

## MESSAGE

OF THE

## PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, the correspondence of Messrs. McLane and Parker, late commissioners to China.*

DECEMBER 21, 1858.—Read. Motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

FEBRUARY 2, 1859.—Report in favor of printing the usual number submitted, considered and agreed to.

*To the Senate of the United States :*

I transmit a report from the Secretary of State with accompanying documents in answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 7th of January last, calling for all the official despatches and correspondence of the Hon. Robert M. McLane, and of the Hon. Peter Parker, late commissioners of the United States in China, with the Department of State.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, *December 20, 1858.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 17, 1858.*

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate of the 7th of January last, requesting the President to communicate to that body, if not incompatible with the public interest, "all the official despatches and correspondence of the Hon. Robert McLane, and of the Hon. Peter Parker, late commissioners in China, with the State Department," has the honor to lay before the President the accompanying papers, embracing the correspondence of those officers, respectively, from the 26th of October, 1853, to the 19th of April, 1855, and from the 12th of January, 1855, to the 7th of August, 1857, called for by the said resolution.

It does not appear that the resolution asks for the instructions of this department to Messrs. McLane and Parker, and it is not deemed advisable that they should be made public at this juncture.

Respectfully submitted,

LEWIS CASS.

THE PRESIDENT of the United States.

BALTIMORE, *October 26, 1853.*

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge your note of the 21st instant, transmitting to me a commission from the President of the United States, appointing me commissioner to China, with a request that I should signify to the Department of State my acceptance thereof.

I beg you to accept these lines as my acceptance of the said commission.

I was born in the State of Delaware, which I make known to the Department of State in compliance with the further request made in your note of the 21st instant.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT M. McLANE.

Hon. W. L. MARCY,  
*Secretary of State.*

No. 1.]

HONG KONG, *March 20, 1854.*

SIR : I have the honor to report my arrival at this port on the 13th instant, having left Paris on the 23d January, 1854, to meet at Malta the British mail steamer which sailed from Southampton on the 20th January, 1854. This journey was accomplished without accident or detention; and although I rose from a sick bed in Paris to commence it, I am permitted to find myself at its close in the enjoyment of good health.

On the 16th instant, Dr. Parker, the secretary of legation, in whose custody the archives of the commission to China were left by my predecessor, visited me at this place, and after a full conference with him, I have determined to postpone the presentation of my credentials to the imperial commissioner at Canton until the arrival of the *Susquehanna* steamship, which may be expected daily, as you will learn from the accompanying letter from Commodore Perry, which I found here on my arrival.

Such an exhibition of naval force is deemed important in itself at this time as an incident to the presentation. And it will be my duty to acquaint the imperial commissioner with my intention of proceeding at once to the north, that he may understand the concern the American government feels touching the actual state of affairs at Shanghai, and our ability to enforce whatever determination we may take in the premises.

This controversy between the merchants at Shanghai and the British and American authorities in regard to the payment of import and export duties, cannot be too much regretted, for this port was rapidly rising, and that, too, under the active auspices of American merchants, to an importance which gave fair promise of constituting it, at no distant period, the principal mart of foreign commerce in China. I enclose herewith a correspondence between the British plenipotentiary and the secretary of the Shanghai British Chamber

I shall transmit your letter to Washington by the outgoing mail, and again request the early attention of the home government to this subject of so much interest to American merchants in China.

I remain, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

Messrs. BUNN & Co.,

Of Canton, Hong Kong.

No. 5.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Macao, February 12, 1857.

SIR: The supreme court of Hong Kong, in the case of *Queen vs. Poisoners*, has not been able to trace guilt judicially to its source, and the baker Esing *alias* Alam and his workmen have been acquitted by the jury by a large majority. The former, however, was arrested on another charge before he left the court, and a strong guard was required to prevent the interposition of lynch law.

The reply of the imperial commissioner of the 3d instant, (exhibit A 5,) to my protest of the 16th ultimo, is highly characteristic of Chinese diplomacy. It would appear that my despatch gave his excellency the first information of the atrocious deed, causing great astonishment and surprise. His excellency conceded that the administration of poison in such a way is "detestable," but as Americans have never harmed the Chinese, therefore it is absurd to suppose the latter would intentionally poison the former. In the placard without date, purporting to have been written by a valetudinarian "sojourner in the City of Rams," the mythological name for Canton, (exhibit A 6,) and the imperial rescript, (exhibit B 2,) we have further examples of the national character. The former bears internal evidence of being the composition of a scholar, and it is not unlikely that the imperial commissioner may have been privy to its publication. Were it to reach the department through any other medium than the present, the statement as to the fate of the "high American general" and of the British admiral, might awaken solicitude. The death of the English naval commander-in-chief is also stated in the rescript. My views of the latter are expressed in a note to Sir John Bowring of the 7th instant, (exhibit B 3.)

Since the departure of the last mail we have heard of the bold attack of the Chinese, by means of fire-rafts, upon the British men-of-war at Canton, the plunder of American merchandise in a warehouse on Honam, (exhibits A 3 A 4,) and this evening it is reported that three British steamers have had an engagement with some one hundred and fifty war junks between the first and second bars inside the Bogue, in which six junks were sunk and the whole fleet dispersed. It is not time for a reply to my despatches to his excellency Yee of the 31st January and 5th February, which went forward together; but it is understood that his excellency, in advance of my remonstrance, has caused the warehouse to be sealed with his imperial seal, so that the property remaining is probably secure, which inspires the

hope that his excellency is awaking to the responsibilities incurred. So far as I can judge since the arrival from Peking, mentioned in my despatch No. 3 of the 28th January, the viceroy is rather faltering than otherwise in his insane and hostile policy. Every indication confirms the opinion that it is the wish of the imperial government to regard the present difficulties as strictly local, and that it would deprecate a general war, (exhibit B 2.)

I am happy to learn from C. A. Sinclair, esq., her Britannic Majesty's acting consul at Ningpo, recently arrived from that port, that the danger to foreigners is overestimated, and though there has been some panic, he has no apprehensions of a serious outbreak.

The subject of *Formosa* is becoming one of great interest to a number of our enterprising fellow citizens, and deserves more consideration from the great commercial nations of the west than it has yet received; and it is much to be hoped that the government of the United States may not *shrink* from the *action* which the interests of humanity, civilization, navigation, and commerce, impose upon it in relation to Tai-Wan, particularly the southeastern portion of it, at present inhabited by savages, to whose depraved cruelties we have every reason to believe many Europeans, and among them our own friends and countrymen, have fallen victims; and unless prompt measures are adopted to prevent, under the already vast and annually increasing commerce of this part of the world, the number of savage massacres will be greatly augmented. The correspondence embraced in exhibit G, relating to this subject, is respectfully commended to your special notice; also despatch No. 34, of December 12.

I have the honor to be, sir, your excellency's most obedient servant,  
PETER PARKER.

His Excellency the SECRETARY OF STATE of the *United States*,  
*Washington.*

---

A 1.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,  
*Macao, January 31, 1857.*

SIR: The undersigned, commissioner and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to China, had the honor to be in receipt on the 12th instant, of your excellency's two communications of the 15th instant, in one of which your excellency remarks, "it is well known that American merchants, since they came to China, have never been interfered with in their trade either in importing or exporting goods, &c." In reply it becomes the duty of the undersigned to inform your excellency that on the 30th November, D. N. Spooner, esq., of the firm of Messrs. Russell & Co., Canton, informed the United States consul he had that day seen the linguists who usually attend to the custom-house business of Russell & Co., and in reply to his inquiries they stated that the governor of Canton forbade any Chinese from visiting foreign houses, and forbade the shipping off of goods to foreign ships

more than a month previous to that date. They also stated that the stoppage of certain goods, for which Messrs. Russell & Co. applied for an export chop to the "Lotus," was under the direct order of the governor general to the superintendent of customs to stop the whole foreign trade, whether of imports or exports; and in behalf of Messrs. Russell & Co. he respectfully requested the consul to record his protest against the government of China for all losses, costs, and damages suffered or to be suffered by them or their constituents through this wanton act of the governor general of Canton, and violation of the treaty of Wang-Hia, &c.

On the 13th instant Messrs. Thos. Hunt & Co., United States citizens, represented that on the 5th instant a schooner belonging to said firm, of ninety tons burden, called the "Excelsior," despatched with cargo to their house in Hong Kong, was taken by government boats when twelve miles below Whampoa, with all her cargo, and her Chinese crew held to ransom, &c. Again, on the 21st instant Messrs. Hunt & Co. stated that on the 16th January their dock-yard buildings at Whampoa were seen in flames, and that a United States flag which they had nailed to its staff was flying whilst the surrounding buildings were on fire; and they further add that they have indisputable evidence that the destruction of their docks and buildings was entirely the work of government officers. Messrs Hunt & Co. estimate their losses already sustained at upwards of \$130,000, and for which they look to the government of China for full indemnity. Other losses, full particulars of which have not yet been reported, have been sustained by United States citizens at Whampoa.

The undersigned is informed that at 5 o'clock a. m. on the 8th January the keeper of a chop, said to belong to a United States citizen, Dr. Ryder, while in bed and asleep, was murdered and his head cut off by men belonging to two official boats. The United States flag was flying over the chop boat at the time this bloody deed was perpetrated.

It has also been represented to the undersigned that the graves of American citizens, recently interred upon Danes Island, have been desecrated by subjects of China, and the slumbering dead have been decapitated, and their heads conveyed to Canton to obtain the proffered reward of 100 taels. The truth or falsehood of this report can be easily verified.

The case of the Heang Shan forts firing upon the steamer "Cum Fa," and the case of the Chilian barque "Caldera," the undersigned will not further discuss with your excellency for the present, but both will form the subject of future consideration, when full satisfaction will be demanded by the government of the United States of that of China.

In one of your excellency's replies of the 15th instant it is stated that the burning of the factories at Canton on the 14th December was done by the English troops, &c.

The correctness or otherwise of this remarkable statement will also be determined hereafter. The undersigned is not disposed to enter upon a discussion of these grave subjects at present, his prin-

cial object now being to communicate to your excellency, from time to time, the grievances of which the citizens and government of the United States have just cause of complaint, that the same may be placed on record as evidence when the day of final settlement arrives, and to renew to your excellency the assurance that his government looks to that of China for immunities guaranteed by treaty, and holds it responsible for any act in violation of said treaty of amity and commerce, both on the part of the subjects and the authorities of China.

Renewing to your excellency the expression of his deep sorrow occasioned by the present state of affairs in Canton, and devoutly desirous the harmony and prosperity of China and all foreign governments with which it is united by treaty may soon be restored, the undersigned has the honor to remain, sir, your excellency's most obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

[L. S.]

His Excellency YEE,

*Imperial High Commissioner, &c., &c., &c.*

---

A 2.

MACAO, *February 5, 1857.*

SIR: In the absence of Mr. Perry, United States consul for Canton, we beg to hand to your excellency a copy of the note we have addressed to that gentleman, giving notice of the plunder of our property from the pack-house in Honam.

