

PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

FOREIGN RELATIONS

OF

The United States,

TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS,

WITH THE ANNUAL MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT,

DECEMBER 1, 1873.

PRECEDED BY A

LIST OF PAPERS, AND A LIST OF PERSONS WHOSE CORRESPONDENCE
IS CONTAINED IN THIS VOLUME, AND FOLLOWED BY
AN INDEX OF PERSONS AND SUBJECTS.

PART I.—GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE; AND PAPERS RELATING TO
NATURALIZATION AND EXPATRIATION.

VOLUME I.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1873.

No. 70.

Mr. Low to Mr. Fish.

No. 256.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Peking, May 13, 1873. (Received July 7.)

SIR: Herewith I beg to transmit copy of a letter received from Mr. Consul Sheppard, of Tien-tsin, giving an account of the proceedings of the Japanese embassy while at that place. It is interesting, and will repay perusal.

After the embassy closed their business there they came on to Peking, arriving here on the 7th instant. They occupy a temple in this city about one mile from this legation.

The morning after their arrival General Le Gendre called upon me. He came, he said, as an American citizen to pay his respects to the American minister. He took particular pains to impress me with the fact that his visit was unofficial; also, that he was unprepared to give any information as to the embassy with which he is connected, or its business; to which I replied that I had no desire to meddle with the business of the Japanese.

If, however, the ambassador should at any time need my good offices, I said it would afford me pleasure to render him such assistance as I could, consistently with my other duties. In the course of the conversation I discovered the real object of the general's visit, which was to intimate that the Japanese ambassador would insist that his superior rank should be recognized by all the ministers here, native and foreign; in other words, that he should expect all the foreign representatives and the Chinese ministers, including Prince Kung, to call upon him.

In response, I said that it was extremely doubtful whether such a claim could be made properly; that if made and insisted on, it would most likely isolate the ambassador from the other foreign representatives, and prevent all personal intercourse between him and the Chinese government.

I further observed that I was not familiar with any rule of etiquette which would justify an ambassador in taking rank over an envoy until after he had been received and recognized by the head of the government to which he is accredited. But, aside from the absolute right and wrong of this case, there are strong reasons why the foreign ministers should not accede to the request. They are now in joint negotiation with the Chinese government concerning a question that is of great importance to all the treaty powers. The business seems now to be in a fair way to an amicable and proper settlement. Were the Japanese ambassador to be recognized as the dean of the diplomatic body, and take part in the negotiations now pending, it would have the effect to reopen the discussion, and this would cause delay, which would probably defeat what now seems nearly gained. I concluded by saying that, owing to my present physical infirmities, the question of making calls of ceremony could hardly be considered a practical one with me; that the decision concerning the question raised lay with my colleagues chiefly, and suggested that they be consulted.

The general seemed to be very decided in his opinions; he affirmed, with considerable warmth, that it would be derogatory to the dignity of the ambassador were he to recede from the position indicated. In support of his view of the case, he referred me to the rules laid down by the Congress of Vienna of 19th March, 1815; and to the published account of the reception of Count Fleury, as French ambassador at St. Peters-

burg. He was also so indiscreet as to indulge in a menace, to the effect that in case the foreign ministers failed to recognize the claims set up by the ambassador, the interests of their governments in Japan would probably be made to suffer for it.

Subsequently the general consulted with the Russian minister, and through him; as dean, with those of England and France, all of whom most emphatically declined to yield to what they considered an unauthorized assumption put forward by the ambassador, or his counsellor, or both.

From what the Russian minister has told me about his interview with General Le Gendre, the latter, I infer, made use of the same arguments and threats that he did in his conversation with me. He also submitted to General Vlangaly a long written memorandum on the subject, and asked that he and his colleagues would reply to it. No answer has, I hear, been returned, nor has any notice been taken of the general's memorandum.

I may add that General Le Gendre's action in this matter has made a very unfavorable impression upon my colleagues; it has evidently increased their jealousy and distrust of him. If he displays no more discretion when dealing with the Chinese ministers, his presence here will do the Japanese much harm, I fear.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK F. LOW.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing General Vlangaly has called to say that he had just received a note from General Le Gendre to the effect that after the ambassador notifies his presence in Peking to the Chinese government he will make an unofficial call on the foreign ministers. He also desires to recall the memorandum before referred to.

F. F. L.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. Sheppard to Mr. Low.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Tien-tsin, May 7, 1873.

