

June 1854
Sheet 525

15. In the afternoon the Captain sent out a long letter for translation, long because instead of confining himself to business he ran off into preaching somewhat like a political sermon. However as I had the idea - in fact it is not yet given up - of once more embarking before I leave the Looshoan mandarin in a Frank written into a volubrious letter. I thought Capt. Jackson's letter may be included at least as part of it, & I did not grudge he work its translation may require. Still I had to take the letter on board to clear up some ambiguities &c. which with copying took me several hours in the ship, ^{and} coming down all the while in floods, so that I could not return before evening. The whole job thus was to be done in the night & the following morning.

17. Merri fully had had some Louis' sleep. The translation, clean copy & all, was ready before eleven o'clock a.m. when I took it on board after some delay caused by our flagstaff pulley being spoiled, so that we could not hoist a flag, our only certain sign for a boat, except on a bamboo stick.

Here is the letter:

H. I. Shoreship Lexington
Napa Roads June 17th 1854.

To His Excellency
The Regent of Loosho.

Sir
Your letter in reply to mine of the 13th instant was delivered to me on the 14th by the mayor of Napa. In this letter you say:

"I immediately appointed mandarins to inquire into the matter, & they state:

"Three American sailors walking through Napa entered people's houses searching for liquor, & having drunk beyond measure became intoxicated, & stumbled about every where, jumping over walls, breaking in doors, entering people's houses & frightening old & young. Two of them then lay down drunk in the market, while the third still staggered to & fro till he was lost sight of. A little while after some native sailors in a boat, passing along near

... by some heavy instrument previous to his immersion in the water.
On the case of the other two sailors, who belong to the coal
Despatch, & which case you mix up with that of Deceased, I have
to inform you that one of them was severely beaten, bruised
& cut, about the time of the murder, by a mob of Loochoo-
an ruffians.
The Loochoo authorities, no doubt, have power
to suppress all violence against foreigners, why not over-
see it on behalf of lonely strangers at a time when humani-
ty demanded the weak should be protected against the strong?
The subject is extremely painful to me to dwell
upon, but it imperatively demands me to discharge my
duty, however unpleasant the case may be to your Excel-
lency. The crime of which some of your people, it is
believed, have been guilty in the murder of the sailor
Board, characterizes them as a disgrace to this enlight-
ened age of civilization. How can you exist as an in-
dependent body politic if you contravene the right
of hospitality & protection to strangers, who come to
your shore for the common benefit of man in the
extension of Commerce. The inhabitants of Loochoo
have been supposed to possess all the elements of a
highly refined & polite people. But how different
do their acts in life now appear! Your country, by
its convenient geographical location as a stopping
place, invites the stranger to it in the pursuit of
lawful business or on a peaceful mission. You
should be happy to see him come. Nature gives you
a delightful climate, clothes your beautiful land with
a luxuriant vegetation it kindly favours you ~~in~~ ~~the~~

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...in the course of the year, with an abundance of food
& the comforts of life. Strangers, therefore, coming to Cochin
from a far country, & having before them great oceans to tra-
verse, by storm of weather or for the want of provisions &
water, or on a peaceful mission for the common benefit of the
world, should have the generous cooperation & protection, but
never the hatred of your people.

But the determined opposition of some of your
people to cultivate terms of peace & amity with us by
maltreating at different times the officers, Mr. Bisbourn,
and several sailors placed on shore with a party in
charge of the coal depot by Commodore Perry, to whom
the authorities had pledged their protection to them, &
by murdering, recently, the young sailor, Board, of
his vessel, leaves me no alternative but to demand
of you to deliver into my hands, for the action of
the Commodore, all those of your people who were prin-
cipals in that atrocious murder.

Let your Excellency consider well the subject
& seriously weigh the responsibility that may await you
should you fail to comply with this reasonable demand.

In conclusion I desire to call your serious
attention to an order which ^{is now in force} you have given to your people,
namely, that when ^{your} ~~at your~~ ^{humble} people meet an American
in the street they must respectfully run aside. This
order is not only unnecessary but has been already
doing us injury. Let all walk along the street without
restriction in our presence. In no civilized country do people
run aside from strangers. Your Excellency must perceive

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...that, were you on a visit to our country, you would not wish
...the people to run aside from you in the street. You
...people can now have confidence in our good intentions under
...you immediately resumed the ridiculous order & allow all classes
...of day please, to interchange with us the common civilities of life.

I am, Sir,

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
John J. Glasson
Lieut. Comm.

This Capt. Glasson calls a downright good American letter. Its value,
...my know, is the preaching part; indeed it peculiarly difficult
...for Chinese translation.

But this afternoon a blessed season in consequence of having
...pursued "Philip Pericles' advice." It is a holy book, &
...I feel grateful to the Christian Knowledge Society by whom it is pub-
...lished. The thought that we should always feel the presence of God if
...we loved him, because we wish them constantly to be with us whom
...we dearly love," convinced me, alas, how ^{more than any thing else} poor my love to God is.
...There is my wife whom I endeavour to forget but cannot succeed to get
...her out of my mind though she be absent, & my God, who always
...holds me in his tender embrace, I have to pray & struggle faintly
...to realize as present, & even then how rarely does the presence of God
...fill me with deep joy, absorbing pleasure & exquisite satisfaction
...I that I could say of my love to God - as David said of Jonathan -
..."giving the love of women!" I have only one third excuse to make for
...the burden of my heart to keep heavenly emotions: want of exercise in
...the chief call of my life, preaching the Gospel, & the harassing foreman
...of my head, mauling for many years, arising from my unfortunate con-
...dition. Oppression maketh a man mad. I fully do with Philip Pericles'
...maxim: "The waters are troubled most by their wants, but the food are best
...instructed by their enjoyments." It is the want of any enjoyments from
...my great hills here, & a constant presence of grief just from these do
...shrink remembrance, which deadens my ^{spiritual} affections. I was more pious when