It is unnecessary for us at present to recapitulate the circumstances by which we were suddenly deprived of all control over, or access to, our property by the unexpected breaking out of hostilities between the Chinese and English, and which are well known to your excellency as well as to all residents of the south of China.

We remain, with much respect, your obedient servants,

JAMES PURDON & CO.,

*Of Canton.*

His Excellency Dr. PARKER,

*United States Commissioner, &c., &c., &c.*

---

A 3.

MACAO, *February 5, 1857.*

SIR: We beg to give you notice that we have this morning heard, by means of a coolie, who left our pack-house in Honam on the 3d instant, that on the 2d instant a large force of Chinese soldiers forcibly entered the pack-house and removed thence some fifty casks of ginseng and nineteen casks of otter skins, included in our statement, lettered D, handed you on the 26th ultimo.

The coolie states that more would have been taken but for want of means to transport, and that in all probability the remainder of the property will have been carried off on the 3d or 4th instant.

We remain your obedient servants,

JAMES PURDON & CO.,  
*Of Canton.*

OLIVER H. PERRY, Esq.,  
*United States Consul for Canton.*

A 4.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, February 5, 1857.*

SIR: I am this day informed by Messrs. James Purdon & Co., citizens of the United States, that intelligence has just reached them that on the 2d instant a large force of Chinese soldiers forcibly entered the pack-house in Honam in which their merchandise was stored, and removed thence some fifty casks ginseng and nineteen casks of otter skins, and fears are entertained that the remainder of their property may before this also have been carried off, &c.

The amount of merchandise in this warehouse is estimated at upwards of \$75,000, and is a part of the imported goods referred to in my despatch of the 30th December, which your excellency failed to afford permission and aid to remove to a place of safety. I have therefore to request that if on the receipt of this communication the remainder of the said property has not been removed, your excellency will take such measures as you may deem proper in relation to it, as the government of China will be held responsible for the value of all the property thus lost.

Upon this fresh act—this flagrant violation of treaty—I need offer no comments; your excellency will understand its merits.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration, I have the honor to remain, sir, your excellency's most obedient servant,

PETER PARKER,  
*Commissioner and Minister Plenipotentiary of the  
United States of America to China.*

[L. S.]

His Excellency YEE,  
*Imperial High Commissioner, &c., &c., &c.*

A 5.

Yee, imperial commissioner, governor general of the two Kwang provinces, a baron of the empire, &c., hereby replies:

I received your excellency's communication of the 16th ultimo on the 2d instant, and observe what it contains. That the American consul, who had arrived at Macao from Hong Kong, informed you

personally that, two or three days before, certain Chinese people in Hong Kong had mixed poison in the bread which they furnished the public, without distinction of country, of which all had eaten and had been made seriously ill, and it was not yet known whether they would survive.

On reading this I was very greatly surprised. The Chinese and Americans have usually been on good terms, and the trade between China and other countries has heretofore been conducted amicably; but the English have now, for several months, in a most unprovoked manner, brought their troops and engaged in hostilities, repeatedly setting fire to the shops and dwellings of people, and destroying a very great number of buildings, and have ruined some entire families. Doubtless there are many Chinese whose hatred against the English has been much increased by this; but to poison people in this under-hand manner is an act worthy of detestation; still, as it all occurred in Hong Kong, it is impossible for me to examine into all the facts. The act is owing to the unnumbered evils which have been inflicted upon the Chinese by the English, and the natives of the surrounding districts have taken this way of revenging their private wrongs.

The Americans having never injured the Chinese, there is, of course, nothing to mar the good feeling existing between them. Your excellency might properly issue admonitory exhortations for the Americans quietly to attend to their own business, and there can be no question but the Chinese will always treat them in a proper manner. What would induce them to think of secretly poisoning them?—a point worthy of your consideration.

For this I reply, at the same time wishing you stable peace.

His Excellency PETER PARKER,

*Commissioner and Minister Plenipotentiary of the  
United States of America to China.*

FEBRUARY 3, 1857.

True translation.

S. WELLS WILLIAMS,

*Chinese Interpreter to the Legation U. S. A.*

---

A 6.

During the autumn of the present year Lieutenant Liáng arrested twelve insurgents on board a pretended foreign lorch, and the English made a pretext of this act to complain and break the peace. They furiously attacked the Barrier and other forts by land and water on the 23d of October, burning and destroying in the greatest violence, and kept up a thundering cannonade for ten days; but the high officers were undisturbed by the uproar, and the whole city maintained its composure and confidence. Traffic was, however, greatly interfered with, as goods could find no market, much to the detriment of the merchants, and thus the men of all countries have been in-



volved in trouble through the bad management of these English. These insurgents, who pretended to be foreigners, were able to get help in their traitorous designs, and the connexion should have given rise to suspicion; and now that the English know their real character, like a man who has brought a tiger into his house to guard it, they greatly regret their own proceedings.

I, who am only a sojourner in the city of Rams, poor, dispirited, and out of health, have been constantly hearing the balls whistling over the roof; and it so happened that in passing through the markets and streets I came to the gateway bearing the inscription: "Reverently to commemorate glory conferred," when I pointed up to it and exclaimed, "This was erected in former years to the glory and praise of the people of Canton for defending their city against the foreigners. If the proceedings now going on are not, in truth, in revenge for this, what would lead me to stand here over against it?" Let but the people arise in their united might and bitter hatred, showing a determination like a solid wall, and the city will doubtless remain intact. I, who am living here at leisure, have just written down what I have seen and heard, or learned by talking with the common people, lest I should forget it; and I shall not presume to make this known to the public.

The strength of our army is not small. The troops under the command of the governor general and governor, the braves from the ninety-six villages and from Shih-Pai-Tang, those under the lead of Chang, Lin, and Chú, with the levies from the districts of Cháu-Chau and Hoping, and the recruits lately drilled, altogether amount to between 20,000 and 30,000; the brave train-bands of the city itself are about 60,000 more. Let the English be as brave as they may be, can one man of theirs possibly be a match for a thousand of ours? We are numerous, they are few; we are fresh, they are worn out; and certainly the energy of thousands and myriads will be more than a match for them. Our troops excel them in strategy, in numbers, and in strength of position. We are more contented and imbued with favors; and, further, have the chances of times and places wholly on our side. A Fabian general, who can bide his opportunity, will doubtless cause these ungrateful wretches to gasp and pant in their weary despair, and slink off (like curs) with heads hanging and tails between their legs. It will be a real compassion to far-travelled men if they no longer trouble themselves to add to their forces.

The effectiveness of our shot is great. When the English attacked the French Folly on the 6th of November we fired one great gun, whose shot went through a steamer and a sailing vessel she was towing, and then smashed two or three sampans, killing two officers, several privates, and no expert gunner at the same time. But the best part of it was, that there was a high American general on board named Parker, whose soul was snatched away by heaven.

The English rely wholly on their guns. From October 27 to November 5 (for ten days) they blazed away every day, a hundred and more discharges daily. On the 4th of November there were as many as 280 or 290 guns fired. The largest shot weighed ninety-four catties,

and the smallest about fifty catties, which struck government offices, dwellings, and temples in all quarters, the office of the Pwanyû-Hien alone escaping. Fully a hundred fell in the yamun of the governor general and general, but they killed only two writers, one coolie carrying clothes, and a green grocer in the street, near the former; while at the latter there was only a sexton of a temple to the God of War, a poor man, a woman, and one bannerman, whose bodies were burned and torn in a most shocking manner. It was reported that the last two men had always been undutiful, and therefore their death was right enough. Besides these, there were not more than twenty persons, in all, killed in the city and suburbs, whose fate it was not to be able to avoid their death by dodging through the streets and lanes. I have not heard of any other casualty in any street or house than these.

Since the affair began more than 1,400 cannon have been fired, and rockets even more than that. The shot have fallen like rain, and the rockets like flight of locusts; nor was their force to be despised as they came whistling by one's ears or falling near enough to scorch one's eyebrows, knocking over walls and smashing fences, and sometimes almost even bringing one's nest down over one's ears. Their liveliness might certainly be regarded as dangerous. The number of souls living in this great city of Canton is reckoned by myriads—no small multitude certainly; and the dogged valor of the English in warlike operations is confessedly great. If, then, after all, their guns have effected nothing, and their rockets have sped on useless errands, so that only twenty-two or twenty-three men have been killed altogether; and if, when offices, houses, or dwellings have been destroyed or fired, the flames have stopped at the first wall, and the damage has easily been repaired, it must be plain to every one that the city owes its happiness to its present high officers.

Every day on which the English cannonaded the city a violent north wind arose, which blew back their fires, and suffocated more than a score of people, one of whom was Admiral Seymour—a plain indication of the will of heaven. The consultations and talk throughout the market places and streets among all classes, striplings and gray-beards, all indicate bitter feeling against the foreigners; everybody waits and wishes them only to come ashore, that their desires may be satisfied by catching them alive to eat their flesh and sleep on their skins. A shot fell in the Examination Hall of Nanhai district, but the two corridors were uninjured by it, for the shot rebounded into the pool in the court-yard—a wonderful manifestation of the divine power of the most Holy Confucius, who was there enshrined. The crimes of the English have mounted to heaven, and reached the ears of all people. Can they much longer endure the wrath of heaven and hatred of men?

Some native traitors, who took advantage of the times to set fire to houses, were seized on the spot, as was the case in the southern suburbs, near Wing-Tsing gate, and in the new city; and others who tried to place powder to blow them up were seen and searched on the instant, as was the case in the western suburbs; for the gods pro-

tected us everywhere, and vigilant watchmen were on the alert to defend us. If there were any traitorous schemes on foot, the con-coctors of them would surely be ready to make away with themselves, and the people would never receive any harm.

The English have buried scores of their own men, who have been killed by shot, behind the village on Danes island; but they rip open all the Chinese traitors among them who are killed, and throw their carcasses into the ocean, which should dishearten all such as are inclined to be traitors. Moreover, there has just been a plain spoken proclamation issued, promising to all who reform and return from their errors that they shall be rewarded for any meritorious deeds, which surely ought to arouse them.

What the gods have ordained in this matter is not for mankind to direct; but already on one occasion, after the city had been bombarded, the power of the great goddess Kwanyin, from the temple in the north of the city, was exhibited on high, and on the right and left. On the 4th of November, when the firing was very severe, and people were running away for safety, very many fled to her temple. At noon one shot came through the doorway, round as the sun and larger, darting fire on every side. The multitude fell to the earth in terror, but the ball went back after entering, and, making three bounds, darted upwards, and went quite over the hill into the Dragon King's well, in the rear. A little while after another one came flying in while a man was kneeling before the shrine of Budha, and fell into the loadstone incense tripod, scattering the ashes, but leaving the tripod unbroken. Truly, these were glorious exhibitions of her loving care in saving the lives of the people, and all these ceased not to spread their fame.

Two fishermen, named Chin and Kie, narrate what they saw themselves: as a rocket was passing over a place a bird like a hawk rushed against it head first and then vanished. Many others saw it, too, and among them my friend Liang, living in the hamlet of Kongyu, and his family, so that it is not mere gossip. These say that the bird was the sacred parrot of the goddess herself, and that is, in fact, not at all improbable.

