mitsushige instructed Ezoe Hikojiro to offer the following items to Zen-o-an Temple.

- a) A case containing his umbilical cord with a note of his birth written by Lady Kogen-in
- b) Four sets of his own baby clothes, a sash, a roll of black crepe, and a set of silk clothes presented by Lord and Lady Katsushige
- c) A lock of hair with a signature and note by Lady Kogen-in
- d) A lock of hair from a forelock, with a signature and note by Lady Kogen-in. Her letter to O-tora was also included. His hair was bound with straw, according to the tradition that a boy becomes a *samurai* by having his forelock cut, and is allowed to engage in work.
- e) A set of prayer beads in a sack given as a lucky charm by Lord Katsushige, who received it from Nanko-bo as a present.

Lord Mitsushige told his family that a talisman he had kept with him since birth should be burnt to ashes and buried under the pagoda of Mambu-shima Shrine. On April 28, it was burnt and placed under the pagoda.

630) Lord Tsunashige meets his last.

On October 12, 1706, Lord Tsunashige complained of his poor condition, but he met his important retainers on the 15th. On November 1, his condition deteriorated, but he received his relatives and the administrative retainers.

After that he did not see anyone, and Aoki Rinsho, the doctor from Osaka, was summoned to treat the lord. He began to take medicine on November 11. On the 15th his relatives and administrative retainers visited him, but on the evening of the 22nd his condition deteriorated further.

On the next evening Mikami Shinsuke was dispatched to Edo to report our lord's condition. Arriving in Edo on December 3, he visited Edo Castle on the following day to ask for a doctor for Lord Tsunashige. Nagashima Teki-an, the Shogunate doctor, was dispatched to Saga on the evening of December 6.

Meantime, in the main hall of Saga Castle a religious ceremony was held to pray for the lord's recovery. At Shirayama Hachiman Shrine they lit a holy fire for the same purpose. Also, at the twelve temples and shrines in Saga they offered prayers. All the attendants of our clan also prayed for Lord Tsunashige's recovery at temples, shrines, and their own houses.

On the evening of November 26, Tanaka Kyu-zaemon was dispatched to Edo to report to the Shogunate about the lord's serious condition. Yamasaki Kyudayu was sent to Nagasaki to inform the Magistrates' office.

On the dawn of the 28th an amnesty was proclaimed of all criminals for praying for the lord's recovery. Not only all the prisoners but those who were investigated were released. However, one prisoner was not allowed to leave his cell, because he had tied up his own mother.

On the 29th only his relatives and several administrative retainers were allowed to see him in his sickbed.

At eight o'clock on December 2, 1706, Lord Tsunashige breathed his last. The next moment an express messenger was sent to Edo. At the same time Hara Gombey and Sugimachi Jingo-zaemon were also dispatched. Gombey's mission was to report to the Shogunate our lord's passing, while that of Jingo-zaemon was to tell them the doctor was no longer needed. On the evening of December 5 Nabeshima Yahei-zaemon and Muto Shume left for Edo. On the evening of December 7 Ju-zaemon was sent, too.

The lord's body was put into its coffin on the evening of December 3. It was carried out of Saga Castle at 6 p.m. on the following day by dismantling part of the eastern wall. It passed by Katatae, Kita Horibata, Nishi Horibata, and Jugo Nawate.

All the direct attendants accompanied the procession, while all the relatives and administrative retainers burned incense for the soul of the late Lord Tsunashige and went to Koden-ji Temple. The other officials lined up outside the gate of the temple. All the *samurai* lined up along the road between Katata-e and Jugo Nawate together with reserved soldiers and foot soldiers.

On the evening of December 5 his body was cremated, attended by the family members and administrative retainers. The following day the family members arranged his ashes. On December 7 they began to read 1,000 sutras, ending on the 18th. They were in mourning for the late lord from 22 to 28, during which all the family members and the administrative retainers visited Koden-ji Temple every day.

The funeral service was held on the 24th at 4 p.m., attended by all the family members and the administrative retainers dressed in black. Nabeshima Naiki dedicated food to the altar on behalf of all the Nabeshima families. All the important retainers

and other officials sat with him. The other officials, *samurai*, and reserve *samurai* sat on the sandy ground. The priest Gyojaku performed the final ceremonies over the late Lord Tsunashige. As many as 160 priests chanted sutras in chorus. Priests of the Soto sect and the Tendai sect read sutras on December 23, followed by priests of the Shingon, Saikeshu, and Obaku sects on the 25th, and priests of the Jodo, Hokke, and Ikko sects read sutras on the 26th. The mountain monks and blind monks read them on the 27th.

