June 1853
Lect 436.) not be brought to look into it, & by hints & ridicule dissuaded the others likewise from attending to it. They have also given me an important hint, as to their complaisance manifested when persuading them to read in our books while we are alone, & which they could not manifest when we were surrounded by strangers, who at any time may come in & witness it. Why this, think? do you suppose the Americans would denounce you to the mandarins? Or do you suppose they understood the chinese or Japanese character, to know what we are about? as to the latter, said they, the Interpreter & others who you say we studied the Japanese might well easily enough know what we read, besides that the mention of Jesus & other names would quite reveal the secret; & as to the former, although they might not betray us, they might think we are disciples of Jesus, & might then declare to others that we are disciples of Jesus in London, which would do us great harm, & would lead to investigation till we are found out. From these arguments the friends of this mission will plainly see fear is the one great hindrance which prevents the natives from quietly perusing our books.

Ishirazichi calls again this evening, looking anxious, & desirous of obtaining once more a statement from me as to my further plans & purposes concerning the continuation or giving up of the mission. I saw him & had to often spoken out my mind on this matter that I need not repeat what I have already so often said on it, what I have to add is, that, as themselves may easily imagine, the arrival of a christian squadron in these waters, with a special mission to Japan, must greatly encourage us & our friends at home, who may certainly now incline more energetically to prosecute their work here, though, I might leave, and as I have already said, before my letters arrive, I can take no resolution.

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

take books up to Mr. Namie for the two Chinamen, who are fond of reading through simple cookies. They hang about them from morning to evening a lot of our young samurai's as spies, & they may perhaps be turned out of their idle habits by seeing Chinese cooks & an English sailor. Finding time enough to do their business, be their own cooks & servants, & yet to read & feed their mind.

21. Extraordinary unwillingness to fill up the provision orders. The purveyors scarcely take off ½ of what is ordered to the ships. Sometimes they supply animals which must be returned as quite unfit for food. They appear especially vindictive towards the Mississippi. Those men have been questioned upon Mr. Namie, where they can not even have the satisfaction of placing them under the surveillance of a spy-hut, which I thoroughly resisted. against the colony at Tamai They cannot come out openly, Once because they keep them surrounded in & out door by numerous spies, & once more, because we got the authorities themselves into such a dilemma, that they were obliged spontaneously to offer a house in exchange for the office we had occupied. This is indeed a great advantage, which if well used, will give a solid nucleus around which many plans may be projected on a firm basis. For we have now got out a written & sealed concession of the Regent, that as long as the Commodore has here a ship or ships he may retain possession of the Tamai house. On such concession firm hold may be laid to obtain the necessary civil rights of the occupants of that house, & this, once obtained, all the rest cannot be long withstood.

A very interesting (as the more satisfactory for being) incident of this day is the following letter: (written only with pencil)

On Board U. S. Steamer Mississippi, June, 21st 1853.

Dear Sir, I may you excuse my boldness in addressing

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

address you in an epistolary manner. If it were not that I have long felt a deep interest in the cause of missions and all those who are earnestly engaged therein, I probably should not have intruded myself upon your notice. But inasmuch as by our profession we are both of us servants of one master, even Jesus Christ the Righteous, I trust you will not take offence.

Myself and friend beg that you will please give us your counsel. We have determined, that we will, by the grace of God assisting us, devote our life in future to the advancement of the cause of missions. We have thought long & seriously upon it. A voice within seems always saying: woe is me if I do not in some way assist in giving the Gospel to the heathen. We humbly beg your advice, as regard the course proper for us to pursue in order to make ourselves useful. We feel perfectly willing to be any thing or nothing for the sake of Jesus. We intend to use the money we shall be enabled to save from our present service to prepare ourselves in the best manner we are able for useful ness. Be pleased, we pray you, give us your counsel.

Yours respectfully

J. Goble
marine

Rev. R. Rutherham
London.

This letter strongly reminded me of mine to George Rochefort Clarke; & though ignorant as yet of the recompence my boldness may have met with, I was glad, in the interval, to have once more opportunity of convincing myself how at least prompted by benevolence to encourage boldness in a right direction, is spontaneously led to act in similar emergencies. The letter of Marine Goble having been brought by one of the carpenters busy with my windows, I made haste not to lose the return post & after having fed my own surprise, I read the letter once more over in company with Mrs. R. I wrote off the following reply:

Napa, June 21st 1853.

My dear Sir I need scarcely tell you that the letter you addressed

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

to me this morning was very agreeable. Nothing is calculated more to cheer a christian minister than to find the children of God walking in, & ready to confess the truth before men. That you have confidence in me on the simple ground of my being a missionary, without any thing else that might commend me to your favour, is also a strong indication of your sincere standing before God, & greatly contributes to make me believe, the resolution you form to devote yourself to God & his service is formed in sincerity, and as yourself say, with simple reliance on the grace & mercy of our Lord.

