the sacred palace of american majesty, & your officer, on whatever occasion your delegate, a sovereign, whose every hint must be devoutly respected. Severity in message, mien & gesture are certainly of less hurt than fire arms. They have a wonderful effect on the enslaved Japanese mind, why then should such innocent weapons be rejected? The mandarins dread an american officers' severe look quite as much as the Loochooan peasant dreads his mandarins' look. It is my humble experience, the whole of this eastern quarter, bid under benumbing, degrading confucian principles, can impossibly be raised at once, even to as much as a perceptible degree of liberty. —

I beg to inform you that the authorities have requested me to intercede for them, & that I have respectfully but firmly declined.

Whatever your squadron need on provision — if you desire to purchase through government, but not on the markets, I'll pledge myself to have effected it in an hour after the arrival of an officer with such message.

I beg to remain
with profoundest respectfulness

Sir

your most humble & obed. servant
S. J. Bettelheim.

I was just having a chinese chat with my Tartsis, all eagerly listening to my revelations concerning china & the american squadron, when a boat arrived with a message from the Commodore that I should immediately come on board. What, Commodore told me he had received my note, & thought I might have yet hastily immediately repaired what I thought had been wrong. I said, I did not feel myself empowered to speak at all at that meeting. Commodore Perry then told me plainly, at the meeting of this day, I should be interpreter as well as Dr. Williams. It was then agreed on all sides, if the Regent arrived, the Commodore should continue invisible, & the Commander of the ship would

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[illegible]

Commodore M. C. Perry. U. S. Navy.

Sir, It was from the lofty of position, that I was enabled upon my land, recognizing me, that yesterday I was not to be found upon me of recognizing me to Japan, fully satisfied in me in the highest use upon fulfilling of that opportunity we have [illegible] this, the first time I am permitted to write upon you. Before we [illegible] as quite sufficient to write preparing [illegible] at Uraga upon [illegible] time to the following [illegible]:

Now it was that an overwhelming impression [illegible] to [illegible] - [illegible] - I would write a long [illegible] [illegible] Japan [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

May 1853.
Fleet 419.

Commodore M. C. Perry. U. S. Navy.

Sir, The note from the Bishop of Victoria, which yesterday you kindly put into my hand, acquainting me, that possibly I may have the honour conferred upon me of accompanying you to Japan, fully establishes me in the confidence your justly wisdom & kind assurances have inspired me with, the very first hour I was permitted to wait upon you. Allow me then in deep humility & with profound respectfulness to draw your attention to the following remarks:

Were it not that an overwhelming importance attached to the meeting of to-day – if indeed it come to pass – I could with a good conscience keep silence. More that half an hour after such meeting you will quite be of my own opinion on Japanese matters, at any rate as far as Lew Chew is concerned. But a visit of our first mandarin on your board to-day, as I greatly fear, may have the effect of shutting all other means – force alone excepted – for effecting any change, even the slightest, in the commercial & social systems of this land, & possibly that the door also to any further friendly meeting with the native authorities. I have therefore, after a sleepless night of painful meditation, been obliged, to come to the conclusion, it was my duty to speak.

If I am not quite mistaken, when yesterday we left your board, it was with the understanding that only the mayor of Napa was to be requested to come on board for the purpose of receiving instructions, which he was to deliver to the Regent. How great then was my surprize to find that the later himself was the officer invited. Had it not been for your distinct orders – – orders which it must always be my duty strictly to obey – that Dr. Williams should be the speaker. I should have thought it right during our interview with the mayor to mend the fatal mistake. But I was bound to remain silent. And I see now no other way to but to implore you, by the stars & stripes of your flag, either still to divert the Regent's visit from on board the Susquehanna to the Mississippi or Saratoga, a manoeuvre, in my humble judgment easily effected, either by two complimentary boats in waiting to receive, i.e. to intercept the Regent's poor bark & glide it in most friendly silence, as it passes along, to the side of the Mississippi

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tant to bear in mind that the object of the present expedition is not a demonstration in favour of Christianity, or of Christian missionaries, but a remonstrance on behalf of the rights of our common humanity outraged in the ill-treatment of the wrecked mariners of a Christian power. Your own judgment will direct your right course.

I have written at length in another letter, & now subscribe myself, as ever, your sincere & affectionate friend & brother

G. Victoria."

I need not add that I fully entered into the spirit of the Bishops' letter, & sincerely thanked God for the possibility now opening of my getting a look at Japan, a country so long & so seriously occupying my mind.

A Te-fu came with a Card & thanks for the invitation I had accepted yesterday. Properly I should have been before hand with my thanks for the banquet given me. But I quite forgot the matter in the extraordinary pressure of this morning's business, & sent my thanks & card by the Te-fu just present, & also I also entrusted the message that though I refused this day to accede to Ichiraichi's indefinite request of interview, I am ready to deliver any letter the authorities might wish to deliver to the Commodore & to speak advantageously of them while running before the Commodore on its topics.