SIR: The recent meeting of the Japanese ambassador with the viceroy of this province at Tien-tsin, for the purpose of ratifying the treaty lately entered into between Japan and China, has attracted so much attention that I beg to lay before you a brief account of the official interchanges which took place between the ministers of the two countries, together with a few facts and data connected therewith, which I have thought might not be without value to yourself.

Tancomi Soyeshima, the ambassador extraordinary from Japan, accompanied by a Japanese admiral, arrived at Taku about the 19th of April. The flag-ship which brought the embassy being unable to cross the bar anchored outside, and on the day following the American steamer *Millet* was placed at the disposal of the ambassador, who, accompanied by the admiral, secretary, interpreters, and attachés, embarked at once, and reached Tien-tsin at 7 o'clock p. m.

I should mention that C. W. Le Gendre, esq., late United States consul at Amoy, who is attached to the embassy in the capacity of adviser, had reached Tien-tsin the day previous by the steamer *Shantung* from Shanghai. The interest and curiosity which is always excited in the minds of the Chinese by the presence of Japanese in this country was greatly heightened in this instance by the fact that the Japanese appeared here for the first time in foreign clothes, i. e., European costume. Among the lower classes this fact simply provoked good-natured, idle curiosity, as all novelty does among the simple-minded countrymen, but among the literati and official classes a very different feeling was plainly manifest.

Two days after their arrival the customs Taotal of Tien-tsin was deputed to convey

to the ambassador the viceroy's compliments and assurances of friendly feeling on the part of the Chinese government toward Japan, and to arrange for an official interview. An interview between the ambassador and Li Hung Chang was accordingly arranged to take place at the viceroy's yamen on the following day. In due time the viceroy, with the customs and the territorial Taotais and the prefect of Tien-tsin, accompanied by a large and imposing retinue, returned the ambassador's visit. These two visits were ceremonial and preliminary to the final meeting for the exchange and ratification of the treaty which took place on the 30th of April, at the shausi hui kuan in the city of Tien-tsin. The particulars of what transpired at these several interviews have not, of course, been made public officially. But by reports from Chinese sources I have gathered a few incidents connected therewith which seem worthy of note. While I am satisfied from other sources of information that these reports are substantially correct, I give them to you as matter of report simply, without vouching for their correctness. General Le Gendre, whom I before mentioned as connected with the embassy, was present at each of the two interviews which I have named, as also at the final meeting of ratification on the 30th of April above mentioned.

It is reported among the Chinese that at the first one of these interviews the viceroy, after being introduced, inquired of the ambassador, "Who is this foreigner; what is his business here?" or questions to that effect. The ambassador's answer was that General Le Gendre accompanied the embassy as adviser, and that he was here at the request and by the authority of the Japanese government.

The viceroy replied that "We," meaning the Chinese and Japanese, "have made other treaties before this one, and we did not find the need of foreigners to advise us, and what reason is there for it now?" He insisted that he could not recognize General Le Gendre in any official capacity relating to the embassy.

At each of the first two interviews named the viceroy's conduct toward General Le Gendre was studiously cold and uncourteous. At the final meeting, on the 30th of April, the viceroy, however, saw fit to entirely change his demeanor toward him, and on this occasion his extravagant politeness was only equalled by his former incivility and rudeness.

As far as I have been able to learn, the intercourse between the ambassador and the viceroy was pleasant enough. There is, however, no disguising the fact that the ruling classes here, including his excellency the viceroy, hold the Japanese in sovereign contempt. The adoption of foreign dress and foreign manners by the Japanese has stung almost to exasperation the proud, stolid Chinese.

It is deeply to be regretted that Li Hung Chang should have taken advantage of his high official position, as it would seem he has done in this instance, to promote and strengthen the exclusive and selfish spirit of distrust of foreigners and foreign influences, so much indulged in by the pompous, conceited, and too often ignorant mandarins.

The viceroy's ungracious demeanor toward General Le Gendre did not arise, I think, from personal considerations. The fact that the Japanese had seemingly identified themselves with foreigners by employing a foreigner adviser was so entirely at variance with the viceroy's ideas of Oriental superiority that we could not resist giving his consins from the "Rising Sun" a left-handed slap for submitting to or seeking after the guidance of western barbarians. This little incident, otherwise unworthy of notice, becomes very significant in view of the recent advances toward modern civilization made by the Japanese, and of the relations between that country and China. It gives, also, one more unhappy proof of the distrust and dislike of western peoples among the ruling classes of China.