S. WELLS WILLIAMS,  
*Chinese Interpreter to Legation U. S. A.*

B 1.

No. 35.]

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE,  
*Hong Kong, February 4, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward to your excellency a copy of an imperial decree which has been forwarded to me from the north, of the authenticity of which I am assured there is little or no reason to doubt.

I need scarcely call your excellency's attention to the representa-

tion of the imperial commissioner as to the opinion of the citizens of your nation, nor to the extraordinary statements as to the results of the hostile action of her Majesty's forces.

I have the honor to be, sir, your excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN BOWRING.

His Excellency Dr. PETER PARKER,

*United States Commissioner, &c., &c., &c.*

*Translation of a Chinese official letter communicating the Emperor's will regarding the present Canton affair.*

The Chinese text was obtained by Mr. Thomas Meadows, acting vice consul at Ningpo. It does not appear by whom the letter is written or to whom addressed, but two competent Chinese teachers give it as their opinion that there is nothing in the tone or wording of the document to make them doubt its genuineness. They assume it to have been written by one of the highest authorities of a province to an equal in the same or an adjoining jurisdiction—most probably the latter.

Its genuineness admitted, it is to my mind calculated to produce the same impression as the letters of Eleang and Chaou, lately received. The quarrel is regarded as local, and it is the desire of the court that it should continue so, not more for the sake of its dignity than for the security of the government, which would be menaced by any circumstance seriously agitating the public mind.

Yeh is in every way competent to the settlement of the question, but the barbarian must sue for peace, and then, of course, without any concession, he will be allowed to resume his *status quo ante bellum*. The imperial decree doubtless covers some anxiety lest there should be a general war, but opposes all concessions immediate or remote.

[Translation.]

(The writer) makes a communication :

On the 27th of the 11th moon of the 6th year of Hëen-Fung (23d December, 1856,) I\* received a confidential despatch from the great council, forwarded by the board of war to Eleang, governor general of the two Kwang; Chaou, governor of Keang-soo; Wang, governor general of Fuh-keen and Che-Keang; and Ho, governor of Che-Keang, to the effect that, on the 17th of the 11th moon of the 6th

\* The "I" may be one of the officers whose names immediately follow. The governor of Fuh-keen is not among these, probably because he resides in the same city (Foo-Chow) as the governor general, Wang.

year of Hëen-Fung, (13th December,) (the council) had had the honor to receive the following imperial decree:

"With reference to the memorial of Yeh-ming-chin, representing that the English barbarians had picked a quarrel with us, and that our troops had been victorious in two actions with them.

"In the course of the 9th moon (October) some of the Canton marine having seized some pirates on board a lorcha, the English barbarian chief, Pa Hëa-le, (Harry Parkes,) attempted, on pretence that this act was matter of complaint, to revive the question of admission into the city, and ventured, in fine, to open fire upon the city and to burn the shops. On the 1st and 9th of the 10th moon (29th October and 6th November) our troops engaged (the enemy) and were victorious in both actions, killing and wounding above 400 of the barbarian's villains and slaying their admiral.\* The patriotism and enthusiasm displayed by the gentry and volunteers of Canton had already dispirited the barbarians. Land and marine forces, numbering 20,000 and more, regulars and militia, had been moved up, and the barbarians, who have been indulging in the greatest arrogance and forwardness, will not, it is to be presumed, after the check they have received, venture on any further display of lawless violence.

"The American, French, and other western nations,† being sensible that the English barbarians are in the wrong in this quarrel, do not choose to co-operate with them; and as they are thus wholly unsupported, as well (as defeated,) there is a reasonable possibility that suffering will induce repentance, and that they will desist from hostilities.

"We have this day instructed Yeh that, if the English barbarians turn from their present course of their own motion, anger (or hate) need not be carried to extremity; but if they dare to persist in their extravagance and obstinacy, peace is not to be negotiated by a conciliatory movement on our part, as this would open the way to demands for other concessions of importance. Yeh-ming-chin has been very long in charge of the Kwang provinces, and is so thoroughly conversant with barbarian affairs that he will be able, in all probability, to devise a proper course of proceeding.

"It occurs to us that the sea-board of Keang-soo, Che-keang, and Fuh-keen is ground with which the steamers of these barbarians are, by long experience, well acquainted; and as precaution should be taken to defend (that coast,) also, against the barbarians, who, when they find themselves unable to work their will in the Canton province, may attempt to disturb other ports along it, we command Eleang, Chaou, and Ho, to give instructions privily to the local authorities, in the event of barbarian ships approaching (their jurisdiction,) to take such steps as will render them secure without sound or sign (that may

\* "Admiral," *literally*, naval great soldier head, *ta-ping-tow*, an expression commonly applied by the Cantonese here to the governor. I never heard a northern Chinese use the term.

† *Se Yang kwo*, western nation, is the term by which the Portuguese are commonly known, but it is also used to mean foreigners in general, or Europeans in particular. It is remarkable that they are none of them spoken of as barbarians.

attract attention.) If they come to explain the circumstances of the rupture at Canton, they must be so silenced by reasonable arguments \* that no loop-hole be left them; and that, seeing this, they may be minded to fall back from their undertaking as hopeless. But (the authorities referred to) are not in any way to take the alarm, as this would disturb and perplex the public mind.

"Let this be forwarded at the rate of 400 *li* a day for the private information of every officer whom it concern. Respect this!"

Having received the letter (of the council,) forwarded in respectful obedience to the will of his Majesty, I am confidentially informing my subordinates thereof, and communicating the same to my equals in rank. It is further my duty to communicate to you a copy, reverentially made, (of the decree,) in respectful obedience to which you will be so good as to act.

HEEN-FUNG, 6th year, 11th moon, 28th day, (24th December, 1856.)

Translated by

THOMAS WADE,  
*Chinese Secretary.*

FEBRUARY 5, 1857.

True copy.

GEO. S. MORRISON.

---

B 3.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, February 7, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt of your excellency's esteemed favor of the 4th instant, transmitting me a copy of an imperial decree your excellency had received from the north.

I have perused the document with care, and am entirely satisfied as to the authenticity of the decree, and of the high official position of the officer who embodies it in his "communication."

I particularly notice the representation of the imperial commissioner as to the opinion of Americans, French, and other western nations, and his excellency's statements as to the results of the hostile action of her Majesty's forces, and do not hesitate to pronounce both alike inaccurate.

I trust the day is not remote when his Imperial Majesty will arrive at the same conclusion. I regard it as most fortunate information so important should have come into your excellency's possession, and am much obliged by being made acquainted with the same.

It is a painful exhibition of human folly when a man so high in rank

---

\* Or by an exposition of the rights of the question. The expression rendered "silenced" is very peremptory; the four words *Kau le che fuh*, translated literally, *with reason, or with the right of the question, break off their discourse and bring them to submit.*

and influence as is his excellency Yê among the statesmen of this great empire descends so low to mislead his sovereign, and involve his country in the gravest national calamities.

Anticipating with pleasure the triumph of *truth* and the supremacy of *justice* at no distant period, I have the honor to be, sir, your excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

PETER PARKER.

His Excellency Sir JOHN BOWRING, L.L. D.,  
*Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, Hong Kong.*

B 4.

No. 38.]

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE,  
*Hong Kong, February 7, 1857.*

SIR: By a mistake of the assistants the translation, instead of the original Chinese text, of the (supposed) imperial rescript was sent to your excellency on the 4th instant.

I beg to forward a copy of the original.

I have the honor to be, sir, your excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN BOWRING.

His Excellency Dr. PETER PARKER,  
*United States Commissioner to China, &c., &c., &c.*

B 5.

[Translation.]

MACAO, *February 9, 1857.*

MY DEAR DOCTOR: I have read with peculiar interest the pamphlet\* of which you were good enough to transmit me a copy. I have the honor to return you herewith the same.

While it flatters the popular credulity and superstition, the author makes a pretty fair acknowledgment of the British valor.

I must not fail to congratulate you sincerely upon your prompt and brilliant resurrection.

Your excellency will find enclosed a copy of my reply to the letter with which Sir John transmitted to me the translation of the imperial decree concerning the affairs at Canton. We cannot in the least doubt its authenticity—the facts accord too well with the appreciations and resolutions expressed therein.

Believe me, my dear doctor, your excellency's very humble and faithful servant,

R. DE COURCY.

\* The anonymous placard by a "sojourner in the City of Rams."

B 6.

[Translation.]

M. PLENIPOTENTIARY: I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which your excellency has done the honor of addressing to me on the 4th instant.

It appears to my understanding of this curious document, of which a copy was annexed, that the cabinet of Peking would seem inclined, if not to satisfy for the present the demand of Admiral Seymour, at least to consider, until further order, the serious events at Canton as a mere local matter.

I am happy to learn that your excellency has good reasons to believe this document authentic; otherwise, had I not learned by personal experience with what art the Chinese functionaries disguise the truth to the eyes of their government, I should certainly have entertained some doubt as to its genuineness, for the imperial decree, of which you were kind enough to send me a copy, reverses completely the sense of my official communications as well as most indisputable facts.

I have, &c.,

CTE. RENÉ DE COURCY,  
*Minister Plenipotentiary.*

C 1.

No. 1.]

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Foo-Chow, January 19, 1857.*

SIR: I have not written to you for some time, as I have had nothing of interest to communicate. Since my last the British merchants have paid into the Chinese superintendent of customs the amount due for duties on American ships, and I have now only the bonds due our own countrymen, amounting to about fifty thousand dollars. I do not believe this amount will ever be called for, as the authorities are *certain* it would not be paid while I am in charge here unless justice were done for the murder of Mr. Cunningham.

I shall need instructions what to do with the bonds. They are on demand and are fully secured, as I have informed the parties who gave them that I consider them in the same light as a debt to the United States, and will take precedence of all creditors.

A short time since the prefect issued a proclamation, by the direction of the viceroy, declaring Mexican dollars on par with the "Foo-Chow" or "chop dollar." On Saturday last shippers in the American ship "Fly-away," in accordance with the proclamation, offered Mexican to the Hae Quan in payment of duties. He refused to take them. As soon as I was informed of it I visited the "Hae Quan." He told me that he had received no notice from the viceroy of the change, and, until he had such notice, he could not receive them. I told him that the money would be at his order and risk, and the



ship would be allowed to depart without the grand chop, and that I should notify the prefect that he had declined to respect the proclamation. I believe that we shall have but little trouble in carrying out the views of the prefect in this respect. All the merchants here, with one exception, have addressed communications to Mr. Medhurst and myself, requesting us to use our best endeavors to aid the prefect in this necessary and important reform. There will be an opportunity for Hong Kong on the 22d instant, and I will inform you if there is any change in regard to this subject.

We are very quiet here and the authorities are unusually civil. There is no fear of any trouble.

