Consciousness of Human Rights among the Japanese in U.S. and Hawaii
 in the Period of Democratic Campaign

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From the end of the 1880s to the 1890s, many youths with democratic leanings went to the U.S., which was called "The Land of the Free". They were based in San Francisco. In order to revive the sluggish democratic campaign in Japan, they issued a newspaper and sent it to their colleagues in Japan, verbally criticizing the despotic Meiji monarchy. This course of action can be positioned in the stream of events as, so-to-speak, a movement which succeeded the Democratic Campaign.

In conventional studies, however, importance has been put only on their demands and movements connected with the domestic political revolution, or their verbal activities through newspapers, while due attention has not been paid to the troubles and struggles of this small number of Japanese who lived as a minority among many different races. Living with others in the international society, which one experiences for the first time only when one goes out of one's own country, involves various problems if examined on a level close to the daily life.

This paper partly aims to consider various problems which arise from the following four affairs occurring in the U.S. and Hawaii. 1) The Filing of a Report to the Throne, 2) The Secession of the Salt Farm Union, 3) Mongolian Affair, and 4) Petition on the Restoration of Political Rights in Hawaii. Each of them demanded basic human rights, and presented problems related to the principles of democracy. In 1), the "freedom of speech meeting" was presented in the form of a report to the Throne, and the movement expanded through the collection of signatures. In 2), they supported and cooperated with the person who was in charge of production for their "freedom of business", which added a new horizon to their movement. In 3), they developed a movement that was one step forward, by demanding the "right of marriage" and "right of education" through court struggles, in the discriminating structure of racial prejudice; In 4), they strongly demanded political rights related to the living rights. In a foreign country where their existence was determined according to their natal country's strength and degree of development, their movement
can be understood only from the viewpoint of democracy; it did not contribute to the establishment or expansion of national rights.