Of the nature and conditions of the new treaty just ratified nothing has as yet transpired.

I am, &c.,

ELI T. SHEPPARD,
United States Consul.

No. 11.

Mr. Lee to Mr. Fish.

No. 228.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Peking, May 16, 1872. (Received July 7.)

SIR: I have the honor to send herewith a corrected copy of the protocol of the recent conference concerning the audience question, and have to request that it may be substituted for the copy that went forward as an

The statements of the consul concerning the works now in course of construction, and his estimate of the number of native troops in that vicinity, are corroborated by other information which has come to me, and may be accepted as substantially correct.

As to the real object of these military preparations opinions differ. It is quite impossible to obtain reliable information concerning the purposes of the Chinese government; hence opinions upon this subject must of necessity be to a large extent mere conjectures.

It is perhaps but natural that this government should take steps to fortify the main water approach to its capital, although the practical uselessness of such works was demonstrated in 1860, and would be again should occasion arise for moving a foreign army on Peking; nor is it surprising that the viceroy of this province—by far the ablest military mandarin in the empire—should desire to have a large military force about him. The empire being now exceptionally free from domestic disturbance, few troops are required for active duty, hence there is no reason why an unusually large force may not be stationed in the vicinity of the capital. So far as I am aware the total of the force in this province is not exceptionally large, and therefore there is nothing in this that need occasion alarm; it is the sudden concentration of troops near Tien-tsin that excites remark, and causes uneasiness among foreigners.

The discussion of the audience question is regarded by most people as the principal cause of the recent military activity. It is not impossible that the Chinese at one time feared that trouble would grow out of this question; or it may be (which is much more likely) the officials thought that the assembling of troops near here would have an influence upon the foreign ministers, and cause them to moderate their demands.

It is proper that I should, in this connection, observe that nothing has occurred in our discussions which leads me to think that such was the case; on the contrary, the Chinese ministers have never used language that could be construed into a threat, nor have they, at any time, intimated that the demand would possibly be resisted by force.

In a previous dispatch I gave it as my opinion that the advent of a Japanese embassy in China, which rumor said had come to make unpleasant demands upon this government, was the chief cause of the warlike demonstrations before referred to; I also said that it was not probable the Chinese would inaugurate an offensive movement against Japan or any other nation. I am of the same opinion now.

But while it is not likely that the safety of the lives or property of foreign residents is, or will be, materially affected by the presence of a greater or less number of native troops near Tien-tsin, I have deemed it prudent to take steps to allay, to some extent, the fears of our people resident in this vicinity, and also to afford them protection in case it shall be found necessary.

From my correspondence with Admiral Jenkins, copies of which are inclosed, you will learn what has been done in this direction, and also what I deem necessary in the immediate future.

It gives me pleasure to add that I have invariably found the naval authorities ready and willing to co-operate in all measures necessary for the safety and well being of foreign residents.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK F. LOW.

[Inclosure 1.]

*Mr. Sheppard to Mr. Low.*UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Tien-tsin, May 19, 1873.

SIR: I beg to lay before you for your information a few facts which I have gathered regarding certain military preparations on the part of the Chinese government within this immediate consular district, during the past few days.

The first intimation I received of the presence of an unusual number of Chinese troops was about the 15th of April, while passing down the river, on my way to Chefoo. At that time a small body of soldiers were encamped in tents along and near the south bank of the Peiho, near the village of Hsin Chêng, about eight miles west of the Taku forts, and about four miles east of the more important village of Ko Ku.

On my return a few days later I discovered that this small force had been greatly augmented, and that the soldiers were busily engaged in throwing up strong earth-works and constructing forts in different places admirably suited to command the river in either direction. It was also ascertained that these troops had been moved down the Taku military road and past the foreign settlement of Tien-tsin at night, and that their force already consisted of about 15,000 troops, mostly armed with foreign rifles.

From the best information in my possession, these troops came from a large camp at Ma Chang, on the grand canal, about 100 li south of Tien-tsin. A missionary who passed through that camp recently states that there are about 60,000 soldiery there, all southern soldiers; a great portion of this body of soldiery is cavalry.