I have the honor to remain, with great respect, your obedient servant,

CALEB JONES,  
*United States Consul.*

His Excellency PETER PARKER,  
*U. S. Commissioner and Minister Plenipotentiary to China.*

C 2.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, February 4, 1857.*

SIR: Your despatches, No. 30, of the 23d December, and No. 1, of the 19th January, have been duly received. In the former you inform me of the arrival of a new prefect, and I am gratified at the favorable impression you had formed of him. You also state therein that the duties due on the "Kingfisher" were about to be paid; and from your despatch of the 19th January I learn that the "British merchants have paid in to the superintendent of customs the amount due for duties on American ships, and that there only remain the bonds due by our countrymen, amounting to about fifty thousand dollars," &c., &c.

I now enclose two communications to his excellency the viceroy: one relating to the port of Amoy, the other to the case of the late Mr. Cunningham, a copy of which is enclosed for your information. There has been some delay in translating these documents on account of the New Year's festival.

I wait his excellency's reply before alluding to the disposition of the bonds you now hold. Through the politeness of the governor of Macao I obtained, some time since, a copy of the proclamations of the authorities at Foo-Chow in relation to the currency. It is an admirably formed document and interesting, as containing an official recognition of the fact that the foreign merchant *promotes the interests of the Chinese people*. The same opposition on the part of the superintendent of customs was experienced a few years since at Canton, which the same course you are pursuing succeeded in overcoming; and I shall be happy to learn that the united action of the British

and United States consuls, in conjunction with that of the local authorities, has been alike successful at Foo-Chow.

The restoration of tranquillity in the south is yet distant, and it is most gratifying to learn that the authorities at your port are unusually civil, and that you have no apprehensions of trouble. The imperial commissioner, Yêë, is disposed to regard the affair as *local*, and in one of his late despatches to me hinted at the propriety of United States merchants removing to other ports where his excellency understands trade is in a flourishing condition. So far as I am informed, it is not the wish of the imperial government to become involved in a general war.

I only wait your returns of judicial fees for 1856 to make my annual report to Congress upon that subject.

I remain, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

CALEB JONES, Esq.,

*United States Consul, Fuh-Chow.*

---

D 1.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,  
*Ningpo, January 15, 1857.*

DEAR SIR: The accompanying petition from the citizens of the United States resident at this port has been handed to me with the request that I should forward the same, with an expression of my own views upon the subject thus brought to your notice.

I most willingly do this, as I believe that our present position here, without any vessel-of-war or any means of defence, is a very critical and exceedingly unpleasant one. Thus far we have entertained no fears in relation to the native authorities or residents of this city; but there are quite a number of Cantonese among us, some engaged in business in the city, and others on vessels, whose known business is to engage in piracies while at sea, and who make this port their headquarters. It is from these reckless characters that we have most to fear; and we are liable at any moment to be attacked and murdered by them, actuated either by a spirit of revenge or plunder, or, perhaps, both. I would therefore heartily join in the request that a vessel-of-war be despatched to this port as soon as possible, as even now there is a rumor that the Cantonese are about to rise against the foreigners; and I trust that, as the British residents are sending the same petition to their authorities, we shall soon be relieved from our very unpleasant position.

I trust you have received my letter of the 10th December, engaging to discharge the consular duties of this port until some other individual should be appointed. The existing difficulties at the south, and the state of feeling here, have induced me to raise the American flag before again hearing from you, and I have also received an official recognition from the native authorities.

Any suggestions or directions in reference to contingencies which may arise, should the present troubles continue, will be thankfully received by your obedient servant,

R. Q. WAY.

His Excellency PETER PARKER, &c., &c., &c.

---

D 2.

NINGPO, January 15, 1857.

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned citizens of the United States, residing at Ningpo, beg leave, through Mr. Way, our acting consul, to call your attention to the very unsafe position which we here occupy in consequence of the hostilities at Canton, and the state of feeling to which we have reason to suppose these have given rise among the Cantonese and others who sympathize with them in this place. Placed, as we are, without the presence of any vessel-of-war, or scarcely a foreign vessel of any kind, and without the means of flight in case of any sudden outbreak, we feel that both our property and our lives are in jeopardy; and we therefore earnestly request that, if possible, you will send to this port immediately a man-of-war; or if this should be impracticable, that you will devise such other means as may be within your reach for our protection. Believing that you will appreciate our condition and do all in your power to assist us, we have the honor to subscribe ourselves,

Yours, respectfully,

E. C. LORD.  
JOHN L. NEVINS.  
M. J. KNOWLTON.  
JNO. W. QUARTERMAN.  
W. A. P. MARTIN.  
S. N. MARTIN.  
E. B. INSLEE.  
D. J. MACGOWAN.  
G. MEREDITH.  
W. SMITH.  
G. FITZGERALD.

His Excellency PETER PARKER,  
*Commissioner of the United States to China.*

---

D 3.

SIR: The exigencies of American interests at the port of Ningpo, China, rendering it important to appoint some one to discharge the duties of consul of the United States at that port, and having confidence in your integrity, prudence, and ability, I do, by the authority

invested in me as commissioner, with plenipotentiary powers, of the United States of America to China, appoint you acting consul of the United States at the port of Ningpo, and empower you hereby to perform all the duties and receive all the emoluments of said office, until the pleasure of the President of the United States shall be further known.

[L. s.] Given under my hand and seal of office, at the legation of the United States, Macao, this 1st day of January, 1857.

PETER PARKER.

R. Q. WAY, Esq.

#### D 4.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, January 30, 1857.*

SIR: I have received your despatch of the 10th December last, and am much gratified to learn therefrom your willingness, under the emergency that exists, to assume temporarily the indispensable duties of the office of United States consul for the port of Ningpo, although at great personal inconvenience. Herewith I enclose your commission as acting United States consul.

Your despatch of the 15th instant, enclosing a memorial from the United States citizens residing at Ningpo, came to hand on the evening of the 28th instant; and, in reply, I beg to assure you and our fellow-citizens of my deep appreciation of their condition, represented with great clearness and moderation.

I have lost no time in conferring with Commodore James Armstrong, and am happy to inform you that the United States ship Portsmouth, Captain A. H. Foote, probably now in Shanghai, (where she will remain but a short time,) is under orders to visit Ningpo and the other ports. There are but three government vessels of the United States at present in China, rendering it impracticable to supply any one of the ports permanently with the presence of a vessel-of-war, but their visits to each of the ports will be as frequent and protracted as practicable.

You have done quite right in hoisting the United States flag, as you were authorized to do by my note of the 3d November last, and I am pleased to hear that you have been officially recognized by the local authorities. The "hostilities at Canton" are quite *local*, and are so regarded by the imperial commissioner, Yěē, as indicated in a despatch I have recently received; and this fact should be understood at your port. The United States are *neutral* in all questions specifically belonging to another nation, and our relations those of *amity*; and by treaty China has guaranteed to us entire security of person and property; and if at any time the safety of United States citizens at Ningpo, is jeopardized by the presence of lawless Chinese, be they Cantonese or otherwise, you should formally notify the local authorities, as provided by the 19th article of treaty, calling upon

them to send out a military force to maintain the peace and to protect person and property from all harm, holding the government of China responsible for all consequences of neglect to do so.

It may be well to avail yourself of the presence of Captain Foote, whom you will find a most estimable gentleman and officer, to wait upon the authorities, and, in a friendly way, confer with them upon the importance of united endeavors to maintain amicable relations.

Desiring you to keep me informed of whatever of public interest transpires at your port, I remain, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

R. Q. WAY, Esq.,

*United States Acting Consul, Ningpo.*

---

E.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,  
*Macao, January 31, 1857.*

SIR: I am in receipt of your despatch of the 16th December, relative to the steamer "Min," of the 1st January, enclosing returns of judicial fees, and of the 20th January, announcing the final adjustment of the duty question.

Simultaneously with the receipt of your despatch of the 16th ultimo, the original papers of said steamer were submitted to me, informally, in reference to obtaining a register for her, which was impossible under existing laws of the United States. Your refusal to enter her as a United States vessel was right.

I observe she now hoists the Swedish flag.

I have seen Captain Breck but once, and at that time had not the remotest idea "of the circumstances surrounding" the "Min," but understood she had just arrived from San Francisco direct, and, seeing her under the United States flag, inferred she was American built.

I fully appreciate your embarrassment for want of a United States prison at Shanghai, and the dilemma to which we have arrived must be apparent to the home government. I shall represent it both to the State Department and to Congress in my annual report. The same difficulty of which you complain is experienced at the ports of Canton and Foo-Chow.

His excellency the governor of this colony has consented, temporarily, to receive to the jail in Macao the three prisoners named in your despatch, and I have to suggest that the United States ship "Portsmouth," now at Shanghai, may afford you an opportunity of sending them here, unless some more direct conveyance offer, in which case you can exercise your discretion, having due regard to economy.

It is with great satisfaction I learn from your despatch of the 20th instant that the "duty question" is finally disposed of, and that a receipt in full, according to the terms of the "award," has been given by the chief superintendent of customs.

Ex. Doc. 22—76

By reference to my despatch of the 9th August you will perceive that it was quite superfluous for you to transmit the department the papers which in due course it would receive from the legation, upon a subject specifically referred to its care in the despatch of the Secretary of State of the 26th May, 1856. It may save you unnecessary labor to bear in mind that all official correspondence from the several consulates with the legation is duly forwarded to Washington.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

R. C. MURPHY, Esq.,

*United States Consul, Shanghai.*

F 1.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Macao, January 30, 1857.*

SIR: Agreeably to your request, I have the honor herewith to enclose you a copy of the note of O. H. Perry, esq., United States consul, Canton, of the 21st instant, relative to the alleged desecration of the graves of the men belonging to your squadron interred on Danes island, Whampoa.

I remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

Commodore JAMES ARMSTRONG,

*Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. naval forces,*

*East Indian and China seas, Flag-ship "San Jacinto,"*

*Hong Kong.*

F 2.

UNITED STATES FLAG-SHIP "SAN JACINTO,"

*Hong Kong, February 2, 1857.*

SIR: I have received the copy you sent me, at my request, of the report made to you by Mr. Perry, the United States consul at Canton, respecting alleged violations of the graves at Whampoa.

It is of such a character that I shall feel it my duty to refer it, together with my report made to you respecting the official conduct of that officer, to the government of the United States.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES ARMSTRONG,

*Commanding U. S. naval forces, East Indian and Chinese seas.*

His Excellency PETER PARKER,

*United States Commissioner to China, Macao.*

## F 3.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, February 9, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt of your favor of the 21st of October, informing me of your appointment as United States consul for the port of Manila.

It affords me pleasure to know that one of your experience in the east has succeeded to that office. I am confident its duties will be discharged with credit to yourself and with honor and advantage to our fellow-citizens and government, and acceptably to that of Spain. It will at all times afford me pleasure to receive from you intelligence of public interest, and in any measure to be of service to you in your official capacity.

I remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
PETER PARKER.

CHARLES GRISWOLD, Esq.,  
*United States Consul, Manila.*

---

## F 4.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,  
*Macao, February 10, 1857.*

SIRS: Under date of the 20th ultimo, R. C. Murphy, esq., United States consul, Shanghai, informs me that the "duty question" had finally been disposed of, and a receipt in full had been given by the Chinese superintendent of customs corresponding with the amount of his excellency R. M. McLane's award.

