

# *Loochoo (Ryukyu)*

## COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION

*Compact signed at Naha July 11, 1854*

*Entered into force July 11, 1854*

*Senate advice and consent to ratification March 3, 1855*

*Ratified by the President of the United States March 9, 1855*

*Proclaimed by the President of the United States March 9, 1855*

*Obligations assumed by Japan November 5, 1872*<sup>1</sup>

10 Stat. 1101; Treaty Series 194<sup>2</sup>

Hereafter, whenever Citizens of the United States come to Lew Chew, they shall be treated with great courtesy and friendship. Whatever Articles these people ask for, whether from the officers or people, which the Country can furnish, shall be sold to them; nor shall the authorities interpose any prohibitory regulations to the people selling, and whatever either party may wish to buy shall be exchanged at reasonable prices.

Whenever Ships of the United States shall come into any harbor in Lew Chew, they shall be supplied with Wood and Water, at reasonable prices, but if they wish to get other articles, they shall be purchaseable only at Napa.

If Ships of the United States are wrecked on Great Lew Chew or on Islands under the jurisdiction of the Royal Government of Lew Chew, the local authorities shall dispatch persons to assist in saving life and property,

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<sup>1</sup> In 1872 the Government of Japan asserted sovereignty over Loochoo and, by note of Nov. 5, 1872, declared that as Loochoo was "an integral portion of the Japanese Empire it is natural that the provisions of a compact entered into between the Lew Chew and the United States on the 11th of July, 1854, will be observed by this government" (1873 For. Rel. (I) 555); "this course was acquiesced in by the United States; . . . the question of continued existence of special obligations of Japan under the Loochoo compact must be considered in the light of the treaty of November 22, 1894, between the United States and Japan [*ante*, p. 387]; in that treaty the Loochoo compact is not mentioned *eo nomine*; but the treaty of 1894, which came fully into force on July 17, 1899, was a revision of treaties 'hitherto existing', upon the basis of 'principles of equity and mutual benefit', and was of general applicability to territories of the contracting parties." (6 Miller 784, 786)

<sup>2</sup> For a detailed study of this compact, see 6 Miller 743.