had our two official guides now left us I should have been in a very sore dilemma. As they went on notwithstanding straightening toward the palace I thought it best to take no notice of what had been suggested, & went on my way. I was really glad on coming in sight of the palace door to find it was open. The marines giving up quite in front of it some têtes supporting they would en bas requested me to stay, it was sufficient honour thus far, & that neither the Chinese led his marines further. They were immediately given to understand there had never been any intention of taking the troops within the palace, & that they had been placed bas to have a level ground where to be drawn up in file. Dr. Wong now sent in by a Chinese servant a little bundle of visiting cards, bearing, I suppose, the names of the officers present on the occasion. I got in the mean time sight of Tchi-rouichi & told him to tell the Regent — who I observed was about like a lost sheep — to be in waiting at the innermost door or bas to pay before entering the reception hall. Now the Commodore dismounted, arms were presented while he passed the marines, & entered the palace yard, a miserably small concern indeed, terminating in a flight of stairs at the right hand, which we scaled passing again a door; turned then to the left, & entered a very small yard, from which a few steps took us into a pretty spacious yard, the paved way of which took us to a central building, ~~up to~~ resting on a terrace, ~~to~~ which three separate flights leads. Several têtes wished bas me ascend the left flight, but I refused, bending my way toward the main flight in the middle, passing through a door inscribed 奉神門, funny this, mean, the God receiving door (intended, no doubt, as a flattering flattery for the Envoy who represents the Emperor, on occasion of his visiting the palace.) But, to my keep regret, after having emerged from the vaulted door-way, I found the door of the great hall opposite me quite barred up. It had thus to cross the yard out of the paramount to get over to the ~~left~~ small hall at the left, where some pretty mand arms were assembled. For myself I have no doubt but the real reception hall was the middle one, but

I have neither any doubt, that neither the English had seen this Hall. Telling Ichi-
rarichi that he may be involved in danger of life if the American Commodore was
treated with less honour than the late English Envoy, he gave me full assurance
the hall at the left was that in which the English had been received. The in-
scription upon a large tablet, on the wall opposite the entrance, was 高
明 延 輝 Kaw yé yew hiway, which I should Translate: Exalted
Truth, reached by fragrance," Truth, being the quarter whither the Emperor
turns his face, & of highest esteem among Confucianists. I have however
some doubts about the second character, as the inscription had been
taken down by Dr. Wms. & he told me the second character read 明;
with which I could not identify it (the Dr.'s representation of the character
being quite indistinct) nor bring out any sense. Ichirarichi also told
us the middle hall was the 內 宮 Nui Kuey, Inner palace, where
none is ever admitted (Except, I suppose, in case of the King's illness)
The Regent however, seeing I had taken the lead & was marching through
the middle doorway, left his post at the left side door & placed him-
self at the middle door to receive us, & so likewise at our de-
parture, on my requesting Ichirarichi to arrange it thus, we were
again led out through the middle door. – (*

Of the meeting itself I have to say very little. The Regent &
the three Bu-chiu-Kwans (for all the three had been called in on the occasion)
took their places at the East, yet with till the Commodore & his officers had
been seated at the west. Dr. Wms. myself remained for a good while
standing on our feet between both as interpreters. There was nothing spoken
beyond inquiries after health & age. The Commodore inquiring after the
health of the queen Dowager, & offering his physicians to attend on her,
a message (pro forma) was sent to her. – The presents were handed
over to the mandarins, & there having been two Bu-chiu-Kwans
more than we expected the Commodore promised to send them also
presents. He also invited the whole party to a feast on board the
flagship, which invitation was accepted, & they were told that the feast would take

(* all these difficulties, as the Reader will easily observe, & doubtless I would have been saved had the Japanese dealt with the missionary on the same footing as the American Expedition did. It might easily have been arranged to bring forward my complaints either in writing, or at a second meeting from which I might have been absent. Yet not even for the missionary's protection should place him before the native authorities as their teacher. Thus Rev. Wms. to respect.