Exception, as you are aware, was taken by the superintendent of customs to certain duty receipts tendered by your firm as bearing date prior to the 7th of September, 1853, (but paid upon merchandise exported subsequently to that date.) He has now so far waived his objections as to give his receipt in full, at the same time stating he had represented the case to his superior, "that he may memorialize the Emperor and request its remission." I do not anticipate further reference to the subject.

I remain, sirs, your obedient servant,  
PETER PARKER.

Messrs. AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.,  
*Canton and Shanghai.*

---

## G 1.

MACAO, *February 10, 1857.*

SIR: I hasten to beg your excellency's attention to the report of the loss of the New York clipper ship "Highflyer," upon the southern

part of the neighboring island of Formosa, with a hope that you may consider it in the light of the information already in the archives of the government, of sufficient importance to justify your bringing it to the special notice of his excellency the naval commander-in-chief.

It will be in the recollection of your excellency that I brought the subject of the state of that portion of Formosa, and the circumstances of the disappearance of several vessels when in the neighborhood thereof, to the notice of the government several years ago, with reference more especially to the circumstance of the disappearance of the clipper "Kelpie," in 1848-9, with my brother, Thomas S. H. Nye, on board as a passenger.

Subsequent occurrences, and the presence of a large force at his excellency's command, induced me to bring the subject to the notice of Commodore Perry three years ago, who caused some search and inquiry to be made at Formosa; but the point of real interest in this question, viz: the southeastern part of the island, was not examined.

More recently I have been interested in a commercial enterprise with Mr. Robinet and Messrs. Williams, Anthon & Co., at Ape's Hill and other stations in Formosa, and the invariable account that I have received has been that the southeastern part of the island is in the possession of a mongrel race of great ferocity, with whom and the Chinese who inhabit only the western side of the island, there is constant hostility.

The investigations conducted by the orders of your excellency when chargé of the United States, and those more recently made by Commodore Perry's order, with such information as I am in a condition to afford Commodore Armstrong, will suffice, I am sure, to convince his excellency, in the first place, that, in the matter of these shipwrecks, he has only to deal with the residents of that part of the coast where the Chinese have *never* exercised jurisdiction; in the second place, that these residents or inhabitants are simply cruel, bloodthirsty savages, as little regardful of mercy as they are (from sheer brutal ignorance) of the power of civilized governments; and hence, in the third place, that it is a duty to humanity and civilization to make an example of such of them as he can gain access to, after making fully known to them the reason for so doing. I would be glad if he took possession of that part of the island and held it, in the interests of humanity and commerce, for the benefit as well of China, in respect to the only portion ever subject to her, as of all other nations having intercourse with this part of the world.

Formosa's eastern shore and southern point, with the contiguous island of Botel Tobago Xenia, in the direct *route* of commerce between China and California and Japan, and between Shanghai and Canton, should be protected by the United States of America; and I will willingly assist in its colonization if I receive the assurance of the government of the United States that I shall therein be recognized and protected. I am quite aware of the willingness of some other persons to aid in this under a similar assurance; and I am clear that



at this time a commencement might be made without objection from any power.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON NYE, JR.

His Excellency Dr. PETER PARKER,

*Commissioner and Plenipotentiary of the United States in China.*

---

G 2

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Macao, February 10, 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, that the wreck of the American ship, and the massacre of her ship's company and passengers, occurred in 1855. Thus the demand upon the attention of the naval commander-in-chief on this station is not so instantaneous as it had been were there grounds for supposing these unfortunate persons are still alive and now held in captivity by the barbarous inhabitants, and neither the season nor the extraordinary state of affairs in China favor immediate action in the matter on the part of the naval authority. But I feel confident 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 this legation relative to Formosa and its adjacent islands, their inhabitants, manufactures, mineral and agricultural productions, will be both acceptable and useful to the government.

I remain, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

GIDEON NYE, Jr., Esq., *Macao.*

---

*Peter Parker to President Buchanan.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Macao, February 13, 1857.*

SIR: The deep interest in China you formerly manifested when Secretary of State, and the renewed evidence I had the pleasure to

receive when in London in 1855 that that interest had not abated, and in view of the present state of this empire, I am induced to address you direct, as President of the United States, upon the relations of the two countries.

My correspondence with the Department of State the past year has furnished the government with a faithful view of what has been attempted in reference to the revision of the treaty, and the influences which have conspired to postpone the attainment of that object—causes quite providential.

On leaving Washington in October, 1855, I was encouraged to hope that the indispensable auxiliary to peaceful negotiation, a respectable naval force of at least five ships-of-war, would be present in China by the middle of June, 1856. I had also hoped on my arrival to find one steamer on the station immediately available. In this I was disappointed. The United States steam frigate "Powhatan" had left for America. The "San Jacinto," expected in March last, did not arrive till June 11, and then under orders first to proceed to Japan; but from various accidents she did not leave for that destination till July 18. As my only alternative, I left in a sailing vessel, the United States sloop "Levant," on July 1 for the northern ports, arriving at Woosung early in August. Captain W. Smith, commander of that vessel, handed me an extract from a despatch awaiting him from Commodore James Armstrong, advising that I "had better perform the service I had to do in the 'Levant.'" On September 11 the "San Jacinto" reached Shanghai, when Commodore Armstrong reported her in a "crippled condition and unfit for the service" of conveying me to the Gulf of Pechelee. For the course pursued under such embarrassments I beg to refer to my despatches of October last. I have strong reasons for thinking that, if an adequate naval force had been available then, there was much in the condition of the imperial government at that time to encourage the hope that my visit to Peking had been acceptable, my negotiations for a revision of the treaty successful, and that all foreign relations with China might be very different from what they are. Now, as respects the rebellion the imperial government is becoming more and more reassured.

I advert to these facts not as in the spirit of complaint, but as matters of history and instructive for the future. It was not from oversight or design on the part of President Pierce and his cabinet that the requisite naval force was not here. Far from it; the disposition existed, but the means were wanting. The unexpected and anxious state of our relations with Great Britain, and other causes too familiar to require specification, prevented it.

I have thus briefly adverted to the past to solicit attention to the future. The subject now of paramount importance is the *immediate increase of our naval force in China*. No matter what amount of experience, ability, and diplomatic tact the civil authority may possess, without at least the presence of a naval force commensurate with the exigencies of the crisis, it must be powerless in negotiations with this haughty government, and in endeavors to obtain redress of grievances,

especially pecuniary indemnification for losses sustained by our citizens, which will not fall much under a million of dollars, *nothing short of an imposing physical force, or the exhibition of it, will enable any minister to succeed under existing circumstances. The most explicit and solemn stipulations of treaty have been violated; the lives of citizens of the United States have been taken by Chinese with impunity; our civil and naval authorities rudely treated—poisoned; the government of the United States has been contemned in the repeated opening, by others than the Emperor, of the letters addressed by successive Presidents to his Imperial Majesty.*

*To rectify all these evils, and by a revised treaty to place the relations of the two countries upon a just, honorable, and reasonable basis, is the labor now to be performed. Great Britain, France, and the United States are very similarly situated in respect to China. It is a settled point that the former two governments will apply themselves to the task with vigor; and every sentiment of national respect and interest demand that the United States should do the same. The three powers acting simultaneously and concurrently, the issue is certain.*

Permit me then, sir, in the most deferential but strongest manner possible, to appeal to you as the Chief Magistrate of the United States, by every consideration of commercial interest and national dignity, to give to China the attention it demands. It is not merely the questions of equality, the extension of commercial privileges, and securing our social and political rights that are to be settled; but failing to secure them, the very existence of foreigners in China may be jeopardized by this government, emboldened by the tardiness of western nations to vindicate their insulted honor and treaty rights. The life of no foreigner residing in China can be considered entirely safe, not from pirates merely, but from the violence of the people and authorities themselves, whenever circumstances may favor its exhibition under the present order of things; and the great interests of commerce are in a perilous condition. *The character of the future of China for a long time to come depends, under Providence, upon the action of western governments at the present time; and it is devoutly to be hoped the United States will stand in their true position in the campaign already initiated.*

*Of the propriety of concurrent yet independent action in relation to China on the part of the treaty powers, the sentiments of the governments at London, Paris, and Washington have been unanimous. I have respectfully suggested the desirableness of our ministers at the two former courts being authorized to confer with their secretaries for foreign affairs upon our mutual interests in the east; and I still attach importance to the subject.*

In thus addressing you my motive has been the public good, ignorant of whom it may be your pleasure to intrust with the high responsibilities and arduous duties of commissioner to China. Should it be the pleasure of the President still to confide this mission to my care, whatever of experience and ability I may possess will be faithfully devoted to its duties. Should it be decided that the national interests will best be consulted by the appointment of another to the duties of the office, or from whatever consideration a successor shall

be selected, I shall, with great cheerfulness, deliver over the seal of office on his arrival.

With sentiments of profound respect,

PETER PARKER.

JAMES BUCHANAN,

*President elect of the United States of America.*

---

[Confidential.]

No. 6.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, March 10, 1857.*

SIR: Reference has been made to Formosa in my despatch No. 34 of the 12th of December, and No. 5 of the 12th of February last. I have now the honor herewith to transmit to the department an important communication (exhibit 3) bearing upon the same subject, from W. M. Robinet, esq., a Peruvian by birth, and formerly holding a commission in the Peruvian navy, which he has resigned, notifying that government that he has become a naturalized citizen of the United States. His certificate of naturalization, he informs me, was obtained in San Francisco. Mr. Robinet has been an enterprising merchant in China for a number of years, and appears to be imbued with views truly American. His paper contains very authentic information respecting this beautiful island, such as few men could furnish. It is a most valuable one for its great mineral and agricultural wealth. From the table appended, it appears that the exports of the last year amounted to \$1,654,000, and, under proper management, they may be doubled and quadrupled in a few years. The coal mines seem to be inexhaustible, and are very accessible and of good quality, which, in this age of steam navigation, is a circumstance of special interest.

The position of the island is also one that renders it very desirable in a commercial and political point of view, especially as respects the United States. In the event of the establishment of a line of steamers between California, Japan, and China, this source of supply of coal will be most advantageous. That the island may not long remain a portion of the empire of China is possible; and in the event of its being severed from the empire politically, as it is geographically, that the United States should possess it is obvious, particularly as respects the great principle of balance of power. Great Britain has her St. Helena in the Atlantic, her Gibraltar and Malta in the Mediterranean, her Aden in the Red sea, Mauritius, Ceylon, Penang, and Singapore in the Indian ocean, and Hong Kong in the China seas. If the United States is so disposed, and can *arrange* for the possession of Formosa, England certainly cannot object.

If there ever was a State which has laid herself open to just reprisals it is China, "which has refused to fulfil a perfect obligation which she has contracted" with the United States, "and does not permit them to enjoy rights which they claim" under the solemn stipulations of treaty; and in the event of her persisting in this

course, it seems clear that, by the acknowledged principles of international law, the United States have the right, if they have the inclination, to take Formosa by way of reprisal, "until a satisfactory reparation should be made for the injuries they have sustained."—(See Wheaton, International Law, page 362.)