Had a quite sleepless night. The mistakes of the yesterday's interpreterships giving me no rest I resolved to write to the Commodore on the subject. Rose early & sent off early to Commodore the following note:

"my dear Sir Bethune, since the date of my last letter
hourly by the same opportunity I have heard that yesterday
many officers were to be required as interpreters on the ben-
ir's Commodore in his communications with the Japanese
Government. It struck me as most to be desirable that
my name should be put to accompany the Japanese as Japan
that were further upon those points by my friends in that
name. It will be for you to decide whether such a proc-
ject would be agreeable to Japanese feeling. In any event
I would wish to have the advice of a friend in whom
I have confidence & trust to be assured is an important
one. I would be prepared with proper credentials upon
your behalf from Government for the service of translator
upon behalf of Commodore with Chinese, and
Japan through your tongue and pen, which I
make more acceptable by the service of translator
as well as interpreter. It is my wish to be
of use in this way at the same time to satisfy
myself in the Japan that I do not expect
compensation in the shape of pecuniary
Government is a gentleman of
mind. The Commodore
Chinese & Japanese, & I feel sure we need
have no difficulty in this point. Government
would appreciate the service & I would
have a strong claim upon Government
for the service. — It is perhaps known to you
that I am married. Mrs Bethune is with me
& my family are in Hong Kong & I am
anxious to be with them as soon as the work
of contract and ratification, that we may be sepa-
rated, & I am
the reason of my interposition, & as
I am not so particularly in the right channel
this interest of it. — The reason I proposed Mr Bethune
communication — Mr Bethune speaks Chinese
well, has been resident some years, & is
thoroughly influential in the Chinese
Government of Canton & the Japanese
Government. Perhaps it is unfor-

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My dear Dr. Bettelheim, Since the date of my last letter sent by this same opportunity I have heard that possibly your assistance may be requested as Interpreter by the American Commodore in his communications with the Japanese Government. In such an event it is probable also that you might be invited to accompany the Expedition to Japan which would involve your absence from your family for a few weeks. It will be for you to decide whether such a proposal would be agreeable & satisfactory to you. As you would doubtless wish to have the advice of a friend in the matter, I venture to suggest that the occasion is an important one & will be pregnant with powerful consequences upon your Lewchew mission. The Commodore will doubtless make every arrangement for the security & comfort of your family during your temporary absence, and I see nothing inconsistent with your missionary calling in your filling for a time the same post so usefully occupied by the late Dr. Gützlaff in the British Expedition in China. The Commodore is a gentleman of kind disposition & feeling, & I feel sure you may trust yourself in his kind disposal of arrangements on your behalf. – It is needful however to bear in mind both for your own sake as well as for the avoidance of contingent difficulties, that you would be responsible only for the accuracy of interpretation, & not be in any way a principal in the diplomatic intercommunication. – The American Expedition will, I doubt not, under prudent management, exert a most beneficial influence on your position at Lew Chew & the future opening of Japan to the Gospel. But it is impor-

had among government this matter. Having her I am detained in the office. We to bring the signs received to this venerable commander of this venerable of the long the were just in time with me to take on the morning place. I expect land in about twenty to thirty days at the other place. He had the very pleasing news in my letter with profoundest of thing of what was, and what were we about the long it was a step to the we the morning place. – were so bound the therefore, a few or so very little two channel boat carrying out – I suppose from the mainship-the escape of a young mulatto, a native. He had long been in a Indian, it is learned as the Interpreter (Dutch or Chinese), who the subject which the Chief Commander of the Commodore are learned. – Two English sailors of Mr. of the Mission of an difficulties in getting with

Jane 1. Just off early the following note;

Hong June 1. 1853.

Rev. J. C. Hepburn, Canton.
R. S. M. Independence.

Sir. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, & thank you for your Commodore Perry on his kind intention to my dismissal of the mission, which my charge. Except the Gratuitous of this day of a box of papers and the other provisions were received from various adjacent to your messenger. – Mr. Wm Parker & marks that the that the chief of the house ordered by the Commodore to thought about. & that a boat he sent was every morning to take me & my office in Canton, on which day in company I shall be glad to see Mr. Williams and introduce him to the Commodore. – Mr. Parker for the Commodore has been below to Canton already yesterday. I am

Sir

your obedient servant
W. H. Bettelheim

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had always procured their water. Arrived here I was shocked in the extreme to find the spies resorted to their usual manoeuvres & frightened off the boys who were just on their way with me to shew us the watering place. I spoke loud in strong terms to their chiefs & a few others who had this very morning been in my house with protestations of friendship & yet now would not move nor allow the boys to move a step to shew us the watering place. – went on board the Saratoga. & met on my way thither two funeral boats carrying out – I suppose from the Mississippi – the corpse of a young mulatto, a writer. who had long been in a decline, to be buried at the Foreigners' Cemetery at Tumai, where the english sailors of the Alceste & two Frenchmen are buried. – Saw Captain Walker & Dr. Wms. & told them of our difficulties in getting water.

June. 1. Sent off early the following note:

Napa June 1. 1853.

