

Nuova Rivista Storica

Anno XCVII, Gennaio-Aprile 2013, Fascicolo I

Abstracts

ALBERTO BELLETTI, Monsignor O'Connell, Inviato pontificio nel Giappone del 1905

The first few years of the twentieth century saw Japan emerging as an important power in the Far East, such that it was able to defeat the Russian Empire in 1905.

The Holy See was impressed by the Japanese power, so Mgr. William Henry O'Connell, Bishop of Portland, Maine, was sent to Japan as Papal envoy. He had to inspect the Catholic Church in Japan, to hand a Papal letter to the Emperor, and to meet the prominent Japanese authorities.

The Holy See hoped to give a new impetus to the Japanese missions and to establish diplomatic relations with the Japanese Empire.

Mgr. O'Connell subsequently reported on the state of the Church in Japan and on his mission generally. Diplomatic relations were not established, and conversions remained limited, but O'Connell's mission greatly fostered the foundation of the prestigious Jesuit *Jochi Daigaku* University in Tokyo.