

to hear the True religion. And there are at present very many in China, who have embraced Christianity, and the Emperor has allowed them (to build) temples of worship.

I conclude by saying. Your Excellency full well knows, I am a good friend of this country, and have nothing so much at heart as the happiness of its inhabitants, and therefore hope, with the assistance of Government, soon to see it make some progress.

I beg your Excellency may please to present this to the great King of the middle mountain, to glance it over.

In the year of Jesus
1847. Jan. 12th.

Chinese Date
Jan. Kwang, Year 26.
11th moon, 26th day.

Free-Hospital in Napa

The english physician
Potelings' reply.

This letter was brought back after three days, on the ground that it contained an explicit statement of christianity, which can never be brought under notice of the King. I altered the letter, as follows:

I have humbly received your revised letter and fully perused. Concerning the topic of physicians, I have to say, the medical art in China is very inconsiderable. proof the Viceroy Keying, in Canton, when indisposed, calls in an English physician. There are also in Shanghai and Ningpo great hospitals, in which hundreds of Chinese patients are under the superintendence of English physicians. He who does not understand the machinery of a watch cannot repair it, when it is spoiled. Now the Chinese Doctors have no notion of the interior of man, how should they cure him when sick? Sometimes even an old woman may effect a cure, but is she therefore a physician?

As to geography and astronomy, every one knows the Chinese have been taught in these matters by disciples of Jesuits, but as yet their progress is small. The teachers being deficient their schoolboys pupils must be still more so. How can a ship sail whose master knows nothing of Geography or of Calendar calculations? - As to the study of the English language and writing, no doubt both English and American ships will soon have to touch here in considerable numbers and it would be a shame, if none were able to speak, and a lot if none could do any business with them. Studying

about the same time the following parable was sent in to the King:

In the land of Choo-Loo there was once a great famine, and it came to pass that a large sack fell down from heaven, which made a great noise at its fall, so that all the inhabitants fled from it, a period with hunger as before. But one sage was in that country. He said, I must go & see that sack, for as it came down from heaven it cannot be an evil thing. An man would fain persuade him not to go, saying, the lightning had struck that house. But the sage said: I fear not. How can you, who have not seen it say, it is the thunder that struck the house? The people still continued to dissuade him from his intention,

one - two years any person may acquire a good knowledge of the english language, and writing, and with the english letters the language of any country can be expressed. But there are so many gents and young folks, who have no occupation whatever, why should they not study? In china, there are many schools in which english masters teach children. - Your Excellency you may say, the people here are very stupid, alas, how true! For they do not study an european language, can never read a good book to become enlightened. The chinese books contain only old fables, but very little of science and art. - Your Excellency full well knows that I am a good friend of his country, and have no greater wish than that of making the people happy, and hope, that countenanced by government, they will ere long make progress. - I beg your E. to forward this for the inspection of his Majesty the King, and will

but the wise man went. On finding the sack he opened it and saw it contained rice. He thrust down, knelt for, made a good fire, and took a very hearty meal, with the purpose of not quitting soon the house. After some months, his disciples mourning over him, said, our master, no doubt, is dead, let us go and bury him. And when they had made all things ready they assembled for the funeral with tears & sobs, placed the coffin on the bier, and proceeded towards the house. How great was their surprise, when arriving there to find their master sitting over a good dish of rice, his countenance and appearance bespeaking plenty. O ye fools, said the sage unto them, why did you not come sooner? Where was your concern about me? But I forgive you. Now sit down & eat, for you look all thin and pale. After the meal he took the sack with him into the coffin and commanded his disciples to carry him out. The whole population had already assembled to the funeral of the sage and followed the bier to the grave. Imagine now, how great was their astonishment, when they saw the bier

I remain.

(Jan. 16th 1847)

Naga, English Free-Hospital

The Physician
Petching's answer

(The following anecdote belongs to letter 4. and was intended to support the proposition to be permitted to assist medically the vice-governor, who, I was told, had become mad, from intense application to public business.)

There was once a scholar, who was so diligent as to read even at the light of a bag of glow-worms, and thereby obtained the first literary degree and enjoyed the special favour of his King. But intense study soon heated his brains and he became mad, with the imaginary whim of having an ox-tongue hanging down his nose. If any one came to visit him, he said, Take care not to touch my beautiful tongue. His friends, very much pained, called in medical aid, inquired at the Hongs and Fortune-tellers, but all to no purpose, they could not heal him, and he went on playing and shocking his nose just as old men play with their beards. Finally there arrived a shrewd and experienced physician, who pronounced the patient curable. The King on hearing this sent for him, and told him, If you can cure my faithful servant, you shall be made one of the Han-tin members. - The Doctor now took round a large cloke, went into the butcheries and bought a large ox-tongue, then he provided himself with a sharp knife, and went to the residence of the Lunatic man, opened

plus take out a large sack from the coffin instead of the body of the sage! But their astonishment was still greater, when on its being opened, they found it contained, what in the whole country could not be found, rice. Then the sage raising himself up in the coffin, addressed them thus: O fools & slaves of heart to believe that God can do wonders! were you sooner come, so many of you would not have persisted in

the door, and stopped, and looked, and exclaimed: "strange! strange! never did I see such a wonderful nose! what a nice tongue it has! what a nice tongue!" The Lunatic hearing this said: "you indeed are my friend, you tell me the truth, all the rest are my enemies, they tell me I am mad; but I see now they are all liars, only you and I, we two, are lovers of truth." Then he rose, quite pleased, played and stroked his nose, and invited the physician to come up to him. The Doctor at once did so and embraced him, but while holding him near his bosom, he speedily took out the knife and gave the Lunatic a deep cut in the nose, so that he cried loud out. On this the physician showed him the tongue and said: "now I have cut it down, I did not wish your nose should differ from that of all men." The madman believed it, buried the tongue & was thus cured. The King was very rejoiced at it, and according to his promise made the doctor a Han-lin.

