21

Napa. August 1. 1853.

G. Rochfort Clarke Esqr
2. Spring Garden-terrace

My dear Sir

Sure of your kindness I have no doubt you will help me in rolling one more heavy burden off my mind by informing me whether there is an Institution at present open in England for the reception of missionaries' children & on what terms. If not please bring the matter before our Society, & assure them of my lasting gratitude if they will find a way of bringing my children to England & Educating them there, in proportion to my income, as far as money matters are concerned.

I also beg you to give my brother in law a hand in testing the investment of a little fund, perhaps £400 & upwards arising from our gradual savings in a building Society. I should say invested in one of the "free hold-societies" of which we have been recently reading in the papers it would be as safe as profitable. My brother in law, Mr Barwick, will call upon you & bring the matter before you.

Yours most affectly
D. J. Bo

Napa. Aug. 11th 1853.

My dear Sir

Your letter dated July 22d 1852. has been received just one year later, i.e. July 22d 1853.

What I had to say on our pecuniary account, embracing the period over which the Report of the Auditors extends, I have said in notes subjoined to a copy of the same Report, sent in, I believe, September last. I deeply regret I am unable, on plain principles of justice, to alter my views expressed in those notes as far as they relate to the substance of the account, but at the same time beg leave to express my sorrow for some hard expressions they may contain, owing in a great measure to the peculiarity of our situation at that period, to my inflexible vow of sincerity, & to my inability, when writing hard off, to manage the english language so as to speak smoothly while feeling strongly, and which, in addition, would appear to me a breach of honesty & christian simplicity. I beg you to bear with me in this particular, as it would destroy the peace of my conscience if I ever spoke otherwise than I think. Pray for me that He in whose hands are the hearts of men may enable me to be disinterested & yours, at least in all things relating to our work, for I should be most happy if all differences were for ever banished. But at any rate, in God, the work & prosperity of the mission

[illegible] by any divergence of our views on its pecuniary concerns. I hope I am sincere in my gratitude to God for having given this mission the zealous efforts of Mr. R. Clarke, & that next to God, my warm thanks will ever be due to Mr. Clarke for the kind & prompt notice he has taken of my appeal, just at a time when aid was so greatly needed. Captain Cracroft likewise has large claims upon my gratitude. In fact the Committee since the day I heard of their having appointed & sent out a second missionary for this station, have become objects of my warmest affections & prayers. They have taken a heavy burden of my mind, & have as it were restored me seven years of life, which I was often tempted to think had been drawn away. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ for the extraordinary events he has brought to pass, betokening his great & special favour towards this mission. O that I was grateful enough for such unspeakable & many, many mercies which of late have poured in upon me & that the remembrance & enjoyment of these undeserved favours might fix my heart more & more on the giver of them all & make me more zealous in his service.

I am sorry that bodily weakness, & a restless night occasioning mental dulness, unfit me to pay for much more I am much obliged by your enclosed copy of the Committee's [illegible] tion, & their approval of the formation of a corresponding C[illegible] at Bay Bay. — we shall have opportunities of writing to [illegible] & I hope you will improve the facilities of communicat[illegible] which squadron has created. for a similar fav[illegible]

J. E. Walters Esqr.
9. New Square, Lincoln's Inn.

Yours in the best [illegible]
B. J. Bell[illegible]

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

23/

Napa. August 11th 1857.

My dear Lord Bishop

Your of July 7th reached this Aug. 5th. – Very thankful for the enclosures of the S. P. C. K. Secretary, which I hereby return. If God be for us who can be against us? We very feel the least of his mercies. He daily loadest us with benefits, free & undeserved bestowed upon us for christ's sake. – I know how much this mission is in debt to you for the interest you taken in it by the christian public. May you be richly rewarded in your body, & soul & spirit, in your family, in your diocese, & above all in the harvest of saved immortal souls, which I fain hope will by your efforts & prayers soon ripen in London for the Lord.