The governor of Hong Kong and the British admiral on this station have both betrayed their interest in Formosa. The former observed to Mr. Robinet: "In the event of your being *disturbed* in your business there, *I have no doubt Admiral Seymour would send a man-of-war up there to look after affairs,*" &c. I am, however, under less apprehension of the immediate action of the English authorities in this matter than at the date of my note to Commodore Armstrong, on the 24th ultimo. My hope is that the British authorities in China, being sufficiently occupied for the present, will not find it convenient to take any steps in regard to Formosa; and that, in a couple of months at latest, the instructions of the department in relation to the views I had the honor to submit in my despatch of the 12th of December will have been received.

The propositions, first of G. Nye, jr., esq., (despatch No. 5, exhibit G,) and now those of Mr. Robinet, are made in ignorance on their part of any views having been submitted by me in relation to Formosa, and look to its becoming an independent colony, or "an independent and weak government," under the protection, at least, of the United States.

According to the plan suggested for the three powers to adopt "in respect to Formosa, Chusan, and Corea," (despatch No. 34,) the opening of the former, to free and unrestricted commercial intercourse, will follow under any satisfactory solution of the difficulties, and those will profit most who were first in the field.

Explanatory of my views expressed in the memoranda of interview with Commodore Armstrong on the 27th ultimo, (enclosure 2,) I wish to state that I am aware that, under the law of nations, ordinarily, in making reprisals, the State "delivers (special) commissions to its officers and subjects," (see Wheaton, page 362;) and had our naval force been adequate, and I had resolved to act at once, it had been under a somewhat forced construction of my "full powers" to revise the treaty and adjust all claims and grievances; and the act would have been conditioned *pending reference to the government at Washington* for confirmation, or to be ignored if it should suit the pleasure of government to do so, relying upon the disinterestedness, patriotism, and justice of my motive for the vindication of my course to my own conscience.

I believe Formosa and the world will be better for the former coming under a civilized power. Cannibalism and savage massacres of the unfortunate shipwrecked citizens and subjects of Christian nations will then be terminated, and the whole island become what its name implies, in more senses than one, *beautiful*, physically and morally.

Right or wrong, what I have done and all I have proposed in relation to Formosa, I faithfully record and transmit to the department, and beg respectfully to submit the same for the consideration of the

President and the decision of the government, requesting thereon early and specific instructions.

With sentiments of distinguished consideration, I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

The SECRETARY OF STATE, *Washington.*

Despatch No. 6.—Exhibit 1.—March 10, 1857.

[Private.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, February 24, 1857.*

MY DEAR COMMODORE ARMSTRONG: I am most desirous of seeing you upon a subject of much interest at the present moment. My attention has been formally called to Formosa, and information of a reliable and important character has been communicated to this legation.

I have unquestionable evidence that this very valuable island, rich in mineral and agricultural wealth, is attracting the serious attention of other powers. Referring to propositions I had the honor of submitting for your consideration in November last, in our confidential interviews on board the flag-ship, and in view of facts that are unexpectedly developing in relation to Formosa, and the present relations of the governments of the United States and China, I have to express my earnest desire that you will, at the earliest moment practicable and *convenient*, favor me with a visit, when I shall be happy to confer with you upon this subject of great delicacy, and, it may be, of vast importance to the United States in particular, and to western nations generally.

I am not without reason to fear that if anything is to be done by the United States it must be done quickly, or the opportunity may be lost.

With great deference, permit me to suggest that, if practicable, to comply with my request, the postponement of the despatch of the "Levant" to Manila till we can meet and confer together may be important.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

Commodore J. ARMSTRONG,  
*Commander-in-chief, &c., &c., Hong Kong.*

Despatch No. 6.—Exhibit 2.—March 10, 1857.

[Confidential.]

*Memoranda.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, February 27, 1857.*

In compliance with my request of the 24th instant, Commodore Armstrong has lost no time in repairing to Macao, and the subject of Formosa has been confidentially considered.

The proposition alluded to in my note of the 24th as having been submitted by me on board the flag-ship in November last was the expediency and legitimacy, under given circumstances, of hoisting the flag of the United States on the island of Formosa, by way of reprisal for claims upon the government of China.

We are unanimous in the following views: 1. That the measure would be justified by the acknowledged principles of international law. 2. That the claims and grievances now pending with the Chinese government amply justify reprisals. 3. That Formosa is a most desirable island, and would be particularly valuable to the United States. 4. That it is *impracticable*, with the present naval force, to execute the measure, and be able to protect the citizens and interests of the United States at the Five Ports, should the Chinese government, in consequence of the adoption of such a measure, see fit to initiate hostilities towards them. In any other country than China the measure would be regarded as a virtual dissolution of avowed amicable relations.

Having read to him the portion of my despatch No. 34, of December 12, marked *confidential*, Commodore Armstrong conceived that I had done my whole duty in relation to Formosa; and if it shall unfortunately pass into other hands, the fault will not be mine, but referable rather to the inadequacy of the naval force in China for the emergency.

The Commodore returned with the flag-ship to Hong-Kong on the 28th February.

Faithful minute of the result of the interview.

PETER PARKER.

---

Despatch No. 6.—Exhibit 3.—March 10, 1857.

[Private.]

HONG KONG, March 2, 1857.

SIR: In conformity with my promise to give you the information I possess as to the island of Formosa, its present prospects and its probable future development, I beg to say: In March, 1855, I determined to send a vessel over to Formosa for the purpose of ascertaining what could be done there in the way of trade, and, guided by the information obtained from the reports of different visitors to Takow, or Ape's Hill, I chartered the American barque "Louisiana," Captain Crosby, and sent her there with funds and a Chinese supercargo, and obtained a cargo of rice and several samples of produce, with much valuable information. Immediately after the arrival of the "Louisiana" I despatched the barque "Santiago," which also obtained a cargo. The success of these two voyages becoming known on her return, the attention of several parties was attracted thither, and some contemplated permanent establishments at once, amongst whom Messrs. Nye, Brothers & Co., and Messrs. Williams, Anthon & Co., wished to send some ves-

sels over. Rather than create an opposition, we made arrangements to carry on the business on joint account, and at once bought the American barque "Science," which we despatched well armed and manned, to remain as a store-ship at the place found most suitable for a depot. This vessel was commanded by George A. Potter. At the same time the barque "Isabelita Hyne," ship "Architect," and schooner "Frolic," were sent over with funds to the amount of eighty thousand dollars; provided also with presents of considerable value for the authorities there to secure their good will, and our agents had instructions to obtain permission to carry on a regular trade, and all needed facilities. As it was important to get the business settled at once, and on the most advantageous footing, and to acquire the necessary information, Mr. C. D. Williams went over to visit the different ports, select the proper place for our establishment, and enter into some agreement with the authorities. He reached Takow in the brig "Clarita," and went thence to Cok-si-Kong, the port of Taiwan, which is the capital of the island and residence of the prefect, or highest authority. He had with him several Chinese attendants and interpreters, and carried presents for the prefect and other officials at the ports he should visit. After visiting Taiwan and seeing the authorities there, he took passage in the "Frolic," she being better fitted for going into all the ports, and went to Chun-Kong, Han-si-Kong, Tam-shui, and Kilung, and thence back to Cok-si-Kong, Taiwan, and Takow. On his voyage and travels overland he was much pleased with the fertility of the country, extent of level ground, and variety of the productions; but, contrary to general report, he observed that the country was rather thinly peopled, and that the inhabitants were disinclined to work beyond what was necessary to supply their limited wants. With the assistance of his interpreter, Mr. Williams entered into an agreement for the monopoly of all the camphor produced, taking it at a fixed rate. He also obtained the privilege of trading in the island and forming an establishment at Takow. This port was considered the most desirable, on account of its proximity to the rice and sugar districts.

In consideration of this permission, it was agreed that our vessels should pay one hundred dollars each voyage for tonnage dues; that we should protect Takow against pirates, and that, when necessary, we should furnish the authorities there with a ship to pursue the pirates, to be under their orders and carry their flag during the time so employed. These stipulations we have faithfully performed up to this time. Immediately after these arrangements had been made, Mr. Williams returned to Hong Kong, and we decided to commence permanent investments and improvements. Captain Potter having resigned his post, we sent Captain M. Rooney in his place. He at once began to fill up a small channel, which diverted much of the water off the bar, and also to bridge up the bar; he erected a telegraph at the entrance to guide ships by day or night, and commenced a granite storehouse capable of containing 1,000 tons, two houses and a wharf from which vessels could load. All these investments cost us over \$45,000, and have only recently been completed. A



light is kept by night at the telegraph, and the American flag flies in the day.

The agreements we have made in respect to carrying on trade have been broken by the Chinese contractors; the contract to supply camphor has wholly fallen through, so that we have lost much money by sending vessels over to receive it; the contractors having sold it to other parties who have offered higher prices for it, our ships have returned empty. Whenever produce rises in price, the contractors refuse to deliver it, and the rulers have not made them fulfill their engagements, though this conduct has been complained of, and they have promised to do us justice. Latterly we have been obliged to threaten them with forcible measures if they did not act faithfully; and matters have since gone on more satisfactorily. Whenever the highest officer there came on board the "Science," he was saluted with three guns; but, latterly, the captain has refused to give them this honor. In their letters, the officials style him "Elder Brother." At present we are pretty much independent of the authorities in our settlement, and the captain of the "Science" receives every mark of deference from both the rulers and people.

Messrs. Williams, Anthon & Co., and Nye Brothers & Co., having disposed of their interest to my firm, and Captain Rooney having left the station on account of ill health, Captain Hardy has been placed in charge under the advice of Mr. T. Lambarri.

Since the opening of this trade we have loaded 78 vessels in Formosa, whose united cargoes amounted in cost to more than \$400,000. I beg to refer to the accompanying statement as to the kinds of produce the island affords, the value of goods &c. We hear, on the best authority, that gold, silver, and copper mines exist, and also quicksilver.

Hearing that produce could be had at some other ports of the island, which our vessels could not enter on account of shallow water, we built a centre-board schooner of 80 tons at Whampoa, and sent her over; she is called the "Pearl," and draws three feet when loaded. She has visited the port of Sin-Kong, where the bar has 8 feet, Ping-lien, Lienkong, and two other small places, none of them having over ten feet at their entrances. She also went to a place in the southeast end of Formosa, where we heard of the loss of an American ship. A spy-glass and some other articles were reported, and I have given orders to use all possible means to obtain further information, and procure any articles from the ship, as well as to ascertain what is known about other losses. As yet, no result has followed.

The port of Takow has twelve feet water at all times; those of Cok-si-Kong and Tam-shui have 16 to 17 feet, and Chun-Kong has 20 feet, while Kilung harbor admits vessels of any size. Vessels drawing 13 feet water can enter Hansi-Kong and Tai-si-Kong; and those of all sizes can lie with safety one mile from the inner harbor of Takow, nor is the communication difficult with vessels.