I learn from reliable gentlemen who lately visited the south fort at Taku that great activity is manifested at that garrison. The last of the three cavaliers is being rapidly pushed forward to completion, and will be finished in about two weeks. The other two cavaliers were completed, and three 100-pound Krupp guns mounted in each, commanding the entire entrance to the river. The rear defense of the fort has been strengthened by a second and inner wall as high as the outer wall, and about 20 feet from it. It has since transpired that guns are being mounted on this inner wall to the rear, and commanding the river in that direction also. A recent order of the military commandant was posted up in the fort, ordering the soldiers not to neglect the work they were about, but to attend to their duties and not absent themselves, as the work then going forward was of the utmost importance.

On the Taku road, five miles west of the fort, a new entrenched camp of 500 men was found close to the road. This camp, like many of the others which are being established, cannot be seen from the river, being hidden by clumps of trees. Three miles further west, the main encampment was found at Hsin Chêng. Hsin Chêng appears to be the name of a walled town that existed at this place some 60 or 70 years ago, of which nothing now remains but a few mounds.

The camps here extend for about a mile in double parallel lines on both sides of the Taku road. Seventeen camps were counted, but the number has since been increased to twenty-eight. Two forts have already been built, commanding the river. These forts, it is said, are to be mounted with guns cast at the Tien-tsin arsenal. The people and soldiery all say there are at present 20,000 soldiers in these camps, and that there are more to come, chiefly cavalry and field artillery. The soldiers are chiefly Honan men, and are, it is said, mostly armed with breech-loading rifles. General Chou is in command.

As to the real object and purpose of this unusual and apparently unnecessary preparation on the part of the Chinese government, it does not, probably, become me to venture a decided opinion at this time. The fact is, however, apparent that the Chinese are for some reason strengthening their military defenses from Taku to Tien-tsin. As these preparations are all being pushed forward with unwonted vigor and haste in a time of profound peace, and without any apparent cause, it seems to me that such a proceeding, unexplained on the part of the Chinese government, pending the discussion of a great international question so full of possible consequences as that of the audience question, now under consideration at Peking, is susceptible at least of a very serious interpretation. Between civilized countries such an act would unquestionably be considered as a menace, unless accompanied by satisfactory explanations.

I am, &c.,

ELI T. SHEPPARD,
United States Consul.

[Inclosure 2.]

*Mr. Low to Admiral Jenkins.*LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
PEKING, May 13, 1873.

ADMIRAL: I have the honor to transmit copy of a note which I have addressed to Commander Bunce, of the Ashuelot.

In further explanation of the reasons for wishing to detain the Ashuelot at Tien-tsin, I would observe that within the last four weeks a large number of Chinese troops have been concentrated near the river, between Tien-tsin and Taku, where entrenchments are being thrown up. It is also said that a new fortification is being built near the place where these soldiers are concentrated.

From information which may be considered reliable, I estimate the number of troops now encamped along the river between Tien-tsin and Taku at 15,000 to 20,000. There are also at other camps, away from the river, but within ten or fifteen miles of Tien-tsin, as many more, probably.

What these warlike demonstrations mean I am unable to say. It is not impossible the government thinks that this demonstration of force will have the effect to intimidate the foreign ministers who have made a request for personal audience of the Emperor, or it may be a preparation for possible contingencies in case the demand is refused and foreign governments decline to submit quietly to the rejection of their demand. My own impression is, however, that the reason for assembling these troops at this moment may be set down to a desire on the part of the Chinese to make something of a display of force, as an intimation to the Japanese embassy now here that unreasonable demands will be resisted. I do not anticipate in any event an offensive movement, either against the Japanese or foreigners generally.

But while this is my belief, I cannot shut my eyes to the possible danger there may be in these movements, nor to the necessity of adopting every reasonable precaution for the protection of the lives and property of our citizens in this vicinity.

In view of these considerations I should regret to see the naval force now at Tien-tsin withdrawn. I may add that Commander Bunce's apparent anxiety to leave Tien-tsin is because his vessel needs repairs. But even if repairs are necessary to render her safe and serviceable at sea, they would not, I imagine, add to her usefulness in her present position.

If, however, it should be decided to withdraw the Ashuelot from Tien-tsin, I would most respectfully suggest that the Monocacy be sent to relieve her, and that the former should remain until relieved by the latter.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK F. LOW.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have received your dispatch of 18th April. With reference to your suggestion about the Yantic, I have to say that, if her presence is not absolutely needed elsewhere, I would be glad if she were ordered to Chefoo.

[Inclosure 3.]