Letter IV

It is now a year and upward since I have in this country, and after to-morrow being my 34th birthday, I beg to express my thanks (a large present accompanied this letter)

the famine, and now take what God has intended for your blessing. Come all and eat. - The people did so. They had provision to feed during the whole time of the famine, and the rice in the sack did not fail, and there was yet enough for seed in the fields.

(I have reason to believe this parable, quite congenial to a superstitious nation, was widely circulated, & more than once when I remonstrated with them on their indifference to our message, they told me smiling: "we understand you, we have not yet opened the sack.")

for this year's undeserved favours, and we hope that your majesty will graciously continue those bounties, which I shall be ever grateful for. - Having heard that my friend, the former vice governor General, from extraordinary application to public labours, had become insane, I specially request your majesty, graciously to permit me to administer medicines to a friend, whose merits have so many claims on his country. There are here no medicines (for this illness) but I have excellent ones brought with me, and I hope, by the blessing of God, my efforts may succeed to restore him.

May your majesty & the Crownprince continue under the divine protection, may the heavens pour down blessings, wind & rain be propitious, and the country & the people enjoy safety & peace.

With most humble prostrations before your majesty's palace

June 14th 1867.
(Chinese year 27th,
5th month, 2^d day)

The English Physician
Peking

Letter V

with humble compliments before the bar of

The Vice Governor General of Lochoo I beg to state, that the
Communication made me through the two messengers, who came
some days ago, does not agree with your Excellency's letter
of yesterday. On first sending off the presents I have already
told the Tozies (Companions &c) that ^{no} ⁱⁿ return are to given,
for properly they are no presents, but intended as ^a ^{sent}
for the house, in which I reside, ~~as~~ also ~~as~~ ^a ^{consi-}
deration for the servants given us. Your Excellency
says this country is very poor, that a poor man should
give his service, or any thing gratis, does certainly not
enter the ~~the~~ Intis of Decorum, and the honour of those who
sent me as also my own matter it necessary to prove
substantially, & not with words only, that I am grateful
for favours received. What I now say, I have already
told the two messengers, that the two yellow cap men
said, His Majesty the King, as well as your Excellency,
though knowing my intentions, thought it the duty of
this country, according to custom, to provide me both
with a dwelling & servants. But I, unable to con-
ceive how a little country can any way ima-
gine to do something gratis for the greatest country
in the world, would not consent to believe it till
the mandarins would write down this statement. They
(the messengers) said, well, it shall be done so, but in

the yesterday's letter of your Excellency there is not a word contained of what these yellow caps (mandarins) had said. They also had stated that the Vice Governor General did not know, my intention in sending the present was, it should be taken in shape of a letter for the house. I therefore once more request your Excellency straightforward to write, whether you will take it or not. - at the same time I beg a person understanding the Japanese, and able to write it, may be sent one, whom I will pay, as not one among our Foxies understands it (I also beg some Japanese books should be found me, which I will buy."

June, 1847.

(Prevented from writing to and much more from seeing the King, the following was written on a large sheet, which I took with me to the Capital, pinned it on the door of the palace & read it off, as a sort of appeal made to the King.)

The English Doctor humbly bows his head before the Great King.
This is called

Shaou Li Chi Pung

A nation observing Decorum †

alas! both among the people, gentry, linguists and mandarins, there are some quite destitute of politeness.

† This title is to be read in gilded characters over the gate leading to the Central Offices in Peking. I am told, this title was bestowed by the Emperor of China on the Loochooans.

^{ex} will it be credited, that on his letter, a man was sent to - instruct them, and in - half an hour all my folks had learned to read simple Japanese. This is a fact.

self, and all of them all liars. A few days ago the vice-
governor general sent to me two yellow cap-men, and all
they said was unalloyed falsehood. If office-bearers are not
to be believed, whom then shall we believe? Whenever I want
to see a mandarin, he is sick, or out on business. Is this
keeping decorum? I am sent hither by english mandarins,
who know this country is poor, and since I live here, and
have servants found me, and enjoy your majesty's favours,
I wish every year to give a present instead of rent.
But the impolite mandarins oppose my politeness, and
I therefore crave your majesty to order these manda-
rins they should earnestly meditate on the virtue of
truthfulness. - Praying that wind and rain may be favourable,
the country prosperous & the people in safety I am &c. "

June. 1847.

Letter Vii

(* Already long ere this I had repeatedly suspicions
that some persons unknown steal my money. But
seeing in my house so many linguists and
guardians, I thought within myself, I must

(* This letter was written after we had discovered,
to our great consternation & surprise, that upward
of 500 dollars had been stolen from us.