Mr. G. R. Barry, Purser
U. S. Str. Susquehanna.

Sir. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, & though you beg to thank Commodore Perry for his kind intentions to my family & the mission under my charge. Except the ten gallons of whiskey & a box of sperm candles the other provisions were returned from reasons assigned to your messenger. – Will you please to make effort that the wharf & the houses ordered by the Commodore be brought about, & that a boat be sent me every morning to take me to your office in Tumai, as without facility in conveyances I should beg to decline altogether any interference in the provisioning of the Squadron. – The sedan for the Commodore has been taken to Tumai already yesterday. I am

Sir

very respectfully
your Obedient Servant
R. J. Bettelheim

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Moscow intends to exercise a high-pressure of power on the Japanese authorities, without coming to hostilities, unless he keep open for himself a fertile source of plausible excuses, cannot be long exempt from an open breach of good manners & smooth routine with them. However as it was not my place after a Decision had been arrived at, to gainsay, I acquiesced in the request of the Commodore to accompany Dr. Wm. and an officer to the mayor. Commodore Perry told me Dr. Wm. was to be the interpreter, and myself – I could scarcely make out what role I was to play, whether as simple guide, or counsel, or whisperer. I confess, I was not pleased with the indistinctness of my Commission, still I passively submitted & went.

From the party first to my house, whence I went for the mayor, to be seen at his office, where we are to wait on him. This certainly was a great accommodation for our friend who otherwise might have lost 2–3 days before coming into contact with this lowest of our high functionaries. Dutch they had at Yedo such an unpretending faithful servant to bother their affairs. – We found ourselves soon at the Napa Kung-Kwan (public hall) the mayor having been fetched from the Fundó temple, so that we had to take to a side lane, to allow him to arrive before us. He was hard at our heels all the while we went from our house to the Kungkwan. At this first meeting I was sorry to experience how poorly the great Expedition is in the Interpreter's Department. Dr. Wm. himself speaking more the Cantonese than the Peking Dialect, & his aged chinaman – though desirous of figuring as a native of Peking – speaking a hardly intelligible Ningpó mouth. I could now somewhat more clearly perceive wherefore my presence at the meeting was desired; but having received no distinct orders to speak, I held my peace, although

led thereby to seem if not christian, and at any rate the neutrality of christian powers. But though this may be part of the nisy Japanese scheme, there is so evident an imposition of christian tenets on all their proclamations that none can doubt but more than a political masquerade is intended. At any rate I took the communication of Dr. W. as conclusive as to correctness of the views I had taken of this extraordinary & glorious church-event in China, & gladden as it did me on its own account, it once more raised my hopes concerning the speedy & total Regeneration of Japan. – I now gave Dr. Wm my views regarding the best way of proceeding they could enter. I proposed the flagships should remain quite inaccessible to natives, even the authorities also, till after the Commodore shall have received a great public reception by them – say in the Capital; & that for the present only the Mayor of Napa be charged with communications he should forward to the Su-li-Yamen. I did not even incline to invite the mayor on board of any of the ships. The latter part of the proposal was however fully declined. Some detail mind; the mayor should be invited on board – the flagship indeed but not to see the Commodore, but only the Commander of the ship, & by him to be made acquainted with the objects of the Expedition. This – to my humble conception of Japanese matters – was a great piece of blunder, as the opening of the flagships to the native authorities, whenever they shall feel pressed hard, would subject the Commodore to constant annoyance, besides being diametrically against Japanese etiquette, which knows to keep the chief personage in the drama inaccessible, & thus creating for itself an infinite field inexhaustible in excuses for delays & procrastination, without openly offending politeness. And it is clear that

as inducement to yield to their desire. But, besides this original mistake in judging of the character of a Christian missionary, the extraordinary Providential direction contained for this mission in the appearance of the Japanese Expedition, would of itself suffice to determine me to new plans for the more firm conduct of the mission.

27. Commodore, according to promise, sent a boat for me to come to breakfast & meet Dr. Williams. We introduced to several officers of the squadron. Dr. W. almost frightened me with his pale face & corresponding frozenness of behaviour. I anxiously inquired whether he was or had been ill, and was answered that this was his usual complexion & that he was notwithstanding in perfect health. I soon overcame my first unfavorable impression, thinking only of his having been for so many years missionary to the Chinese, the useful elementary works he published & edited, & the great Expedition which he now formed so prominent a member. As he would not, as I really expected, fall round my neck, I thought I had better court him with missionary warmth, to quicken him with my own glow. I drew him nigh me, requesting first of all his frank opinion on the great movement going on in China. Tho' his cool temper went exaggerate matters I was exceedingly happy to hear him confirm, that he thought it quite likely, though Gutzlaff's union could scarcely be said to have any share in the military rising, yet they had a great share in the religious character it assumed, & that the composer of the proclamations most evidently was a man imbued with christian doctrine & faith. This was cheering news indeed. I could easily imagine the new Tai-Ping Dynasty – suppose she arrives at the throne – meddles with christianity partly because exag-