



Sir Rutherford Alcock KCB
The capital of the Tycoon:
a narrative of a three years' residence in Japan
London, 1863 2 vols.

Sir Rutherford Alcock KCB (1809-1897) is the first British Consul General in Japan. He was trained for the medical profession and served as a surgeon in the military that took him to Portugal. Later, he changed his career to diplomat and served as Consul in China. Subsequently, in 1859, he arrived in Japan on his appointment as British Consul General. In 1862, he returned to Britain temporarily, and two years later, he was reassigned to Japan. In 1864, the British government summoned him to Britain due to his handling of the Shimonoseki Campaign by the combined fleet of Great Britain, the United States, France, and the Netherlands. From 1865 to 1871, he was assigned to Beijing as the Consul General for China.

This book chronicles his first three years of residence in Japan. It provides detailed observations of Japanese society, culture, and people's lives, and garners high praise as a valuable work for understanding Japan. Also a gifted artist, Sir Alcock drew most of the illustrations in the book. He is known as the first foreign national to climb Mt. Fuji, and this episode is described in detail with illustrations. "Tycoon" in the title refers to Tokugawa shogun.