I know not how to obey your wish of sending you M. S. to be printed at Shanghae, & bring proofs with you to London late in the year. What we would send now – if we could – via Hong Kong, would scarcely reach you before Half September, & half October we are to expect the pleasure of your visit in Company with brother Mutter. Is it possible in a month to get up Japanese types for print? Besides all our clean copies of the Loochoo Japanese portions of Scripture are in England. Mr. B's copy which I have here could not be printed from without superintendence, & it is the last copy I possess. I would not know whether it was right to give out of the Japanese translation – which I am a seeing first printed – I have neither an interlined with Chinese text, except the portions

– 89. sheets – already sent you by 1st. care of Secretary Methodist Bury-Bury. The copies in my possession of the four Gospels are the only ones left me, & I feel scruples at parting with them. The acts which I intend to inscribe to the apostolic zeal of Mr. R. Clarke, are not yet entirely copied over from the sketch. To facilitate the printing of one whole portion of Scripture, I rather incline – though with considerable sacrifice – to send off this the sketch of Luke, from which the first 10. sheets (gone home to the Bible Society last year) may be easily made up. The blotted rows in the sketch being filled up with the chinese text according to the Committee of Delegates' Translation. London N.C.L. Bury, Shanghae 1850; the remaining 89. sheets might be printed as in my copy book, both chinese & Japanese.

The Portatan came over by mistake, I suppose, & is to steam back in a day or two to Bury Bury. What an excellent opportunity this would have been for the missions. However, all things are under the highest short direction of your gracious heavenly father, received to us in his Dear Son. Here there is complaining. It is enclouded as soon as the glory of the highest overshadowed us for a moment. You see, my Lord, I am happy, thanks to God, to you, to Rochford Clarke, to Capt. Cracroft, & to our whole Committee for their kindness to us & the London ones in sending us a brother, & to the American Synod for countenance given us here, & facilitating of communication with our friends at home.

We beg to congratulate you & dear Mrs. Smith on the happy events of another son born you. I feel how I can try by the deep emotion of joy this intelligence is bringing for your happiness & many blessings on all.

To the Lord Bishop of Victoria.

I beg to remain
yours very affectly
sd. Rebe

Napa, Aug. 11th 1857

My dear Sir

Your note of April 4th reached this July 22d and having read it over this day again I am confirmed in the persuasion that we shall be the better friends for having no pecuniary dealings with each other, as I cannot help thinking I have been loser to a very considerable extent under your management.

I think it but just you should bring before the home Committee the expence I incurred by intersting to the Board, as also the g. Bhaas which you say are still wrong; & likewise the loss we suffered in the Smith & Brimelow Commission.

How it is that the matter of money which the Committee has been owing me all along, during 7–8 years & even after certain portions had been paid by them, should never have brought any interest, is what I alter at a loss to conceive, & what I consider perfect waste.

If the two boxes you mention have not been sent already, they had better remain till we come over to China, which I hope will be the case at Mr. Moreton's arrival.

I begin to destroy my bills or send me them back. While in Hong Kong my bills were negotiable without endorsement, as those of any other missionary, drawn on the bankers of this Society, whose money is always ready & should be payable at sight, or the missionary would be loser in the negociation of the bill referring to a debt owing him a year, plus 3 months, & that from a Society, who are pleased to contribute in advance more than the sum

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

required. I cannot see at all the justice of any regulation damaging the small amount of a missionary's income.

I should beg of you a receipt from the Bank, where you say you have deposited the $859.07 this you are still owing me according to your balance sheet. I hope this is deposited on interest.

I must beg of you some explanation on the Items of: Bank Commission 5.00 (which at any rate must be entered in the Home Committee's account) & of W. D. Lapraik for Sundries 26.17. (which I cannot in the slightest imagine the meaning of. (and which, as I never received any thing of that Gentleman must entirely fall on the Committee). The watch is extremely expensive. In real advertisements of silver watches, best quality, selling at 3-4 pounds in England.

Payments made in Hong Kong are always more advantageously made in Sterling than Dollars, the former having a fixed Government value at which Dollars are obliged to accept them.

