

5  
be mistaken, and expecting at the same time, the two =  
choovan return junks from China would bring me  
money from my friends, I did not make up my  
accounts. Now the junks are returned without bringing  
me money, I opened the box to look how I stand for  
money, and found that out of one bag, which had  
been 250 dollars, which had been opened only a few  
weeks since (for current expence) there were missing  
190 dollars; another bag also containing 250  
dollars, which I had then (when the other bag was  
opened) touched and handled with my own hand, was  
missing altogether, and reckoning to these sums,  
what must have been stolen last year, the theft  
committed amounts to upwards of 500 dollars.  
I beg the mandarins, each & all, to make speedy  
investigation in this matter. addressed to H. E.  
The Vice Governor General.

July 5<sup>th</sup> 1847.

In this letter there was included the following  
note of the French missionaries (then) here,  
(translated in the Chinese by us)



" The english physician Besselheim having informed us that  
an extraordinary great sum of money had been stolen  
from him, we cannot but intercede for him and beg  
H. E. the Vice Governor General, immediately to institute  
inquiries, that those who have committed such misdeed  
may be discovered, a discovery, which is necessary also  
for the honour and safety of the country.

with special regards to H. H. the vice governor General

July 5<sup>th</sup> 1807

(Signed)

The french Shin fu's

Le Furdu;

Admet.

Letter VIII

my office as well as the honour of those who sent me,  
hitherto has not allow me to buy any thing without  
immediately settling accounts. But as now all  
my dollars have been stolen by Crochovans,  
I beg the vice governor General to receive the en-  
closed five Sovereigns in gold in advance, and  
as with gold coin we shall not be able weekly  
to settle accounts, (\*) I beg the vice governor

(\*) They never will give me any change, and what cannot  
be brought to a round number of dollars is lumped up & added  
to another week's account. with gold coin this proceeding  
weekly would have been most inconvenient.



General, henceforward to order the Compravors to come only once  
a month to settle accounts. When my ship, (\*) or another  
english or french ship shall arrive, I shall immediately  
exchange the Sovereign †, each one for five Dollars.

July 10, 1847.

(\*) Mr. Fekender, the Charterer of the Starling, the Ship in which we  
had come over from Hong Kong, has most positively promised  
us to send the Starling once more over, to give us a look after.

† They made first objections to taking gold, as not known  
here, but they soon after took it avidly.

### Letter IX.

On July 5<sup>th</sup> 1847. I have brought before the Vice Govern=  
or General, the case of the theft of six hundred + up=  
wards of Dollars, which were stolen from me, & begged  
him to inquire into the matter. Yesterday he favoured  
me with an answer, containing chiefly five points, on which  
I have to reply as follows. 1. He says "If I had last  
year had any suspicion of thieves why not immediately bring  
(the case) before the authorities?" I have already in my for=  
mer petition stated, that last year I entertained merely  
suspicions, and could, <sup>therefore</sup> not make a suit of it. The ancients said:  
one word may raise a country, and again a single word may  
sink a country. I would therefore broach no rumours.



2<sup>d</sup> He says: The (indoor) managers † had reported, that in the 3<sup>d</sup> month (about end April) I had told them, all my Dollars were nearly gone, & I had only left for two - three months more, and they produced, as proof, also a note from my Chinaman (Chinaman) " Now all this is a story. The matter is, on that day (in April) a money bag was just finishing, and only two more were left me, and I thought, as Dollars are of more easy and universal currency, I would keep them for cases of urgency, and would begin to defray my expenses here with gold coin, having the advantage at the same time to teach the people the value of English coin, and in the note of my Chinaman, there is nothing more written, than that the value of each English pound Sterling is five Dollars (or we'll exchange it with \$5.). 3<sup>rd</sup> The Letter says: I may have made a mistake in my accounts" But the money, which I have brought to this, whether in gold, silver or copper, is all noted down in banking houses in Hong Kong, my weekly expenses here, are also booked (by the mandarins) there cannot be the slightest mistake. 4<sup>th</sup> He says " The boxes as well as the servants are very careful in their business, & by no means negligent, and strictly forbid loiterers going to & fro, which (he says) I very well knew "

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† we had at that time more business managers than I can find names for. Great & sub-companions, guards out & in doors, and besides five indoor managers (those meant in the text) and (Wutai) gangs, public messengers, as servants.