The counsel you ask of me would at best be very poor human wisdom. Ask counsel & advice of Him, in whom are hid all treasures of wisdom. Having the anointing which cometh from above you need not that any should teach you. If God be for you, who can be against you! A man resolved to be any thing & nothing for God's sake, through his mighty aid & in faith of Him, will surely have strength given him for any undertaking. Be strong in the Lord & in the might of his power & all things will be possible & even easy to you.

If your heart is indeed with the Lord – and, as already said, I hope it fully is – no better sphere could offer for the realization of your wish than Japan, & till it is accessible, London, where missionaries will always be in a position effectually to prepare themselves for Japan.

Beyond the above concurrence in your views & the suggestion ventured as to the spot in this globe to which I should wish to see your attention directed rather than to any other – from reasons, which it would take too much time to write down here, but which I am ready to state to you whenever you may favour me with a visit – I think it unnecessary to say any thing further, till I shall have had the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance, & to

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

June 1853 } learn more of your circumstances.
Rect. 437 }

with my friendly greeting to your friend; to whom, of course, I beg to say the same as to yourself.

I remain
Your very truly
D. J. Bettelheim

Mr. S. Goble, marine,
U. S. Thr. Mississippi.

22. The Chief Carpenter of the Plymouth, who had already yesterday lost a date day in finding a beam for a jib-boom (articles which are plentiful, the little "Rose" of Hamburg having taken with her two ready-dressed jibbooms, besides the one made up for her) came to-day for the same purpose, & with the same result, nothing but natural & unsatisfactory is expressed by the Captains at the shameless evasions & the wandering of their undertings. Does sorry for the gentleman, who is likewise a christian man & joined us in family worship while waiting in our house this morning. I was told - for I was not at home when our friend returned - they had taken him a round of several miles into woods & forests, where he was desired to find a suitable tree for his purpose, whereas ready ones lie round the harbour in several places.

Went to-day down by the assistant engineer of the Mississippi the little machinery, more minutely than I had ever before seen it. Attentive inspection of the steam-box & valves is what I most aimed at. Of the Caloric-ship of Ericsson too little had as yet been written to allow an inquirer to get a good notion of its machinery. Fortunately a trial has already tested the feasibility & some efficiency of the new machinery, & in our isolated position I indeed hail an invention which bids fair soon to supersede canvas in navigation, the expence of Caloric ships being once overcome, making it cheaper in keep than a common ship.

Had a long walk with Capt. Lee in Wm. Dismal, & learned to love & esteem him better. On our homeward way, when already at

spit to enter at Mr. Bower's, one of the officers informed us that not far from this a man was lying in a dying state on the ground, & that when he approached two females, who had been bitterly crying beside the man had been dragged off, & that he considered the man was more killed than dying under the treatment he received. We immediately repaired to the place, & found an aged man of about 65. lying on a mat beside a thoroughfare, & his mourning relatives with him.Ours told, it was about two hours he had thus fallen to the ground, & that nothing could rouse him, not even the application of moxa, which they had repeated recourse to, & which our friend, had he known how universal is its application here, would not have designated a killing the patient. I examined the pulse & found scarcely any, the heart still moving: had some cold water sprinkled into the patients' face, & ordered a moxa to be applied, but without the slightest effect. Our friend was for a bleeding which I assured them would be in vain, there being no pulsation perceptible, besides that we had no lancet ready, & it would look too rude before the natives to use a knife for the purpose, especially, as it was probable, without good effect, then they might decry the novel practice & ascribe to it the inauspicious issue. I could therefore do nothing beyond condoling with the relatives in their misfortune, considering within myself the case beyond recovery.

23. The Authorities sent to request me I should tell Capt. Kelly they could not serve him with a beam for a jib-boom except he send to a wood at Urasi, beyond the Capital, where he might cut a tree for himself. I sent a message to say, they must never expect the missionary to tell a lie for them, & declined having any thing to do in the matter. The same nearly was my reply in the afternoon when a Te-fu and Ichiyarichi came as messengers of the Pu-ching-Kunsu, stating that some days ago some Officers being in Shuy, had entered a house, whereby the women were frightened & ran off into the backroom &c. &c. I pointed at

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

Mr. D. & told him: "Behold a woman!" He does not run away when you or an American officer come; I would be obliged to declare my wife in the wrong were I to plead for yours in this matter; besides, I have often written your mandarins on the matter, declaring it quite innocent to look at & talk with your women; you & necessary for the missionary to teach them, & I could not say, that I consider myself right in, others doing the same, were wrong.

My Prey Fordjis to-day spontaneously asked for Dr. Pat Forbes and treatise on Electricity, & grieved that the weather did as yet not permit a trial of the machine. They also told me, as a heavy stay from the mandarins, that my continuing here, if foreign ships are indeed to arrive often, would be rather liked; as they could not always clearly make out the errand of those ships, except one explained it minutely to them.