*Admiral Jenkins to Mr. Low.*U. S. SHIP HARTFORD, FLAG-SHIP ON THE ASIATIC STATION,
Hong-Kong, April 18, 1873.

SIR: I had the honor to receive to-day your dispatch, dated April 5, informing me of your request to Commander Bunce, commanding the Ashuelot, to delay his departure from Tien-tsin until the 1st of May, or longer should events seem to require the retention of the vessel at her present station.

I had already received dispatches from Commander Bunce, informing me of your request and of his compliance therewith, and, on the 7th instant, transmitted to him instructions to remain at Tien-tsin until he is informed by you that the presence there of the ship is no longer necessary, or until he is relieved by another vessel.

I trust that it may not be necessary to keep the Ashuelot at Tien-tsin much longer, as her crew need a change and the ship requires some repairs; but if it should seem to be important to have a vessel there I shall relieve her by another.

If you deem it to be of any advantage, either as a precaution or otherwise, I will order the Yantic, a small sloop of war drawing about 13 feet of water, (just arrived on the station,) to Chefoo, as she could probably pass the Taku bar with a high tide. She might be useful should difficulties arise. I hope, however, that the present causes of uneasiness will soon be removed by a satisfactory settlement of the questions which have recently proved so embarrassing to the ministers at Peking, and, meantime,

I beg to assure you that every suggestion from yourself as to any measures which may lie in my power to carry into effect to assist you will receive the most cordial and careful attention.

I expect to reach Shanghai on or before the 10th of May, and I shall be glad to receive there any communication you may favor me with.

I have, &c.

THORNTON A. JENKINS,

Rear-Admiral Commanding U. S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station.

No. 73.

Mr. Low to Mr. Fish.

No. 385.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Peking, May 27, 1873. (Received July 25.)

SIR: Referring to my No. 172 of July 12, 1872, I have now the honor to inform you that a second instalment of thirty Chinese students will be sent on the steamer leaving the 12th of June for the United States. They will be accompanied by one tutor and one interpreter. These youths are from eleven to fourteen years of age.

I have sent a list of these people, properly certified, to the vice-consul-general, which will enable them to take advantage of the liberal proposal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to transport Chinese students and their teachers and guardians at reduced rates of fare.

It is proper that I should observe in this connection that the prince and ministers have, on several occasions, expressed their satisfaction at the generous and kind reception which those that were sent last year met with; and the sending of the second instalment, two months earlier than the date originally fixed upon, shows that the undertaking has, thus far, more than met the expectations of its promoters.

I may add that the departure of these youths, at this moment, with the express sanction and approval, if not under the immediate patronage of the imperial government, is an indication that the attitude here does not regard an interruption of friendly relations between China and foreign nations, and particularly the United States, as among the prohibitions or possibilities.

I have, &c.

FREDERICK F. LOW.

No. 74.

Mr. Low to Mr. Fish.

No. 386.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Peking, June 5, 1873. (Received August 4.)

SIR: I have the honor to send herewith extracts from two dispatches of the British consul at Tientsin to Her Majesty's minister in Peking; one a sketch showing the location of the new fortifications now in process of erection at Uchi Ching, (the new military camp between Tientsin and Taku,) and that portion of the river which the new forts will command.

Having visited their locality and made inquiries on the spot, the British consul is able to furnish some additional information, and many an-

The intended position at the head of the river, both above and below this town, marked "a" and "b" on the plan, will, I believe, be retained. The latter, indeed, is not in the Hsin Ching but in the Taku military district, and is garrisoned only by artillery.

We were much struck by the fine appearance of the "local young" (military) at Hsin Ching, and the neatness with which they worked. I mentioned this to an officer who accompanied us over the works, and he said it was because an opium-smoking was allowed in the camp, and the men were kept under very strict discipline.

Second We had previously informed us that the punishment for opium-smoking was sitting or execution of the upper lip for the first offense, and decapitation for the second.

Hsin Ching is by river about fifteen miles above Taku, and five miles below Koko, the adjoining country on the river-side being well wooded, but that on the south and southeast a barren plain. It seems to be a well-chosen position for defensive warfare.

I asked the general's secretary if they had any telegraph, and he said "yes." They are said also to be, or "communication devices," and he explained that they were supplied by a galvanic battery.

The general has been studying the geography and history of the western nations, and mentioned with special admiration the coast of Washington, England, and Malacca. He seemed to find a great deal of satisfaction in contrasting the population and area of China with England, France, and the other European countries.

