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A study of Naosuke Ii's politics, an aspect of political strife at the Bakumatzu Era (3)

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In the former number (1) (2), I inquired into the process which Naosuke Ii was appointed the Chief minister suddenly and soon overwhelmed the other experienced members of the Cabinet. Speaking of his career after that, he coped with foreign pressure and got over domestic troubles oppressively. This is the following subject, but before dealing with it, I try to consider the adversary relationship between Ii and Nariaki Tokugawa.

The Chief minister Ii's political attitude to domestic issues was very oppressive and especially characterized by suppression to the Mito han, mainly led by former sovereign Nariaki Tokugawa and his close group. In this number (3), I make clear that these opposing both were common in the political attitude of friend-or-foe discrimination, but that they were different as a political force, the one consisting mainly of a sovereign and close attendants the other having the expansion of the base to the samurai lower layer. After this explanation, I follow the process that the conflict between them happened and escalated.

Ii and Nariaki differed in opinions on external issues after the Perry's arrival and strengthen the mutual distrust involving the Cabinet member change of the Masahiro Abe. In the later case, Ii saw two members' dismissal Nariaki's pressure and got to be wary by his participation to the Cabinet as the Political Advisor. On the other hand, Nariaki saw Masayosi Hottas' reappointmen Ii and his allies' demand and tried to eliminate their political influence. After all, such mutual distrust was brought by Abe's personnel policy, then what was the reason of this policy and what was happened next down the road? These are following issues in this number.

