









December 15<sup>th</sup> 1844  
to the Hon. Secy. of State  
Washington

Letter LXXXV  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. in relation to the proposed treaty between the United States and the Kingdom of Siam. I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the United States is not prepared to accede to the proposed treaty at this time. The Government of the United States is not prepared to accede to the proposed treaty at this time. The Government of the United States is not prepared to accede to the proposed treaty at this time.

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may be delivered to him as early as possible, as he is only waiting for an order to sail away.

Commander Lyons avails himself of this opportunity to express his hopes that as the London Government has received a request from His Majesty's Government that his subject, St. Bebellem, should be well treated, that the Government of London will therefore grant him the same privileges that a subject of London would enjoy in England, and that Englishmen enjoy in China and other countries, namely permission to buy in the markets and shops, to hire servants and boats and to walk out without being guarded or molested.

Commander Lyons in conclusion desires to express the high consideration he entertains for his Government.  
His Britannic Majesty's Ship "Palmer" Departing 24<sup>th</sup> December 1844  
(For the correct translation of the foregoing letter I am responsible. H. J. Pattinson.)  
Copy

Respectfully addressing you. Today before departing we receive your Excellency's letter in which it is said: "Bebellem & his family should be kindly treated, & be permitted to buy in the markets & shops, to hire servants & boats & walk out without being guarded or molested." We have examined the markets of our poor Country female traders are many, males few; a foreigner is not permitted privately to buy or sell. This is law, and the more so the having the gold and silver currency, our people cannot trade with foreigners. If Bebellem should wish to buy, of course, as before, apply to the appointed purveyors. The humble people of our Country are exclusively occupied on the field, and labour for his livelihood, journeymen are scarce, and no more have we many boats. The ships we have are just sufficient for carrying tribute & other public service. Had Bebellem want (a boat) it will be but right to examine what it will be his own mind. gentle (confidential) the police following Bebellem when he walks in the street are (and) properly intended to restrain the people from incensing the great of sin, making an impediment, & still more to serve (Bebellem) while on his way. But as he is (not) at liberty, the police attend him are already supplied with his wish of such (letter) prepared, we respectfully send as our answer, with compliments & greetings.





To his Grace the Duke of Manchester.  
May it please your Grace  
Your truly Obedt. Servant

Although I was desirous of being personally introduced to your Grace's  
honour before my departure for this, being, as I am told, to be accompanied by  
your Grace being at that time absent in Italy. Yet I take no objection to be  
introduced to your Grace by your Grace's Honour, which your Grace honours with being in Dublin, I may  
be forgiven to think I take in abstracting a few papers to you, trusting the  
extraordinary steps - if such it is - may, unless for, because in testimony in  
being good alike to his mission, if a way can be discovered of carrying it on  
stable, or, in the ordinary case, to the regular practice of trade, as the fall  
of his mission, being at its last stage, cannot fail to increase his exertions  
in mission in general, and that that management is one of the objects  
of support in any similar undertaking, without which time, money & local exertion  
are spent in vain.

I will also state here on the subject that I should be no means have been  
loath to trouble your Grace at all, were it not that the Committee of the Society  
cannot without having the whole time of my stay here - with exception  
of a short "private" note of our despatch in 1818 - forgotten or been otherwise  
presently alike from overlooking the receipt of my communication & answer  
and then to be so soon before be in vain to write to them any further. And as I can  
not receive or return from the mission field without giving official notice to you  
about to do so by the first opportunity of convenience may tend to bring us to  
any as it is equally necessary to occur should be known on which such notice  
based, I think it my duty rather than otherwise to communicate with your Grace  
that if there be any chance left of keeping the mission effort, your  
Grace will, unless for, bestir to effect it.

I beg your Grace to believe me that before writing up my mind to write  
on the subject here following. I have repeatedly, for weeks together, considered  
thereby it over, & could find no rest but I yielded to the conviction, that it was  
be unprofitable in me to keep silence. I may be wrong in some of my views, but if  
not possible I should be wrong in so many points, or think, to judge from that total silence  
I might have supposed the Committee & myself are not necessary. It would be

at the end of 1818, I received two letters, one from your Grace & another from St. George's, but neither from your  
Grace. The first I am thankful for the kind attention shown me, & the other from the Committee, containing  
which I had written to the Committee, & which I had brought them from Dublin, & the Committee  
was very excellent, but a time from the Committee, but I was not very happy about it.

State of a Society just in rising & a Committee just in forming made it from the very beginning of  
my connection with this Society necessary, & just for both parties, that the Committee as well as the  
missionary should concur in the measures taken for the furtherance of the cause they have engaged  
in. In the last official document, which our Secretary kindly transmitted to me before I left England  
he indeed says "the instructions, drawn up by Capt. Downes & myself, with I trust, be agreeable  
to your views, in which we always strive to concur," but the spirit of this stipulation, I  
am sorry to say, appears to have been quite quenched since I put foot on the shores  
of London, though it is but natural to suppose that my views here concerning this mission,  
daily ripening under facts & circumstances, which even my detailed journal cannot all embrace,  
i.e. might outweigh many a theory distant managers may have laid down for their line  
of action, and which, at any rate, according to the spirit & the very letter of our original  
agreement, they should have communicated to me. It is thus my plain stipulated right  
- and right often becomes duty - to speak out my mind on the case of this once pro-  
sperous & now so utterly hopeless mission, and I hope I shall be able to show before God & man  
that I have done my duty towards it as missionary, & have suffered for it as long as hope  
was left me, the mission would be placed on a footing, in which it would be likely, if not to  
bring speedy fruit, at least to go on working & labouring to the glory of God. Now - I  
say it with a sore & broken heart - there is scarcely any possibility here for a missionary  
to work; and in fact, no possibility for a forerunner to live here as a settler, and  
this (to the best of my judgment I cannot say otherwise) is owing, <sup>in a great measure</sup> to want of tact &  
skill in the management of the mission.