place after the Commodore's return in about 10-15 days, for he was to leave this for some time. - Nothing can be imagined more wretched than the tea, & the very cups out of which it was taken, & the cakes offered on this occasion, which were actually raw dough & quite uneatable, except a few of another sort which had been brought in later. - There was not even tatami (that stupid matting) but only simple, & that very common mats spread in the meeting hall, & a recess of which was temporarily barricaded up with some old doors nailed across so as to leave open the upper part, the walls with exception of a few & few between scratches intended for birds & dragons showing throughout a dirty white yellowish ground. I was really glad when the proposal on the side of the mandarins was made to adjourn into another hall outside the palace, where some refreshments were awaiting us. Busy all alone having scarcely taken a bit of breakfast, after a hard walk to Shuri, and the anxieties before & during the meeting, I really felt exhausted & needed some food. The Commodore was soon persuaded to accede to this invitation. The escort, under the sound of music, moved back in the same order as it came, and it was really amusing, ~~the chief~~ when I had told Ichiwazichi to have the mandarins in waiting before we arrived at the place of the entertainment, to see them run & hop & trot themselves out of breath, at a rate, I am sure, which they never walked at. This they had outrun the whole phalanx, & then keeping up at double march strides till they were nearly out of wind, & discovered only when we arrived at the mouth of the street, then they wished us to halt. I thought first the entertainment would take place at the palace of the Prince, when Ichiwazichi had told me it would take place, but I saw now this was not the case, & it came off in the Office of the Regent. There were at least 8-10 tables nicely set out with a variety of Loochoonian cold dishes, & the only thing I at first regretted was that her Highness the interpreter had to stand in front between the parties seated at their tables, and scarcely capable of taking a bit in such position. By & by one chair was brought, which, of course, I offered to Dr. Wms. who soon befriended himself with the Commodore's table. But I had then my ample reward for my yielding & patience. The Regent, becoming aware of my awkward position

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invited me to a chair at the head of his table, so that I had a full proof how little importance they here attach to that foreign world upon them to be most punctilious in. I actually sat at the highest seat in the Hall, & at the head of the table where the Regent & the three Bu-ching Princes sat, being served by them in turns, & thus enabled to break my fast, & revive my sinking body. Ichirazichi encouraged me to partake liberally in that I planned, & several Te-funs congratulated me on the peaceable & friendly manner in which the palace meeting went off. In fact they appeared surprised, so myself was, at the total absence of any relevant communication made to the Mandarins. In the Dining Hall, of course, if possible, still less of a similar consequence was doing. The answer (pro forma) from the queen Dowager to the message of the Commodore arrived, namely, that she was tolerably well, though seriously ill, & that in Loochoo they were not accustomed to call in foreign physicians nor took foreign medicines. – The Commodore wished the interpreters to express his hope, that henceforth Loochooans & Americans would live together as friendly as they sat together at this meal. Once our American friend inquiring as to the mode of preparation of a certain dish, the Great State officers, the Regent & three Bu-ching Princes having connected among themselves & unable to agree, whether the eggs or fish be put in first, the important theme had to be brought before a book of established repute, & notwithstanding the Commodore desired the whole affair to be dropped, matters touching the Stomach were with our mandarins of such diplomatic consequence as not to yield, till they had arrived at sound & perfect knowledge in the matter, when I had to respect the emanation of their wisdom. Dull & empty as our Regents' face looks, his brains are retentive, particularly as touching diplomatic ceremonies when somehow connected with stomachical efforts, & thus to my surprise, remembering what on occasion of our preparatory banquets I had told