How say "I knew it well!" Since I live here I have had often to complain of the negligence of the Wedaiogungs (our servants) and I know well, that servants, in the house of any Loodooan, are very careful and honest, but the "public messengers" sent us from the mandarins, are not at all careful; they let my children fall & wound them, they spoil our eating, they do not keep the house clean, they are such liars, that we cannot believe them one syllable, and now, in addition, it is clear that there are thieves among them. Likewise the "business managers" (Tories), what are they but spies to watch & report our doings? They call in & assemble idle people, whom they style their friends, and gamble the whole day and speak lies, and every day, since the theft had been committed, they are full of dispute and quarrel, so that I can scarcely refrain from considering them with suspicion. From the very beginning it was my constant cry, I don't want any Tories, and that I will pay every one, whose services I want, for them, I was sure, I should be faithfully served and well obeyed. But the people sent us by the mandarins, no one knows any thing about their character, whether it is good or bad, and it is but just, I should keep the mandarins responsible for them. S<sup>th</sup> The report of the inquiry made by the prison Inspector, only shows, he



little knows what should be his business, and I have therefore  
to request the Governor General, immediately to change  
and appoint other mandarins for this inquiry, and  
that the case be judged of in my presence. Other-  
wise, if the money be not found out, every Country  
in Europe will clearly understand: Safety for foreign-  
ness in Coorhoo is only to be expected when a  
man of war is here.

July 27<sup>th</sup>: 1850.

Letter X.

When I on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month (July 27) was in the  
Capital, the vice governor General sent a yellow cap man,  
with the promise, that if long, on 26<sup>th</sup> (July) I shall receive  
the vice governor General's answer, both on the matter of the  
returned presents and also on that of the debt. Now in  
the despatch, one matter alone being treated of, I specially  
beg, the vice governor General may please to give  
me a clear written statement of what the  
Napa Governor (\*) had informed me in the name of  
the vice governor General. For when I return home  
I must be able clearly to prove, that while

(\*) If I remember right the Napa mandarin was the bearer of  
the letter, denying the debt; and at the same time declared, first that  
they had, according to custom, been obliged to give me a residence, and second,  
that as my residence was a temple, they could not receive rent for it. I  
wrote both points written down, for very good reasons.



I was here, I was anxious to pay to the utmost farthing,  
for every thing. with (golden) compliments &c.

July 28<sup>th</sup>: 1847.

Letter. XI

Being deeply grieved at the many burials I witness  
daily, the thought struck me, there may perhaps an  
epidemical disease be abroad among the people, perhaps  
the small pox<sup>o</sup>, perhaps ague, both which are indeed diffi-  
cult to be cured. Wherefore I crave Your Majesty  
would please to order some Doctors to come to me,  
whom I would with pleasure teach them some curative  
methods and also give them good medicines. A good  
ruler, when able to increase the welfare of his people will  
feel it his duty to do so. Confucius saith, the people is  
the basis (rock) of the country, when the rock is strong,  
the country is safe. Again he says, cherishing that the  
people cherish, and rejecting what they feel does them  
harm make ~~as~~ parental rule (government). He who  
has rice, needs not feed on potatoes; he who has  
brandy and tea, need not drink cold water. †

(\* I had been told, on the best authority, they took here between  
40-50 percent in the small pox.

† They don't drink here cold water. All their drink is tea or  
brandy, & they consider cold water as very injurious.



Again Confucius says. He that can keep horse and carriage  
does not meddle with fowls and pigs. If therefore Your  
Majesty can benefit his beloved people by procur-  
ing for them an english physician and english  
medicines, there is no need to let them take in-  
ferior medicines. Hearing every where that too many  
people die, and that the government has rejected  
the offer of a friendly physician, who is anxious  
to assist the country, It will certainly cause  
wonder to conceive, how Looshoo can call  
itself by the name of "Decorum keeping people"!

This humble petition is respectfully addressed  
to the King of Looshoo.

August. 17<sup>th</sup>. 1847.

Letter XII

Respectfully addressing the Governor General, I  
beg to say that the answer <sup>‡</sup> I received (yesterday  
Mry) appears at best to be a joke. I suppose  
the case (of the theft) was never looked into. I  
know, where foreign cloth <sup>‡</sup> is hid, how can

\* As far as I recollect this note was written off hand, while the  
negotiations, do brought a letter from the Governor General, were still  
writing. The letter of course fully denied all knowledge of the theft.

‡ We had given several pieces of european stuffs to our servants, who  
were exchanged every death Mry. Had any examination been instituted  
this (contraband in Looshoo) would certainly have been discovered.



2.  
it be said, we had no proof? It is now sure, the case  
must be adjudge'd of in my presence, for the mandarins  
have seem to be like hawks. If the case don't come  
out quite clearly, then will be no possibility for me  
to return home. - This is respectfully addressed to the  
Governor General.

August. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 1847.

Letter XIII

The Interpreter of the English physicians,  
having received the Master's orders, makes his com-  
pliments to the Napa Governor, and begs to state,  
that one of the servants in the San-Kwang-Yuen (the  
original name of our residence), called Kani, under  
plea of having business at home, had left Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>  
with the promise, he would return next morning, and  
now it is more than ten days that he does not come,  
and we feel his loss of service in the house. The  
Master has often spoken on the matter to the  
Comptrollers, but they don't mind it. I am  
therefore charg'd especially to request the  
Napa Governor will cause him to come

From all they said, it was clear, they had a clue to the  
matter; but they insolently taunted us by saying, as  
long as we saw none steal, we could not produce  
any proof.