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The Missing Clipper Ship Highflyer.
FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF THE VESSEL, AND MURDER OF ALL HANDS BY CHINESE PIKERS.
The clipper ship Highflyer, 1,800 tons, Captain Gordon B. Waterman, left San Francisco for Canton on the 26th of October, 1856. The only passengers in the cabin were the captain's wife and one other lady, Mrs. Charles S. Compton; there were 100 Chinese on board returning from the gold diggings, and also a crew of twenty American seamen. The previous voyage the Highflyer had taken home above a hundred Celestials, and it was found that each carried with him large sums of specie, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 each, and one man had between 5,000 and 7,000 pounds of quicksilver. It is, therefore, probable that the Chinese, in the last voyage of the ship, took home between them an amount ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000. There were also \$5,000 on board consigned to the owners of the vessel.

David Ogden, Esq., of this city, one of the owners, informs us that the first letter he received in relation to the non arrival of the Highflyer was dated "Canton, February 12, 1856," stating that an American ship was then lying damaged at the Island of Hainan, and it was probably his vessel. Mr. Ogden supposed at the time that this was an error, as the Highflyer would not have beaten several hundred miles out of her course to leeward, in face of the northwest monsoon then prevailing. He believes it should be the Island of Hainan, west of Formosa, in lat 14 deg. 38 min. N., and lon. 120 deg. E. lying a few miles east of the Chinese port of Swatow. He thinks that, on being damaged, the captain made for this island, as there was not sufficient water at Swatow for the Highflyer to enter, and drawing anchor by profession, and Mr. Ogden feels certain that they murdered the passengers and ran the ship over to the adjacent island of Formosa to have detection, and there burnt her. The following letters, which have been kindly offered to us for publication, certainly favor this supposition.

CANTON, Feb. 12, 1857.
DAVID OGDEN, Esq., New York.
Since writing the above referring to the previous letter, dated Canton, January 22, 1856, advising the non arrival of the Highflyer, then ninety days out from San Francisco, we have, through Chinese, of a vessel at Hainan, damaged and retreating, heard from California to Hong Kong, and we have strong hopes that she will prove to be the Highflyer. Yours, faithfully,
NYR BROSHERS & CO.

"This, I think, should be the Island of Hainan, north of Formosa."
D. OGDEN.

The following communication arrived yesterday by the mail.

MACAO, Feb. 13, 1857.
DAVID OGDEN, Esq., New York.
DEAR SIR:—Referring to the former communications sent you upon the subject of your missing ship, the Highflyer, I now regret to add the report that a ship was lost upon the south part of Formosa in the autumn or winter of 1855, which I suppose we must accept as applicable to your vessel, as the period corresponds with her departure from California. I say I regret this inference, because I have reason, from previous researches at that period, to believe that those of her passengers and crew who may have escaped to the shore, will have been murdered by the savage class—a race who inhabit the southern part of that island.

I addressed H. K. the Plenipotentiary, upon the subject, with a view to bring it to the notice of the naval commander-in-chief, on the day that I heard the report, and I am hopeful that a vessel may soon be spared from China to proceed to the island to search for vestiges of the wreck, though the report received at Apoo Hill was that the ship was burnt. With much feeling of sympathy for those whose relations and friends have thus been lost, I remain, dear sir, yours, faithfully,
GIDEON NYR, JR.

The following letter was enclosed in the above.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
MACAO, February 14, 1857.
SIR:—I have received your communication of this date calling my attention to the report of the loss of the New York clipper ship Highflyer, upon the southern part of Formosa. I have perused with interest and attention the information and propositions you have submitted. I have long been impressed with the force of all your arguments, drawn from considerations of humanity, commerce and navigation in relation to Formosa. It appears, however, from the report, the wreck of the American ship and the massacre of her ship's company occurred in 1855. Thus the danger upon the attention of the naval commander-in-chief on this station is not so instantaneous as it would have been, were these grounds for supposing these unfortunate persons are still alive and held in captivity by the barbarian inhabitants, and either the season or the extraordinary state of affairs in China favor immediate action in the matter on the part of the naval authority. But I feel confident that the whole subject will receive from the civil and naval authorities of the United States in China, and from the government at Washington, a wise consideration; and that all legitimate measures will be adopted to avert, on the one hand, the evils complained of, and, on the other, to promote the interests of humanity and commerce.

Any information you may be able to communicate to the Legation relative to Formosa and its adjacent islands, their inhabitants, manufactures, mineral and agricultural products, will be both useful and acceptable to the government. I remain, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,
PHILIP F. PARKER,
Commissioner and Plenipotentiary to China.

GIDEON NYR, JR., Esq., Macao.
Mr. Ogden has forwarded a communication to the Secretary of State, giving full particulars of the various reports and enclosing copies of the above letters. He confidently hopes that our government will take immediate measures to chastise these barbarians and pirates, and to render the Chinese waters somewhat safer in future for our growing commerce. As our Envoy Extraordinary is about leaving the States for the Celestial Empire, he will, no doubt, carry some order to our squadron there to investigate the whole affair.