

Life and Thought of Hisao KANEKO

Eiko Uto

Perspective for the study on Jomo Orphanage established in 1892 is discussed in the previous report entitled "Process of Formation and Development of an Orphanage (1)" (Shakaikagaku Nenpo No. 17. Senshu University Research Institute of Social Sciences. March, 1983). That report and a subsequent report analyzed the management organization and financial matters of Jomo Orphanage.

This report discusses Hisao KANEKO who helped Bunsaku MIYAUCHI, the founder, to build the orphanage as a chief care worker of children with an emphasis on KANEKO as a practitioner. What was the reason which prompted KANEKO then aged 25 to manage the orphanage which was regarded as the nest of beggars? The report attempted to throw light on him by reading his "ZUIGOU" which he wrote between July, 1889 to 1891.

The report surmises the following; (1) Being born to a family of village head, he had acquired inclination for concern for stable life of people; (2) influence of kindhearted mother Toyoko; (3) knowledge of Chinese Classics which he learned at a private institute "Meiwa Gijuku" and patriotic sentiment by acceptance of the teachings of Confucius; (4) tuberculosis and spraining which he contracted during military services proved to be a significant turning point in life for him, not a mere breakdown; (5) his entering Christian belief and willingness to engage in "Social Services"; and (6) encounter with Sadajiro HONGO (founded Ikuji Gyoseien in 1891) which prompted him to practice the ideology of saving orphans.