The group of the Pescadore Islands lies about thirty miles west of Formosa, and presents as fine a harbor as exists, capable of holding a large fleet; the tide rises and falls 15 feet, and the winds are fair to

go to and from Formosa. These islands maintain a small fishing population from whom no opposition would be encountered.

The principal walled towns are Taiwan, Tamshui, Kilung and Peitin, the first being the capital. Their walls are in bad condition, and their guns unfit for service; 250 men well armed could take the island and hold it. Nearly all the Chinese settlements are approachable by small steamers, and none of them are well defended. The authorities have very little control even over the Chinese people; villages and towns are constantly fighting with each other. The troops are generally better armed than in China on the mainland, but are under no discipline. A government which would take control of the island and govern its inhabitants fairly, which would not meddle with their property and rights and habits, would be better liked and respected than the present. The rulers of Formosa are men of the lowest class, unprincipled and uneducated, and only think how to extort money from the honest laborer or trader.

The population of Formosa is divided into four classes, viz: the Chinese, who inhabit the western side of the island; the aborigines, who occupy the eastern and central parts; a small race of cannibals holding a spot on the southeast end; and the Kalis, who reside at the southern point and a little east and west of it. These are all constantly at war with each other. The Kalis are a mixed race of aborigines, Chinese, Javanese, and Manila-men. A man named Bunching, who had married the daughter of one of the chiefs, has applied to the Captain of the "Science" to assist his tribe in driving the Chinese from the island. On one occasion the mate and second mate of the brig "Progressive Age," while shooting a short distance from Takow, were attacked, and wounded one man in defending themselves. The mandarins had them arrested, and we had to pay \$650 to get them released.

If you will only consider that the island of Formosa is a most fertile place, full of mineral wealth, having large tracts of level ground well watered, inhabited by a comparatively small native population, furnished with an excellent climate and soil that produces whatever is found either in the Philippines or on the adjacent coasts of China, with a consuming market very near to take it, a position like a half-way-house for steamers to the north and to California, where excellent coal can easily be obtained; and also consider further, what is of the greatest importance to develop the resources of a country, that *labor* is to be obtained to any extent from the neighboring province of Fuh-Kien at one day's sail, and at a cheaper rate than any other place in the world, and you will doubtless perceive that there never was a more promising field to reward enterprise, to colonize, and develop Christianity and civilization. It also appear to me, too, that, as a whaling station, no better place than Formosa can be found; and, with the great rise and fall in the tide, docks could be built on the Pescadores where vessels could be repaired at small expense. Provisions can be obtained there at 25 to 30 per cent. cheaper than at any other place; ship-chandlery of all kinds can also be brought from ports in China, or by setting up establishments in the island, where the whalers can

be supplied, their bills taken and the desertion of their men prevented, and no inducement to spend their money in expensive China goods.

The coining of dollars would produce quite a revenue, too, it is clear, both from the present want of specie in Manila and China, shown by the high premium they command, and the fact that neither the Chinese, British, nor Spanish governments wish to establish mints. It is a curious fact that dollars are now coined in Formosa by the Chinese, which are worth intrinsically eighty cents; they are well made, of the common shape, and I believe are the only coin of silver made in China under authority.

Since it is generally said that it is against the views of the United States to have settlements or colonies far from their own borders, it therefore might not be desirable for the government to take measures to acquire the control of the island, yet it would advance the cause of humanity, religion, and civilization, if they would guaranty protection to Americans who should erect an independent government there. This would secure our wrecked seamen from murder, furnish the world with the produce of the island, and civilize and christianize a people over whom the Chinese only exercise jurisdiction to oppress and gradually destroy.

As a political measure, it seems to me that such a plan would not meet the disapproval of European powers. China has very little control at present over the island, and it would be highly advantageous to England, France, and Russia, to have an independent but weak government in this part of the world, unconnected with European politics, in whose ports their vessels could recruit and seek protection in the event of a sudden declaration of war.

In submitting these views, I beg you will excuse my inability in writing English correctly, and that I can furnish no more information; and trusting that, at no distant date, we may see the island of Formosa placed in a position to develop the resources she so abundantly possesses, I remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. M. ROBINET.

His Excellency PETER PARKER,

*Commissioner of the United States, &c., &c., &c.*



The mines of copper are worked in a small way. Gold and cinna-bar have been obtained from the aborigines, but only as specimens. Tea is produced for the consumption of the islanders; some oolongs have been obtained of a superior quality. Camphor-wood and other kinds of timber, pigs, goats, cattle, poultry, vegetables and fruits of China, can all be procured to almost any extent. The island is thinly peopled, and the wants of its inhabitants are few; they do not work to overtask themselves, and their rulers discourage trade.

NOTE.—In copying this a few verbal and grammatical alterations have been made from the original to render the phraseology more idiomatic and clear.

S. WELLS WILLIAMS,  
*Secretary of Legation.*

MACAO, *March 7, 1857.*

---

MACAO, *March 7, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt of your elaborate and important private communication of the 2d instant, in relation to the island of Formosa, its present exports and its future development.

In many points of view the document is one of great interest, and, *confidentially*, will be transmitted by the next mail to the Secretary of State, at Washington. You will confer an additional favor by informing me from whom the grant of "privileges" was obtained; and still more, if practicable, by furnishing me a copy of the contract or agreement. Was it from the authorities of the island?

I remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

W. M. ROBINET, Esq., *Hong Kong.*

---

Despatch No. 6.—Exhibit 5.—March 10, 1857.

[Private.]

HONG KONG, *March 10, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, and thank you for its contents. I beg to reply, in reference to your inquiry, that the agreement to carry on trade at Formosa was entered into by our agent with the governor of Formosa, and I beg to enclose a rough extract, translated from the original, which is at Takow.

By the American ship "Carbon" we have received a Chinese chart of the island, which I forward you, and you can retain the same if you consider it desirable.

I have the honor to remain your obedient servant,

W. M. ROBINET.

His Excellency Dr. P. PARKER,  
*&c., &c., &c., Macao.*

Ex. Doc. 22—77

Copy of rough translation sent by the Captain of the "Science."

*Agreement entered into with the Taoutae, or Intendant of Circuit in Formosa, about carrying on trade in the island.*

The taoutae grants the privilege of trading at Formosa to the owners of the ship "Science" on the following conditions:

The owners of the "Science" agree to protect the port of Takow against pirates with their ships; and whenever required by the intendant, or any other high officer, they will furnish a vessel to pursue pirates, which vessel, for the time being, will be under charge of a Chinese officer and carry his flag. They further agree to pay fifty dollars charges for each mast of every ship that loads for their account. The captain of the "Science" is to afford every facility and assistance to the authorities if it does not compromise his nationality.

The intendant, on his part, agrees to give the captain of the "Science," for the lawful trade to be carried on, every protection, and to see that the Chinese merchants faithfully fulfil their contracts; and particularly the camphor monopoly entered into with the Chinese contractors. He also grants the captain the privilege of building godowns to store goods, and permits him to place lights at the entrance of the port on a flag-staff erected for such a purpose, and station buoys on the bar. He will take measures that the property of every kind be respected. Every hindrance is to be placed in the way of all other vessels attempting to trade in Formosa.

It is also understood that whenever there shall be a bad crop of rice, and this grain become scarce, that the intendant's prohibition to export it shall be respected by the captain of the "Science," but he shall be permitted to export all the rice which has already been contracted for within a month of the prohibition.

It is further agreed that the captain of the "Science" shall see that the crew of his ships, and also of other vessels coming to Formosa, shall not attempt to plunder or annoy the people, and shall be severely punished whenever they are found to do so.

Signed at Taiwan, June 27, 1855.

INTENDANT OF FORMOSA. [L. S.]  
GEORGE A. POTTER. [L. S.]

No. 7.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Manila, March 12, 1857.

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt by the last mail of the President's message to the two Houses of Congress, December 2, 1856; also copy of the act to regulate the diplomatic and consular systems of the United States; and, by the previous mail, a copy of consular fees. The Statutes at Large for 1855 and 1856, the published correspondence relative to the slave and coolie trade, May 19 and August 5, 1856,

No. 10.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, March 26, 1857.*

SIR: I avail myself of the bi-monthly mail to transmit you further correspondence, which has been unexpectedly precipitated upon me, in relation to the subject of despatch No. 6, of the 10th instant.

In that despatch I expressed the hope that the British authorities in China, being sufficiently occupied for the present, would not find it convenient to take any steps in regard to Formosa. But a private note from W. M. Robinet, esq., of the 21st instant, (exhibit 1,) evinced that hope to be illusive. On the preceding day Rear Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, accompanied by his flag-captain and private secretary, waited on Mr. Robinet and addressed to him inquiries, and made an observation in relation to Formosa, in my judgment, of unmistakable significance—especially when considered in connexion with the fact that Sir John Bowring had previously sent for Mr. Robinet and questioned him upon the same subject—and had volunteered the opinion that the British admiral would “send hither a vessel-of-war to look after affairs,” (despatch No. 6.) This was the authority to my mind reliable that high officers of her Britannic Majesty’s government are directing serious attention to Formosa, and is my justification for the *protest* I have deemed it to be my duty to *record*, (exhibit No. 3.)

The reply of Sir John Bowring is guardedly expressed, but is quite as satisfactory as I had reason to expect, and establishes to my mind the wisdom and seasonableness of my protest; and the concluding assurance of Sir John that he “sees, without jealousy or annoyance, the extension of American commerce in these regions, and will cordially support me in the attempts to give it the strength and security of *legality*,” encourages the impression that if, in the progress of events, the United States shall lawfully acquire possession of Formosa, the British government will not object.

In what I have done in this matter I have been influenced by a high sense of public duty. I have not committed the United States government, which is free to entertain or reject the suggestion, respectfully submitted, as its wisdom shall determine.

My reply to Sir John Bowring’s “distinct proposition, that for the settlement of the local question Canton shall be taken and held, under joint military occupation, by the forces of France, the United States and Great Britain,” will be, that I am *not* “in a condition” to entertain it.

With sentiments of high consideration, I have the honor to remain,  
sir, your most obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF STATE  
*of the United States, Washington.*

Despatch No. 10.—Exhibit 1.—March 26, 1857.

HONG KONG, *March 21, 1857.*

MY DEAR SIR: I thank you for your note and your official reply, which came to hand in due time. The American brig "Progressive Age" has arrived from Formosa, at which place all was going on very satisfactorily.

The object of this is to inform you that yesterday, 3 p. m., the British admiral, Captain W. K. Hall, of the "Calcutta," and Lieutenant Feruler, the admiral's aid, called upon me for the purpose of asking me to furnish them with all the information I might possess about the island of Formosa, such as charts of the ports, the resources and products, &c., &c. I replied that our trade was limited to Ape's Hill, of which I showed him a chart; that I knew nothing positive about the loss of any ships; and that I knew but little concerning the resources of the island, except that it largely produced rice, sugar, and some other articles in which we traded.

