

pi or Tantogai; or, which appears better, by making him the compliment
of placing a boat at his disposal, to fetch him at the hour appointed, &
taking him at once on board another ship. In either case he might be
told, that he was to meet, according to appointment, the Commander of the two
quebecs, only that the meeting was to be held on another board.

Or, if the meeting must absolutely take place in the
flagship, I should humbly suggest that both the Commanders & Interpreter
to every thing in their power to confine the meeting to this one point,
namely, that the Agent has been purposely invited, to make prepara-
tions for the due reception of the Commodore, at such a time as they
and how - at the palace in Shuy, when it shall be told, that he must
do. I can foresee the scene which will follow. He'll sink on his knees
and cry with heartrending cries & tears that he sentence be commuted.
If this be yielded, again all is lost - except the application of force.
If he - as is quite likely & bring a written petition, his would be
the stronger appeal he is able to give. & I should humbly sug-
gest, he should be immediately told not the slightest notice would
be taken of its contents till after the meeting at the Palace.

In the event of the Agent - on account of bad weather &c - had
an excuse, declining the intended meeting - than which nothing
could be more fortunate - as soon as his appointed hour is passed, he
might be served with the notice, that the meeting was quite given up in
consequence of his withdrawal, & he interviewed at the palace at the
same time clearly & strictly demanded.

I most humbly crave your forgiveness for the liberty taken
in thus addressing you. Looking up to you as the man, appointed in
the Providence of God, to become the Regenerator of Japan, I should
deem it unpardonable guilt in me were I to hide from you any
view I now, having from long experience among Japanese. In
my humble judgment no diplomacy with them will ever be effective
except their own. They must be fought with their own weapons. After
the show of imposing power - if it is not to be now - all depends on
the arrangements of meetings & keeping their highest functionaries
at a great distance from the highest officers acting against them. Commodore Perry now is the Emperor of Japan; the Consul General

May 1853.
Feb 4th.

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

Lis, I rec'd from the Bishop of Victoria, which yesterday, you kindly put into my hands, acquainting me, that possibly I may have the honor & confidance upon me of accompanying you to Japan, fully establishes me in the confidence your friendly 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:

Wou'd it not be 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 than half an hour after such meeting you will quite be of my own opinion on Japanese matters, at any rate as far as Lew chow is concerned. But a visit of our first mandarin on your board to-day, as I greatly fear, may have the effect of ~~the other~~ ^{to} other means - force alone excepted - for effecting any change, even the slightest, in the commercial & social systems of his land, & possibly that he doo 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 wou'd 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 Naga was to be requested to come on board for the purpose of receiving instructions, which he was to deliver to the Agents. How great then was my surprise to find that the latter 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 speaker. I shou'd 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 direct the Agents' visit from on board the Susquehanna to the Mississippi or Saratoga, a monosse, in my humble judgment easily effected, either by two complimentary boats in waiting to receive, i.e. to intercept the Agents' poor bark & give it in most friendly silence, as it passes along, to the river 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 ~~wicked~~ marines of a Christian pow-
er. Your own judgment will decide 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 Bishop's letter, & sincerely thanked God for the possibili-
ty now opening of my getting a look at Japan, a
country so long & so seriously occupying my mind.

Invitation 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 extra-
ordinary pressure of this morning's business. I send
my thanks & card by the Te fu just present, & when
I also entrusted the message that though I profoundly dep-
tend to Schiwarische's indefinite request of in-
tercession, I am ready to deliver any letter he autho-
rizes might wish to deliver to the Commodore & to speak
advantageously of him while running before the Commodore on
its topics.

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

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"my dear Dr. Biddle, since the date of my last letter
sent by his same opportunity I have heard that possibly
your assistance may be requested as interpreter by the Ameri-
can 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 pro-
posal 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 which 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 Dr. Gadsden in the British Expedi-
tion 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 needless however to bear
in mind both for your own sake as well as for the avoid-
ance of contingencies, that you would be responsi-
ble only for the accuracy of interpretation, & not
be in any way a principal in the diplomatic inter-
communication. - The American Expedition will, I
doubt not, under prudent management, exert a most
beneficial influence on your position at LewChew & the
future opening of Japan to the world. But it is impor-

I plainly saw, that either by mistake, or otherwise, the interpreter got the idea that he Fu-li-Kwan, our first mandarin had been invited, & not he Ti-fan-Kwan, the mayor of Nagasaki. - Another mistake was the announcement of the intention of the Commodore to introduce here an i-Kwan, which as the Interpreter afterwards in my house told me they had understood as 医官, a medical officer; which they requested me to declare to the Commodore was of no use to them, seeing I myself had but very little practice. On his topic however I suggested - being able to do so on good authority - that Dr. W. may perhaps have spoken of an 医舍官, i-Kwan, an hospital, for the ships' patients, an explanation, which I had no doubt gave the authorities great uneasiness, & therefore the whole matter would have been left untouched till after the great meeting of public reception. Ichirarichi, so, our friends know, is the authorized mouthpiece of the mandarin, while on an official visit at my house tried hard to persuade me to intercede for them, that nothing of what our American friends intended be put into practice. I told him, that in my humble judgment our Commodore is a very determined man, who would little mind what I might have to say, and at the same time I gave him an assurance he fullest assurance that there is not the slightest thing of missionary purposes in the whole of his expedition, which is exclusively of a political & commercial nature.