No. 75.

Mr. Low to Mr. Fish.

No. 264.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Peking, June 13, 1873. (Received August 6.)

SIR: The Japanese embassy is still in Peking. The ambassador has called to see me several times, and I have been to see him as often as the state of my health would permit. The question of priority of rank, which, at one time, seemed likely to hinder the establishing of cordial relations between him and my colleagues, has, I am happy to say, been put aside for the present, with an understanding that it shall remain in abeyance until all shall have presented their letters of credence.

In his conversations with me the ambassador has spoken freely and with apparent frankness concerning the purposes of his mission and the business with which he is charged.

There are, he says, only two questions of importance which he desires to discuss with the Chinese government:

First. Whether China is responsible for the acts of the aborigines on the island of Formosa. If the government answers this question in the affirmative, he will then demand redress and indemnity for the murder of some natives of Loo Choo, who were wrecked there a year and more ago. If the answer is in the negative, notice will then be given that Japan proposes to send a military force to Formosa to chastise the savage and semi-civilized tribes that practically hold undisputed possession of the large part of the island; and, as there are no safe harbors on that part of the island where the aborigines reside, permission will be asked to land troops at one of the ports open to trade, and to march them through Chinese territory that lies between the ports and the points where the troops are intended to operate against the savages.

Second. To ascertain the precise relations between China and Corea; whether the former claims to exercise such control over her tributary as to render China responsible for the acts of the Coreans, or whether other nations must look to Corea alone for redress for wrongs and outrages which her people may commit.

In regard to the kingdom of Loo Choo, which, as you are aware, Japan has taken formal and actual possession of, he has nothing to say to the Chinese. The Loo Choo Islands, he says, are now a part of the Japanese Empire; nor will China or any other country be permitted to question the right of Japan to exercise complete jurisdiction over what was formerly the kingdom of Loo Choo.

The ambassador has not as yet been afforded an opportunity to present his letters of credence to the Emperor. Until this can be done, and his position as representative of Japan is recognized in a fitting and proper manner, no steps will be taken to bring the other questions to the notice of the imperial government.

It is understood that negotiations are now pending with reference to the request of the ambassador, made soon after his arrival at Peking, for an audience of the Emperor; it is also understood that, at his last interview with the yamén, the Chinese ministers were given to understand that, unless an affirmative answer was returned to his request within a certain number of days, the embassy would be withdrawn from Peking, and relations between the two governments would cease.

In response, the Chinese ministers said that an answer would be sent within the time named, and intimated that it would be such as would satisfy the ambassador.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK F. LOW.

No. 76.

Mr. Low to Mr. Fish.

No. 263.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Peking, June 15, 1873. (Received August 6.)

SIR: I have the honor to inclose the translation of a dispatch just received from Prince Kung, covering an imperial decree concerning an audience.

A note from the ministers of the yamén, requesting the foreign ministers to meet them to-morrow, accompanied the prince's dispatch. By the terms of the decree the government concedes all that has been asked, the right of foreign ministers holding letters of credence from their governments to present them in person to the Emperor.

The proposed meeting is appointed for the purpose, probably, of settling minor points of etiquette, and I shall not be disappointed if the Chinese ministers propose many things which, under other circumstances, would be considered unimportant, but which we may feel bound to object to in view of the fact that what is done now will be taken as a precedent for the future. The main point, however, having been conceded, I do not anticipate serious difficulty in arranging minor details; nor is it probable that the final settlement of this perplexing and tiresome business will be delayed beyond a few days, or weeks at furthest.

By next mail I hope to complete the narrative of the proceedings touching the audience question, and my action in connection therewith; I also hope to be able to report that all the foreign ministers have been received by the Emperor in a manner befitting the dignity and honor of the governments they represent.

I have, &c.,

FREDERICK F. LOW.

The proceedings against the captain were the subject of being merely undertaken upon foreign considerations; of being a mode of obtaining by indirect means, having a special look of regular procedure about them, namely, the punishment of which clearly has not apparently been ordered by the authorities under whose direction the proceedings in respect of the Maria Luz were commenced and prosecuted.

A copy of this communication will be forwarded by each of the foreign papers for publication, and to each of the foreign ministers and consuls.

FRANK V. DICKENS,
Consul for Captain America.

November 14th, 1872.

No. 244.

Mr. De Long to Mr. Fish.