On January 24, 1707, the following men asked for permission to renounce the world. They were Niwa Kizaemon, Ikuno Mago-uemon, Tahara Gembey, Noguchi Sen-zaemon, Haraguchi Gyo-zaemon, Tajiri Jizaemon, Ito Kihey, Hara Ki-uemon, Masuda Soshun, Akiyama Ryo-ichi, Yamanaka Genchu, and Fukahori Chobey. Some were told to remain in their present posts because they had attempted to renounce the world without permission. Aiura Seigo-zaemon and Eriguchi Kuro-uemon were later told to surrender their households to their sons.

The following persons renounced the world by shaving their heads, though they had not been allowed to do so by their group leaders. They were dismissed from their posts. Their names were Yamasaki Hei-jiro, Yamada Togoro, and Ishibashi Tazaemon. They were also later ordered to surrender their households. There were others who shaved their heads, or partly shaved them.

Because of the mourning for the late Lord Tsunashige, the pine branches for the New Year were set up only at Taiko Gate and at the gate of the secondary enclosure. There were no decorations in the domain of Saga Clan. On New Year's Day all the relatives and administrative retainers visited the castle clothed in hemp, and the other *samurai* attended in their ordinary costume, but none of them exchanged greetings there.

On December 17 a letter from the Shogunate was brought to Saga, but the administrative retainers sent Kamura Taro-zaemon to Edo to return it unopened.

On February 7, 1707, Hara Gombey returned to Saga with the funeral offering from the Shogunate. Yoshishige, the new lord, brought the money to Kodon-ji Temple, and dispatched Oki to Edo as his envoy to convey his gratitude. He left on 10.

On November 18 and December 2 Matsudaira Uemon-no-suke's messengers came to Saga. On the evening of December 2 another messenger arrived from Chikuzen Clan,

only to return with the sad news. Our administrative retainers sent *samurai* to Kanzaki and Ushizu to inform the messengers from other clans that our lord had passed away.

On January 6 Mizuno Hayato's messenger arrived from Edo, while on January 8 Yoshida Kyudayu, a messenger of Matsudaira Hizen-no-kami, and Shinomiya Shosuke, Osumi's messenger, visited Saga Castle to inquire after the lord's health.

On December 18 Ito Suruga-no-kami and Miura Iki came to see our administrative retainers to express their condolences. They also sent their own messengers with money for incense. As it was the mourning period, they offered it through our chamberlain.

On December 23, 10 silver leaves were offered by Matsudaira Daizen.

On December 25, ten silver leaves were offered by Nashiba Gen-zaemon and Matsudaira Uemon-no-suke.

On December 27 five silver leaves were offered by Tanaka Den-zaemon and Matsudaira Tomono.

On 29 December five silver leaves were offered by Tamura Ichi-zaemon and Goto Chikara.

On January 9 five silver leaves were offered by Miwa Chobey and Ito Yamato-no-kami.

On January 13 five silver leaves were offered by Tawara Saguma and Doi Suo-no-kami.

On January 20 thirty silver leaves were offered by Yamamoto Moro-uemon and Matsudaira Hizen-no-kami.

On January 26 ten silver leaves were offered by Kamata Hachi-zaemon, Osumi-no-kami, Sugiyama Shiroyayu, and Mizuno Hayato and his son.

On January 27, 20 silver leaves were offered by Sakabe Todayu, Matsudaira Hyobu-dayu, and Kenmotsu.

On January 28 ten silver leaves were offered by Oka Yasu-uemon and Sakakibara Shikibu-dayu.

A monk was dispatched to Koden-ji Temple by the head priest of Hikosan Shrine. He offered a sutra to the temple on January 25.

631) Lady Tsunashige's body is moved to her husband's grave.

On January 29, 1707, a second funeral service was held for the late Lady Tsuanshige, and her ashes were moved to her husband's grave at Koden-ji Temple.

632) A new shrine is built for Lady Mitsushige.

On February 6, 1707, a second funeral service was held for Lady Mitsushige at Keigin-ji Temple, and her ashes were put into the newly-built shrine.

Lord Yoshishige, the new lord of our clan, attended both services. At Koden-ji Temple Oki Hachi-uemon carried the box of ashes, while at Keigin-ji Temple Fukae Roku-zaemon carried it.