him about our public toasts, he suddenly rose exclaiming: a tumbler (takazichi) for 'merikeng (america)! I had abruptly to do the same jumping up from my seat & exclaiming: A Toast for America!" The whole assembly at once immediately rose & cheerfully responded to the friendly proposal. - Repeated were the expressions of our friends both concerning the simplicity of the banquet, & its unpropitious duration; but the Regent & Co. intimated Etiquette required, that though the guests were brimful, the whole number of dishes must be brought up before them, if for nothing else but passing review & being impressibly taken off, even that would suffice. Several soups (all their dishes consist of the same liquid poured over a variety of meats) were then dished up & immediately withdrawn, if much they were sipped at & nothing more. The Commodore then proposed the Health of the Regent & mandarins which was drunk, the thimble tumblers turned upside down, after which the feast was declared terminated & finished, & we withdrew. On our home way several of the officers asked me what I thought of the tone of the meeting, & of course I could not say otherwise but it was most friendly & favorable. Again they asked, whether now they could open trade with foreigners? I said, far from this indeed. And I am persuaded as long as our mandarins are not compelled to fast instead of banqueting, no consent to any change of policy is to be expected from them. Some also expressed surprise at the total absence of crowds to gazing at the foreign parade, & I used the circumstance at once to demonstrate to our friends, how little there is to be hoped from a friendly meal within doors on friendliness out of doors. I did not, however, incline to bring forward just at present axioms & prophecies which my long dismal experience among Japanese leaches me to be true, the more so, as there were some, who had no doubt of success, & that the Commodore abstained from sealing the Commercial treaty, solely, from a sense of delicacy for me.

When coming out from the mandarins' gate at Shuy I saw

four saddle horses in waiting, & afterwards lent Dr. Wm & Mr. Heiner had rode two of them. – In Tumai, behind a lady-phalanx of wild lime trees, on a soft mossy level, whither some officers of my acquaintance had withdrawn to repose from the fatigues of the day, my poor servant boy, who had tasted no food since the morning, was richly fed by our friends, & a kind of toast was given for my humble self, as the world's pioneer in Japan; which at any rate convinced me our american brethren are pleased in so far with my humble efforts for their comfort since they gladdened us by their presence.

7. The style of this day we had hard, & partly fruitless work. The Commodore had strictly ordered the purveyors to settle their accounts, but there was none of the purveyors to be got, although they had been repeatedly sent for; & the one who, after hours of waiting arrived, brought his accounts with him in such confused state, that himself confessed he could not make them out. There was also an order of the Commodore for 200. boards, which rather startled the purveyors – as they had obtained hints of a hospital which the Commodore wanted to erect, & thought the boards were to be for that purpose –, & I could yield the key in the matter as the order had gone off written by me, as wanting for the Commodore, and I was sure, if such orders were not obeyed to all others would be drawn away. The purveyors left us two in the afternoon just as we as they arrived at 9. in the morning, and when they came back between three-four p.m. & had again waited in vain for two hours I proposed we should all resort to the mayor's office & there speak out and the matter would never end. We did so. Lin-té-fu was delegated by the mayor to receive us, & after complaints made, we were told our boards should immediately come off, & the purveyor immediately come with his accounts. We had however to wait till 9. o'clock in the evening before 99. boards had been brought together, & had again to adjust the accounts. It was also clear that what boards we got, we got in consequence of strong langu-

juges held at the Mayor's office, & more so in consequence of a threat intimated to the Commodore at our house, otherwise we should not have got out a Dozen of boards, an article they will make us believe is scarcely obtainable in Loochoo.

8. Ishizuchi comes early, enquires what the boards were to serve for. Told him that myself scarcely knew it with precision, but supposed they served for Tumai, where the artists the lived there required several partitions to be erected in the yard. At any rate, I added, the boards must come off, or it will set some thing, as this is an order directly from the Commodore. Ishizuchi told me, they began was very much to doubt my resolution formerly expressed of leaving this, & yet wished it all the more, that the americans might be without a consellor, who turned his experience in Loochooan matters against the interests of the native. I told him the natives were ~~surely~~ wrongly mistaken if they thought I had not their interests at heart, only they must not think I considered the interests of the nation were those of 2-3 mandarins, whom we cannot benefit, unless they gave up their horrid selfishness. To be brief, all the boards came off as ordered, & the purser's accounts were also satisfactorily settled. Iwas particularly glad to be able therein to comply with the wishes of Purser Speiden (Mississippi) & Purser Harris (of the Saratoga). Both of them have acted toward us & our children in a very much friendlier way than did Purser Barry (of the Susquehanna). Iwas indeed surprizing both to myself & Mrs. B. that notwithstanding the Lynadons friendly relations to us, & notwithstanding the wish I had expressed on several occasions, that after some butter, which Mrs. B. strongly longed after, not a mite thereof could be obtained. I told Mrs. B. to-day in presence of all the Pursers: my dear, your butter hope has melted quite away! & I am sure none of them told me I was mistaken.