I am very thankful for your concluding prayer. Yours indeed heard and answered in many respects. We have been wonderfully supported in spiritual matters & abundantly reimbursed for all our losses in temporal matters. We will not go on trusting in a God so gracious, not only forgiving sin, but blessing the forgiven guilty sinner, as if his were the abounding merit of the Saviour in whom he believes. Stupendous plan of free Salvation! May you ever find Comfort in believing.

Yours very faithfully
B. J. Bettelheim

Capt. Parker
Com. R.N. Hong Kong.

Hongkong, July 11th 1853.

My dear Sir

Upon the receipt of Capt. N.'s revoking his letter of 22d and having read it over this morning I am surprised in the extreme that he should be so hasty for having so frequently declared with such zeal, as I cannot help thinking, that we have been to a very considerable extent under your management.

I think it but just you should bring before the Committee the enclosure I received by Mr Watson from the Board. As also the P. Bibles you may see fit, merely to take it off my hands & the Committee's.

How it is that the matter of running about it (as another has been merely we all know, having 7-8 years to run after certain pictures had been paid for, that never has brought any interest, is that I alone at a loss to conceive, & that I cannot perfect rest.

If the two have the mention has not been made, yet had been mention it is one we are to blame. Mr Watson's mistake, which stops with it, lies at the Committee's door.

I beg you to return my bill or send me the book. While in my very my bill was regularly the authorisement, as there of any other mistake, I feel the matter right down. More money is always easier to pay than to get back. Perhaps at night, or in the morning, I may be more in the proper state of mind to consider it a fair, only I mention, & that from a clear, the one a man, July 3. mention, & that from a clear, the one planned to contribute in advance more than he cannot

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

25/ Napa, Aug. 11th 1853.

My dear Brother in the Lord

Your favour of July 1/52 came to hand July 1/53. This long delay will have answered of itself several particulars which your letter refers.

Concerning the catastrophe of the "Robert Browne" I am informed by the Loochoo an Authorities, that there are still at this time, I believe, 195 of the mutineers at Ba-chang-tau; several have died naturally, & some strangled themselves. The survivors petitioned to be removed to China, this their wish has been communicated, the Chinese Authorities, also again, say the Loochooans, had communicated with the American Envoy or Consul, as to their good pleasure in seeing these men brought back to China or not, & that having received an answer in the affirmative the Loochooans are going in the 8th or 9th month this year to send a junk from here to take them off their island & carry them back to Chinese

Many thanks for your kindness in printing & circulating my letter, though in some places it appears so much curtailed as to injure sequence & connection between its parts. At present, it ap-

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

pears, we have a Committee who is not only zealous in advancing the cause they advocate, but also influential, and it is peculiarly gratifying to me to know that two dear men have joined it in consequence of my own application to them. The Bishop of the Diocese, as Doctor, is one of the Pillars, humanly speaking, of our mission, & he is indeed very kind & full of favour to us.

I have learned Japanese from books & exercise with the literati here, who, when urged, will speak in the book language. I have never seen any book printed either in our dialect, or that of the Tukiakese (Satsuma people) trading letter, or that, which I hear from a Japanese on board the Inagokawa, & afterwards in my Lines. Hence I infer that there are dialects in the Japanese, & that the book language again differs from all the dialects, which latter, then, of course, must be considered the chief if not only language in which christian translations & literary labour must be carried on in the Japanese. In fact, however, it is mostly in the desinences of grammatical formatives that the dialects differ from each other & from the book language, which latter in addition is uniformly kept to a higher style & purified diction. I say this to satisfy your wish in this matter, though the reason of the inquiry, I suppose, is quite over.

I am truly thankful to your kind Countrymen for their sympathies, & to the Commodore for several unsolicited tokens of his kindness towards us. I have no doubt but Commodore Perry is the very man for opening Japan, & in 2-3 years he will do it satisfactorily. My wife joins me in affectionate regard to yourself & Mrs. Parker.

Yours faithfully
S. I. Bettelheim

To Rev. D. Parker Canton.

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library