While talking, Admiral Seymour turned to Captain Hall and said: "This island ought not to be allowed to exist in the hands of such a people, which cannot control even the cannibals of the eastern part, who murder our wrecked seamen." He then asked me if I had any objection to allow a British officer to go over and reside in our place for a short time to gather information. I replied that I must think over the matter; whereupon he asked me not to say a word to any one upon the matter.

In the afternoon I called and reported what I have now stated of the interview to Commodore Armstrong, who told me it was a pity that he could do nothing for the present, and asked me to go over and see you, or write to you what had taken place, which I have accordingly now done. I will also thank you to say if I am to refuse to take the British officer over to the island; or shall I grant what the admiral may wish me to do relating to this matter?

I would go to Macao to speak with you, but I cannot do it just now, having a good deal to do.

I remain, dear sir, yours, truly,

W. M. ROBINET.

His Excellency Dr. PETER PARKER, *Macao.*

---

Despatch No. 10.—Exhibit 2.—March 26, 1857.LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, March 21, 1857.*

SIR: Your important private communication of this date is at hand, and is receiving my prompt and serious attention.

At an early date you may expect to hear from me upon the subject of that letter; and, in the meantime, I have to suggest that you



exercise your utmost discretion and maintain due reserve in replying to any inquiries that may be addressed to you upon the subject.

I remain, sir, faithfully yours,

PETER PARKER.

W. M. ROBINET, Esq., *Hong Kong*.

---

Despatch No. 10.—Exhibit 3.—March 26, 1857.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, March 21, 1857.*

SIR: Permit me, in the frank and friendly spirit which should ever animate us in the consideration of all matters affecting the interests of the governments which we have the honor to represent in China, to address your excellency upon a subject of grave moment to Great Britain, the United States, and China, and, in a word, to the world.

I learn, upon authority which is entirely reliable, that high officers of her Britannic Majesty's government are directing serious attention to the island of Formosa, notwithstanding the assurances of your excellency that the policy of her Majesty's government does not contemplate the acquisition of any exclusive rights or privileges in China. With all the respect and courtesy that becomes the parties interested, and with all the distinctness and emphasis the subject demands, I hereby, in behalf of the government of the United States, solemnly *protest* against the violation of that policy, as above defined by your excellency, by taking possession of the island of Formosa, or assuming control over it, or any part thereof, in the name or in behalf of her Majesty's government.

In the event of the island of Formosa being severed politically from the empire of China, I trust to be able to substantiate a priority of claim to it on the part of the United States; first, by contracts already entered into with the imperial authorities of the island by citizens of the United States; and, secondly, by their actual settlement upon it with the consent of the Chinese, over which the United States flag has been hoisted for more than one year; not now to speak of considerations that apply to our respective governments *equally*, and others of a political character. I embrace this opportunity, however, to acquaint your excellency that it is my full conviction that the government of the United States is disposed to adopt the same policy in China as is represented by your excellency to be that of Great Britain. But the progress of events in China, and the character of those events the past few months, has forced upon my mind the conviction that extreme measures may become inevitable on the part of the three treaty powers; and a mode of just and honorable solution of all their difficulties, and one amply sustained by the acknowledged principles of international law, has been conceived and confidentially communicated to the government at Washington, which being there approved, then to be submitted in due form to the governments at London and Paris, and the result thereof to be trans-

mitted to the representatives of each of the said powers in China. That this be the order and manner in which the propositions should first reach your excellency, and the envoy of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of France, is still my choice; and I am prepared to enter into a mutual engagement that no step on the part of either of the three powers shall be taken in the matter till the pleasure of their respective governments shall be received. Yet, under the force of imperious circumstances, I am willing to meet your excellencies, and at once to explain the propositions I have respectfully submitted, and which I trust may meet with the acceptance of the treaty powers and the approbation of the civilized world.

With sentiments of the most distinguished consideration, I have the honor to be, sir, your excellency's most obedient servant,

PETER PARKER,

*Commissioner and Minister Plenipotentiary of the  
United States of America to China.*

His Excellency Sir JOHN BOWRING, LL. D.,

*Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, &c., &c.,  
Hong Kong.*

Despatch No. 10.—Exhibit 4.—March 26, 1857.

No. 90.]

SUPERINTENDENCY OF TRADE,

*Hong Kong, March 24, 1857.*

SIR: I have only this moment received your excellency's despatch, dated 21st instant, informing me that "on authority which is entirely reliable" your excellency has learned "that high officers of her Britannic Majesty's government are directing serious attention to the island of Formosa;" and your excellency, "with all the distinctness and emphasis which the subject demands, protests against the violation of a policy which I have always represented," namely, that Great Britain does not "contemplate the acquisition of any exclusive rights or privileges in China," which policy would "be violated by taking possession of the island of Formosa, or assuming control over it, or any part thereof, in the name or on behalf of her Majesty's government."

I beg to assure your excellency that, as far as my knowledge or information goes, the authority which has communicated to you the intentions of her Majesty's government is in no respect reliable. Your excellency is well aware that I have at all times sought, and still most earnestly seek, to bring about a cordial co-operation and united action between the treaty powers as regards their common interests in China; and I am now in a condition to make to your excellency a distinct proposition: that, for the settlement of the local question, Canton shall be taken and held under the joint military occupation of the forces of France, the United States, and Great Britain. I have already, in an unofficial and friendly communication to his excellency M. de Bourboulon, stated that I should be ready to

enter into a convention for the common holding of the provincial city of Canton, with a view to the successful arrangement of the local question. Moreover, I am most willing to entertain any suggestions by which an end may be put to mutual jealousies, giving all the evidence in my power of the honest purpose and open policy of her Majesty's government.

I do not think it by any means necessary or opportune to enter upon the question as to the priority of claims on the part of the United States should the island of Formosa be severed politically from the empire of China. I hear for the first time, officially, that the United States flag has been hoisted for more than a year in that island, and that contracts have been entered into with the imperial authorities there by citizens of the United States. I assure your excellency I see without jealousy or annoyance the extension of American commerce in these regions, and will cordially support your excellency in the attempts to give it the strength and security of legality.

I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient humble servant,

JOHN BOWRING

His Excellency Dr. PETER PARKER,

*United States Commissioner to China, &c., &c., &c., Macao.*

True copy.

S. W. WILLIAMS.

---

Exhibit 5.—Despatch No. 10.—March 26, 1857.

UNITED STATES FLAG-SHIP "SAN JACINTO,"

*Hong Kong, March 23, 1857.*

SIR: I believe it is known to you that, by the consent of the legitimate Chinese authorities, an enterprising citizen of the United States has for a long time carried on important commercial relations with the island of Formosa, and maintained settlements there under the protection of the flag of the United States.

It has also been reported that there is reason to believe that the crew of an American ship has been murdered, or is in imprisonment upon the island. If, in your official capacity, you wish to make inquiry into the circumstances of the reported outrage upon the vessel, I will detail an officer of this squadron for the purpose, with instructions to keep his headquarters and flag at the premises of our countrymen, provided such an arrangement meets your approval and sanction. Such a step may be necessary to legitimate a prior American foothold in case our government should look to future reprisals and occupancy.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES ARMSTRONG,

*Com'g United States naval forces, East India and China seas.*

His Excellency PETER PARKER,

*United States Commissioner to China, &c., &c., Macao.*

True copy.

S. WELLS WILLIAMS.

Exhibit 6.—Despatch No. 10.—March 26, 1857.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Macao, March 24, 1857.*

SIR: I have the honor to be in receipt of your communication of the 23d instant, and in reply have to state that I am aware of the facts to which you call my attention. It has also come to my knowledge that high officers of her Britannic Majesty's government are directing their attention to the island of Formosa, and that inquiries and observations, unmistakable as to their design, have been made respecting it. Under these and other circumstances, I have deemed it to be my duty to address her Britannic Majesty's plenipotentiary upon the subject, protesting against the British Government taking possession or assuming control over the island. A copy of which is herewith enclosed.

In reference to the report of American vessels having been wrecked upon the island of Formosa, and the apprehension that our fellow-countrymen who have escaped massacre are now held in servitude, I need not say that it has long been a subject of painful interest, and one that has not received the attention it deserves. Your proposition to detail an officer of your squadron for the purpose of prosecuting inquiries upon which future action may be based, therefore, meets my fullest approval; and in the event of your deciding so to do, I shall be happy to furnish a copy of the report of an agent sent on a similar errand a few years since.

I conceive that the settlement of our countrymen at Ta-kow will afford the best facilities for making the investigation; and the fact of this officer there holding his headquarters and flag, may have an important bearing on the future.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
PETER PARKER.

*Commissioner of the United States of America to China.*  
Commander JAMES ARMSTRONG,  
*Commander-in-chief of the United States naval forces, &c., &c.*

---

Exhibit 7.—Despatch No. 10.—March 26, 1857.

MACAO, *March 25, 1857.*

MY DEAR SIR: I have only time by this opportunity to write you briefly.

I have this day received from Sir John Bowring a reply to my communication of the 21st instant, of which you have a copy. His excellency concludes with the assurance that he "sees without jealousy or annoyance the extension of American commerce in this region, and will cordially support me in the attempts to give it the strength and security of *legality*." The reply establishes, to my mind, the wisdom and seasonableness of my despatch.

After the mail has left, if not before, I shall be happy to forward you a copy of his excellency's communication.

In strict confidence please to acquaint Mr. R. with the contents of this note.

I remain dear, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PETER PARKER.

Commodore JAMES ARMSTRONG, &c., &c., &c.

---

Exhibit 8.—Despatch No. 10.—March 26, 1857.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

Macao, March 27, 1857.

SIR: On the 25th instant I received your excellency's despatch of the 24th, replying to a communication of the 21st instant, which, under circumstances explained, I deem it to be my duty to address your excellency.

This I did in the discharge of the duties, and in the exercise of the general discretion appertaining to my office, but in the absence of any instructions whatever from my government upon the subject thereof.

In your excellency's reply I discover fresh evidence of the *entente cordiale* on the part of her Majesty's government towards that of the United States, which it is my desire to reciprocate and perpetuate.

In that communication I am informed that your excellency "is now in a condition to make me a distinct proposition—that, for the settlement of the local question, Canton shall be taken and held under the joint military occupation of the forces of France, the United States, and Great Britain. That your excellency has already, in an unofficial and friendly communication to his excellency M. de Bourboulon, stated that your excellency would be ready to enter into a convention for the common holding of the provincial city of Canton, with a view to the successful arrangement of the local question."

In relation to the high importance and desirableness of maintaining "concurrent, yet independent action, on the part of the treaty powers, as regards their common interests in China," my sentiments have undergone no change, but I am not in a condition to entertain your excellency's proposition for the joint military occupation of Canton for the settlement of the local question. Our positions differ widely. Your excellency, it is presumed, is in possession of the sentiments of her Majesty's government regarding that question; and a considerable naval and military force is already at your excellency's disposal, with the prospect of its immediate augmentation; whereas I have yet to receive the first intimation of the light in which the government of the United States regards the State of affairs at Canton since October last. The progress of events I have faithfully and promptly communicated to Washington, and have asked for early and specific instructions to guide me, and till they are received, I could not be justified, had I the means, in entertaining the proposition your excellency has done me the honor to make.