I must not omit to mention that this morning, while on board the Susquehanna, Commodore Perry opened some drawers & with his own hand delivered me the following note from the Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong, April 21, 1853:

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May 1853.] Rossouw intends to exercise a high rank of power on
[Act 418.] Japanese authorities, without coming to hostility, unless
he keeps open for himself a little store of plausible excuse,
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 offi-
cer to be 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. Rather as simple guide, or counselor,
or whisperer. I confess, I was not pleased with the indistinct-
ness of my Commission, still I passively submitted & went.

Took the party first to my house, whence I sent
for the mayor, to be soon at his office, where we are to wait on
him. This certainly was a great accommodation for our friend
who Dennis might have lost 2-3 days before coming into
contact with this lowest of our high functionaries. Dr. Wm
had at first such an unimportant & faithful servant
to handle their affairs. - we found ourselves soon at the
Naga Rung-Rung (public bath) the mayor having been
selected from the Fung's temple, so that we had to take
to a side lane, to allow him to arrive before us. He
was here at our backs all the while we went from our
house to the Rung-Rung. At this first meeting Dr. Wm
tried to experience how poorly the great department is in
the Interpreter Department. Dr. Wm himself speaking more
the Canton than the Peking dialect, & his aged China-
man - though bairns of fifteen as a native of Peking-
speaking a hardly intelligible Ningpo mouth. I could
now somewhat more clearly perceive what for my pur-
pose at the meeting was desired; but having received
no distinct orders to speak, I held my peace, although

Let Herby to seem if not Christian and at any rate the neutrality
of Christian powers. But though this may be part of the rising Aym.
Asia's scheme, there is no evidence an importation of Christians
honestly by 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^m as conclusive as to correctness of
the view I had taken of his 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
Reformation of Japan. - I now gave Dr. W^m 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 Nagasaki should be charged with communications be shown fur-
ward to the Su-li-Runn. I did not even incline to in-
vite the mayor on board of any of the ships. The latter
part of the proposal was however fully declined. General rea-
soning; the mayor should be invited on board - the flagship
but not to see the Commodore, but only the Commander
of the ship, & by him to be made acquainted with the object
of the Expedition. This - to my humble conception of Japanese
manners - was a great piece of blunder, as the opening of the
flagship to the native authorities, whenever they shall feel pleased
how, 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 occasions for delays & procrastination,
without openly showing politeness. and it is clear that

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as inducement to yield to his desire. But, besides his original mis-
takes in judging of the character of a Christian missionary, he had
extraordinary providential direction contained for this mission in the
appearance of the Japanese Expedition, which 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 proreness of behavior. I an-
xiously inquired whether he was or had been ill, and was assured
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 of which he now
formed so prominent a member. As he would not, as I
really expected - fall round my neck. I thought & how better
could him with missionary warmth, to quicken him with
my own glow. I sent him with me, requesting first of all
his frank opinion on the great movement going on in Ching.
For his cool temper won't enrage me makes I was exceed-
ingly happy to hear him confirm, that he thought it quite
likely, though Gulbabs' union ^{ever} scarcely be said to
have any share in the military rising. yet they had a
great love in the religious character it assumed, & that
the author of the proclamation most evidently was
a man imbued with Christian doctrine & faith. This
was cheering news indeed. I could easily imagine
the new Fai-Ding Dynasty - suppose she arrives at the
home - meeting with Christianity partly because expe-

His last question was: "What line of conduct I should advise for them to
want be Squadron?" and, of course, I told him, the more yielding
& obedient, the more so as China was no more, & as they might
be seen a powerful American demonstration would be made at
Yedo. Unfortunately they entering less exaggerated notions
of Japanese prowess, & any intimation of foreigners' growing
superiority over Japan is met with a doubt. I should
rather say, a mocking smile. - He also inquired concerning
the state of Fukien, & whether his two junks were safe.
and I told him, as I was able easily to gather from
what I had read, that it appears the coast territory of
China is still quite untouched. ~~For~~ his anxiety in
going up to our leaving this, & what news we had from
the English Government concerning us? I could not tell
him then that my parcels & letters, as do Bishop
of Victoria says, had all been sent off already to Fushow,
to be brought over by these junks, an information this
though it plainly involved the safe being of their junks
was not quite agreeable, partly because he doubted
he possibly, that the first letters I got, were not absolutely
from our Government, & partly because they here should
much prefer losing two junks to seeing our mission
strengthened & prolonged, which, I told him, Saeki was
now quite likely, as soon as our Society shall hear
of the arrival of the American Squadron in these waters.
This piece of news, I am sure, will be a mortal blow
to the hopes & our minds regarding the discontinuation of
the mission. ^{With} This they ^{but now} greatly strengthened themselves in, by
my own statements, favourable to such termination, &
partly, as I may easily suppose, by the weight they think,
that nice presents they made me, would have with me.