And now I pray God through Jesus Christ to clothe me with humility, that I may  
not speak unadvisedly & give no offence when obliged to explain. I pray to be  
Repl. & preserved in the spirit of the apostolic injunction, "Let all bitterness  
& wrath and anger & clamour & evil speaking be put away from you,  
with all malice, & be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another  
even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." I praise God for that we  
have an Evangelical Alliance, whose members it is my happiness to be.  
I praise God for the practical exercise repeated meditation on its objects  
has given me in charitably viewing every sort of difference between brother  
& brother, between myself & others. But under the very guidance of the Alliance  
there is room left for the scriptural disciplinary rules contained in XVIII  
Matt. 18-17. and especially, "whenever it is a public Christian cause that either  
new sin threatening a mission in consequence of either be neglect or mistake  
of a brother or brethren, I do not hesitate to say it is plain duty of a  
Christian to bring the matter before witnesses or to tell it unto the Church,  
which certainly cannot mean here less than the Society its primary concerns.  
Having, however, that man may err even when he thinks his opinion beyond a doubt,  
I beg every assertion of mine here following may be considered as modified by the  
restriction human fallibility & Christian humility & charity impose.



I likewise beg to remind your grace & domine it may concern to peruse this paper, tho' though it is part  
of the spring happening allotted me in this life to appropriate to myself the name of Englishman, yet  
I am not entitled to this privilege by birth nor by early education, so that my English composition  
to a great measure, will always show the naturalized foreigner. My readers therefore are requested  
to forgive the want of nicety & delicacy to which an English ear is accustomed, & which is doubly  
necessary when unpleasant matters are to be told. I must also mention that I am no pro-  
fessional writer. I have written & write only when compelled by occasion or necessity, such  
& varied grief, the little talent providence may have granted me, & the natural buoyancy  
of my spirits, are quite gone. I feel all my poverty & emptiness as soon as I take up the  
pen, and since our last accident, I am sorry to say, I am utterly incapable of collec-  
ting my thoughts on any given subject, so as to systematize & condense them, and once  
more it becomes me to ask pardon in anticipation for the shallowness, want of order & pro-  
lixity that may characterize this paper. If I shall be able to bring out intelligibly what  
I think it my duty to state, and to interest the reader in this mission, I have gained  
all I aim at.

Having said this I now beg to draw your grace's attention to the fact - startling  
as it may sound - that, as it appears to me, actually & virtually we have no Committee, tho' <sup>nominal</sup>  
nominally such a body figures in the first publications of our Society. I know not under what  
circumstances the first Committee was formed & what powers they assumed or were given them,  
nor how they increase their number or supply vacancies. I know not whether this was done  
at public meetings or privately. Strange enough that, to my knowledge, our Society  
has no rules on this important feature, almost inseparable from the corporate existence  
of any public <sup>mission</sup> organization. It appears, the whole idea of this mission, originating in the active  
mind of Mr. Clifford, he wrote round to several parties, found countenance & support,  
then with two or three occasional cooperators, he baptized into the name of a Society & Committee  
without seeking for any further sanction of a general meeting or public meeting. So far  
all is right. The beginnings of most things, even of great enterprises, are often slow  
but, naturally indistinct in their early rise, while still gathering elements for con-  
sistence, and advantaged if left for a season under a less rigid form. Under such  
acquire influence & gradually assume shape & dignity. It will always be  
matter of congratulation to Mr. C. this early coadjutors to have set the  
mission going, & it will redound to the glory of England to have once more  
found that a blessing well regulated national liberty is, how it fastenizes,  
stimulates & combines minds to the discovery & prosecution of new schemes,  
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<sup>80</sup> This took place in connection with the Boston Bank - "Merlin", Capt. Geo. Welch, which put in here Aug. 2d, among his pas-  
sengers a benevolent Boston gentleman, Mr. Gilman, originally from, otherwise also prevented from continuing his long journey  
to California by various delays, & volunteered to stay with us in another ship cabin. Capt. W. took from opposing his wishes, which  
I need not say, had become also ours, on the day previous to the vessel's departure, and at Mr. Davis's suggestion, in the night, not  
withstanding the very same evening, on - this is no doubt of - Capt. W. receiving a large tribe from the Governor's authority, Mr. D. took  
his own words, was authorized to make a complete passage on board, & the next morning Capt. W. with his men, assisted, & accompanied by Louisa  
an African, brother in our house, and carried off Mr. Davis's (Capt. W. & several of my own things. The whole affair is stated & particular  
in the Narrative of a publican proposed to be put off with the first opportunity to King's Bay. How such an affair would in my judgment  
be viewed, & how it must operate on the prospects & even the existence of the mission, may be easily imagined.  
I had access to the ship & papers, & the whole of the mission, may be easily imagined.