No. 302.] UNITED STATES LEGATION, JAPAN,
November 6, 1872. (Received December 7.)

SIR: Upon learning, some time since, from the minister of foreign affairs for this empire, that the kingdom of Lew Chew had at last been formally incorporated into this empire, and the King reduced to the condition of an ex-daimio and assigned a residence at Yedo, which he had accepted, I felt called upon to call the attention of this government to the compact between our Government and that of Lew Chew, proclaimed by the President March 9, 1855, and to inquire if that would be respected and observed by this government, as it, in its provisions, gave to our people certain privileges not embodied in our treaty with Japan. Accordingly, I addressed a note to this government making such inquiry, (inclosure No. 1,) to which, on yesterday, I received an answer, (inclosure No. 2,) by which these authorities agree to regard the same.

Having learned that recently a junk's crew of Lew Chew people, who had been wrecked on Formosa, had been slain by the natives of that island, I inquired verbally of his excellency to know if such report was true; and if so, what, if anything, this government intended to do about it. I was informed, in reply, that it was true, and an intimation was thrown out that steps would soon be taken by the Japanese government to punish those people. The minister then inquired of me very particularly about Formosa; the character, purposes, and result of the expedition against those people led by our late Admiral Bell, and expressed the wish that I would obtain for him from our naval officers any copies of maps or charts possible.

All this seemed to indicate an intention to fit out an armed expedition.

At this juncture, which was about two weeks ago, General L. P. Le Gendre, United States consul at Amoy, arrived here en route to Washington, having a very full and complete set of maps, charts, photographs, &c., of the coast, main-land, and people of Formosa.

From him I learned that he had, on several occasions, visited the people who committed the atrocities, and established such relations with them as had enabled him to obtain guarantees against such atrocities being committed in the future upon Americans; that these people had observed their promises, and in two subsequent cases cared for and protected the crews of two English ships which were wrecked there; that diplomatic negotiations of some nature were now pending between our Government and China relative to this island, and that, in his opinion,

it was feasible to undertake to obtain by peaceable means the same nature of guarantees for the Japanese.

Upon learning this, I thought I observed an opportunity, with the assistance the general could and seemed willing to lend me, to furnish this government with a mass of information most useful to it, thereby saving it from making any ill-advised efforts, and at the same time to put our legation at Peking and yourself in such rapport with the views and intentions of this government as to be of substantial benefit to us and at the same time advance my standing and intimacy with this government.

Actuated by these views, I requested General Le Gendre to remain over here for one steamer and assist me with this government by imparting to it such information relative to his observations of Formosa and its inhabitants as in his opinion and my own might, without impropriety, be given.

The general kindly consented to do so, and an interview between us and the minister of foreign affairs followed.

The minister expressed himself as surprised and delighted at thus being brought in contact with one so well informed on a subject so very interesting to them, and yet about which they could learn so little. The minister at once extended accommodations for the general in Yedo; invited my participation in all deliberations with Mr. Smith, the general, and himself, and has twice visited me and conferred upon the subject, being with me last evening until nearly midnight. The plan of action has not yet been resolved upon, but the minister assures me that his action shall be as open as the day to me, and that he will frame it to coincide with the wishes of our legation at Peking and of yourself.

I will at once advise Mr. Low of these proceedings by sending him a copy of this dispatch and writing him fully as often as anything develops of interest.

General Le Gendre will be compelled to remain over here at least one steamer more; that is, two weeks.

My obligations to him are very great. By his intelligence and courtesy, he has enabled me to serve this government in a substantial manner, which will, I am sure, materially strengthen my influence with them, and, as a consequence, promote our Government's interests. I think, also, that before this matter is concluded we shall be able to arm Mr. Low with power and information calculated to enable him to effect good results and improve his influence with the Chinese government. I hope in all of this that I have acted as you would have wished me to; if not, however, and you should disapprove of what has been done, I beg you to let the whole blame rest on me, as General Le Gendre has, in all matters, acted simply by my request, although I am satisfied that such action has also been in accordance with his own views and wishes.

I have, &c.,

C. E. DE LONG.

[Inclosure 1.]

Mr. De Long to Soyeshmia Tane-omi.