While we had been still at our accounts Dr. Wms. arrived with the presents to be presented to the remaining two Bu-ching. Many more names I had ascertained this morning for him. His meeting with the mayor was soon arranged & got off according to wish.

Among the many calls we had this day, one came from an

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officer of the Mississippi, who sent me a message to come up to the upper temple yard on the top of our hill, I do not recollect exactly, whether to arrange how the boards should be disposed of, or to see how he disposed of them. I had then the first intimation that the Commodore intended to make use of his boards otherwise than I supposed, and though, I confess, I felt somewhat uneasy at any sort of american establishment not only near me, but within our very premises, all my apprehensions at once quieted down in the thought that one more spot in this dark heathen land is thus about to be brought into the firm grasp of a christian power, that God would thereby soon be in possession of this earth's property, from which iniquitous Japan has banished him & his people. I supposed the hospital, which the Commodore had mentioned, & which he had ordered to be brought under notice of the manderins, or perhaps the Establishment for daguerretype & telegraphic exhibitions was to be erected near the mission house, & would in this far be congenial with my own work & pursuit. But how great was my surprise, on coming up an hour or two after to the upper temple, to find the side door, which opens the beautiful prospect of Sumai & the shore of our western coast, quite nailed in with boards, & the very entrance side yard in the act of being boarded up, so that I thought entrance would be quite forbidden me. The officer in charge seeing how queer I looked at his proceeding meant to compose me by telling me that there remained a hole open over the side door. Though thus by stretching the neck, we might get a glimpse of Sumai, & as for the main entrance, himself found it advisable to cut a hole (though he regretted to cut the boards at all) by which one could pass the body. I of course strongly remonstrated at being thus driven out of part of my premises, but the officer in charge said he had peremptory orders, & if he did therein – the cattle would not be prevented from escaping, the sheep would be in danger of breaking their necks in case they jumped down the rugged side of the hill, which they naturally enough would if the side door were left open. Why the cattle should not rather have been sent to Sumai, where the Squadron has now a footing, & where are the most inviting dales & hills for pasturage, besides the large enclosed yard belonging to the Temple now occupied by our friends, is what neither myself nor Mrs. B. could

make out. We acquainted several officers just at our house with our grievance, & they said, they were sure there was some mistake about the matter, & that I needed only mention it to the Commodore to see matters righted. To increase the irritation we already felt concerning our, there came back from the Susquehanna Provision Bills, not paid for amounting to $10. besides other amounting to $6. in the hands of the purveyors; for which, of course, myself was to be responsible. — Not long after Tokiwazichi arrived, all in haste, bearing that the Commodore was to leave this to-morrow morning, & get some further explanations on a Despatch they had received from the Commodore. The chief points in which, as far as I can remember, were, the Commodore's yielding in regard to beef, for which, in case they could spare many, the Squadron would put up with pork*; the second article gave assurance that all American sailors behaved towards the other sex, from which I could easily infer that our fairest Mandarins must have advanced some of their usual plans against trade on the score that the sailors on their markets are women; there was also a Article which mostly interested the bearers of the Despatch, as mentioning the Commodore's going to Japan to conclude a treaty. & this was worded so as to make it plain the Commodore considered this part of Japan, & spoke of it as interdangerly. After having given illustrations & explanations then the bearers asked it, I was asked, whether I thought the Commodore expected them to answer on this Despatch. I said: I knew nothing of this Despatch before they had showed it me, & consequence knew nothing of the Commodore's further wishes or expectations. I really intended thereby to free myself entirely from the confidence the native authorities appeared to repose in me, since that I never could see with them, & once more finding it the safer part to be free of all diplomacies, the more so as it was now evident the Commodore did not tell me much of his affairs even with

1st a point on which I totally differed, first because we have plenty of beef on the island & much more at Kuma-mai, and secondly the while insisting on having beef we may be sure they'll by us to accept of pigs, right at once sticking beef in their place. They'll soon plead scarcity of pigs