About 4. p.m. The Susquehanna & Saratoga hove in sight, drove soon at their anchor. Saw provisions got off plentifully & without much toil. - Visited Com on the Commodore. Found him all friendly & remarkably well looking. Commodore told me 5-6 days he was to be off to Yeddo. - On board the Mississippi Lay they & were all under order to be ready for sea, immediately. I could not help thinking within myself how pleasant it is to have high connexion, be it only for having correct information on matters, which for remarkably rare must sometimes unavoidably be allowed to assume a less minute form before the many. Thus when I told my friends, who were almost taking leave of me, that there was no occasion of such haste in the matter, as I could with all probability give them a week's longer stay in Loochoo, they looked wondering into my face. but knowing that I have access to highest quarters, they immediately quieted down their astonishment; since the order of the Commodore, though given immediately on his arrival, was meant only to stimulate the squadron to be ready at a moments' notice, though that moment may still be distant some days.

24. Ichivashichi comes very early to exchange information.

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

desirous of knowing for a certainty where the ships had been (he really asked, with a steady eye fixed upon me, whether these two ships had not now returned from their fruitless visit to Japan!) & what they had done, & what we thing where they had been (for a bad Government is suspicious, & hence curious after news beyond conception) he was obliged to offer an exchange of a time that important nature, & that was that we have now a new Regent, the former one having been obliged to resign because of illness. We knew here what such changes signify, & I have little doubt but the imbecile Mandarin had been disgraced, & will probably, nominally at least, be banished to another island. For my part I had to make very little secret about the past doings of the ships, & thought it even necessary to be minute in information about them, to counteract the suspicion that they had already been at Japan & had returned without effecting any thing, than which nothing could have been more disadvantageous both for the ships & ourselves here. I was therefore the more particular in giving him an amplified exposition of the following brief notice which I had from Purser Harris, who is the journalist – so I suppose – to the Squadron, for collecting bearings, anecdotes &c.

Bonin (To-ko-mi-pu-jin, pronounced in the Japanese tongue) literally denotes: no man, uninhabited. And it appears the Japanese, having visited this & finding no man, called the group, the "Uninhabited Island." The Perry group is the northern, and, if I am not mistaken, is altogether uninhabited even now, the island being very small. Peel Island, by the Spaniards called, Arzobispo (archbishop) lies to the north of Stapleton, & this again to the north of Buckland Island. There are in all now 15. (Others say 25.) families living here, the number of women being 10 (others say 25.). The inhabitants are a mixture of Sandwichislanders, English, American & Portuguese, but own themselves a dependency of England. The women are mostly of the Sandwich, & so is the larger part of the males, Kanaka's (Canaka, I am told, denoting "man" in the Honolulu language.) The Patriarch of the Colony, a respectable man, having by trade with whalers, saved upwards of 2000 Dollars; has a year or two ago been robbed of his property & of a grown-up daughter by a party of marauders who visited Bonin. Lt. Page, the U. S. Brig Dolphin, took back the whole case, which has been in=

Digital image © 2007 University of the Ryukyus Library

June 1853 } vestigated into, but as yet without result. Last year ten
Fleet 438 } whalers had called in here. The Harbour is excellent, ca-
pable of sheltering a whole fleet, but somewhat too deep. The Co-
lony keeps up connection with Guam, a Spanish island of the
Marianes. Turtles here are found so large that often 2 bushels
of eggs are taken out of one. Melons also grow to a rare
size. The islands are so rocky that only a strip of land, sea-
ming the different bays, has hitherto been brought under culti-
vation. They are hence totally unfit for supporting a large popu-
lation. Having the Commodore wishes to invite the mandarins to
a banquet on board his ships, as soon as Ichiwashi left,
I sent off the following note:

Napa, June 24th 1853.

M. C. Perry, Commodore
U. S. Sh. Susquehanna.

Sir, I hasten to inform you of a piece of news
just now received, & that is, that the former Tonsy-li-
Kiaou has been so ill (i.e. has been deposed from office)
that it was considered necessary immediately to appoi[illegible] an
other. We have thus at present a fresh & healthy Ki[illegible] (*
I have the honour &c.
B. J. Bettelheim.

Commander Kelly comes on shore with orders from the Commo-
dore to arrange for a present of Cattle to be given to the
native authorities, to improve the breed of horned cattle on
the Island & introduce that of sheep. It was certainly a
valuable present consisting of 3. Buffalos (i. Bull & 2.
Cows, one among them pregnant), Ditto 1. Bull & two cows, &
12 sheep, among which several were with young. I worked
upon this somewhat like Jacob's doves sent before him to
Esau. Though, fortunately, quite from other motives than his.

(* His name: 尚宏勲. Shang-Hung-Hiung.