UNITED STATES LEGATION, JAPAN,
October 20, 1872.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: Understanding you to advise me a few days since that the King of the Lew Chew Islands had been called upon by the Japanese government to resign his titles and estates, which had been done, letters-patent of nobility issued to him

constituting him a member of the nobility of your empire, ranking as do the former daimios, thus incorporating Lew Chew as an integral portion of the Japanese Empire:

I feel called upon to call your attention to a contract entered into between the former kingdom of Lew Chew and the United States of America, on the 11th of July, 1854, (see bound volume of Treaties, page 4,) and to ask if the same will be observed in all its provisions by your government within the territorial limits of the former kingdom.

I have, &c.,

C. E. DE LONG.

[Inclosure 2.—Translation.]

Soyeshmia Tane-omi to Mr. De Long.

FOREIGN OFFICE, TOKEL,
The 5th of 10th month of 5th year of Meigi.

In reply to your excellency's note of October 20, 1872, regarding the Lew Chew Islands, I beg to state as follows:

The Lew Chew Islands have been dependencies of this empire for hundreds of years, and to them the title of Han was recently given.

As you say, the Lew Chew being an integral portion of the Japanese Empire it is natural that the provisions of a compact entered into between the Lew Chew and the United States on the 11th of July, 1854, will be observed by this government.

With respect and consideration,

SOYESHIMA TANE-OMI.

No. 143.

Mr. De Long to Mr. Fish.

No. 144.]

UNITED STATES LEGATION, JAPAN.
December 21, 1872. (Received December 26.)

SIR: In continuation of my advice relative to bark Maria Luz, I beg leave to advise you that after her abandonment by her captain and mate, who left her with a crew on board at anchor in this port, at an interview which I had with the minister for foreign affairs upon other business matters, his excellency intimated to me that it would be agreeable to the Japanese government if I would, on behalf of the Peruvian government, assume the charge of the vessel and look after the crew. I replied that when officially notified in writing that the vessel was no longer under restraint on the part of this government, and that no objection on its part existed to my taking charge of the vessel, I would do so.

This was promised, and on the 24th of last month I received the promised letter, (Inclosure No. 1,) upon the receipt of which I placed an American named Benjamin C. Trunk on board as interpreter, his wages to be seventy-five dollars per month for such time as he might be needed.

I found the crew on board to be twelve in number; they were well-manned and discontented, expressing a desire to be paid off and allowed to return to Hong-Kong.

I had the captain take and return to me an inventory of all the property found on board the vessel, unlashed and dry and stow away the sails to prevent the crew from running away with the vessel, and her berth changed to be more secure, of all of which by each successive mail I have advised the Peruvian government. I endeavored to satisfy the crew to remain on board and do duty, by showing them that some representa-

ment had made any communication to you with regard to any action that might arise for the exercise of your good offices. On the contrary, it is stated in your dispatch that no answer whatever has been returned by the Peruvian minister of foreign affairs to communications which you have heretofore addressed to him.

Under these circumstances, it is regretted that you deemed it proper to take any steps which might wear the aspect of giving the support and countenance of the United States to a vessel suspected by the Japanese government, not without reason, of complicity in a nefarious traffic, of a character particularly odious to the Government and people of the United States.

I am, &c.,

HAMILTON FISH.

No. 247.

Mr. Fish to Mr. De Long.

No. 157.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 18, 1872.

SIR: I am in receipt of your No. 302, dated 6th day of November.

You state that the kingdom of Lew Chew has become formally incorporated into the Japanese Empire, the King reduced to the condition of an ex-daimio, and assigned a residence in Yedo, which he has accepted; that you had called the attention of the Japanese government to the compact of July 1854, between the United States and Lew Chew, and had inquired if that compact would be respected and observed by the Japanese government within the former territorial limits of Lew Chew, and had obtained from the Japanese government a declaration that they will be observed.

Your action in this matter is approved. It is supposed that the absorption or incorporation of one state by another does not discharge or release, within the limits of the absorbed or incorporated state, the obligation which it may be under to a third power at the time of such absorption or incorporation.

You mention also some threatened anticipated hostile movements contemplated by Japan against the inhabitants of Formosa, and that information had been obtained by you from Mr. Le Gendre, United States consul at Amoy, who chanced to be at the time at Yedo, with reference to the island of Formosa, and had been communicated by you to the Japanese government.

Not knowing the precise objects for which the Japanese government intend to make the knowledge obtained from you available, I am not prepared to express an opinion whether your action, in this regard, is or is not to be approved. Further information and the use which the Japanese government may make of the information which you furnished may decide this point.

I am, &c.,

HAMILTON FISH.