

June 1853
[Recd 426] to hand over in person documents of great importance. We were
thus at the trouble, until all our packing business to rub up
to have a little for the Regents' reception. Fortunately the Comptrollers
all appear to-day quite changed beings, & provisions were getting out
of town with surprising speed. - But of my Naga Nobis with
a visiting card & thanks for the meal sent yesterday was only tacitly
invited invitation to the intended banquet. - On his return had a
good talk in the Mandarin's Palace in which I am now anxious of making
progress, supposing still I may be invited to accompany the squadron
to Japan. - An Officer came to inquire what I would thought the best
place for the jiby, & shelter materials for it were near my house. Much
as I don't like a jiby, which would greatly facilitate our intercourse
with Nips in port. I thought still the time was not altogether come for
it before the palace meeting was over, & I told the Officer I would speak to
the Commodore on the subject. There also arrived the following letter:

U. S. Steam Frigate Susquehanna
Naga. June 3rd, 1853.

Ltd, Commodore Perry has received your commun-
ication of his morning, & has directed me to inform in reply
that he was not aware until a few moments ago that any
written invitation has been sent him to the banquet yester-
day. The card on which it was written has just been dis-
covered among some others on the table when it had been
placed by the servant. The verbal invitation brought by
the official at the same time was distinctly declined by
the Commodore, who would have found it very incon-
venient to attend, & who moreover had already ar-
ranged to have his next interview with the Regents at
Shuri, on Monday next. It was supposed that this
was explained to the interpreter & well understood by
the officer who brought the invitation. The Commodore regret
the misunderstanding, & wishes you to make a full explana-

had remained unknown to you. I suggested your mail may have been
the cause of your absence. But in this they justly observed, that
in this case they would have received a message to such effect.

The supplies for the ships had been quite stopped yesterday,
but it was suspended towards evening only after long debating, &
my consenting to deliver a despatch of this, & explain it to
you, in case their present anxious consultations should induce
me to adopting a written appeal to you.

They also asked, if, after what you demand in
your communication of yesterday, their still remaining a
demand to be made at the meeting in the Palace, shall
it be but at once to hand you over their government?
I said, far from this indeed, and though I knew nothing
definitely of your wishes, I suppose the sole transaction
concerned only commerce, & regulations in case American whalers
& other ships arrived; and that you wished to make them in the
Palace, 1st because it was becoming your dignity not to be
entitled with a less distinguished reception than is given
to an Envoy from China or England; & 2^d. because they
styling themselves a Kingdom must receive you public
ly in the Royal Styes, although they be within the same
enclosure with the Royal Residence.

I have the honor to remain
with profoundest respectfulness

Sir

Yours most humble & Obed. servt
R. J. Bettelheim

Liu Te-fu comes to inform me

The Agent would soon arrive at my house with the Despatch
I had promised to take for them to the Commodore. I very
lately requested he would not give himself the trouble of coming
as I would willingly forward it through the oral Despatch by
a Fe-fu. But Liu-te-fu said, no, it was their custom

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in & further the plan you devise. I have acted thus when your wisdom dictated from
my simplicity regarding the leaving open of the flagship to official visits (be-
fore the palace meeting had come off); I again acted thus then instead of
the mayor the Agent had been invited, & once more then he takes you admiring
into your presence just while a moment before it had been determined,
he dined only on the Commander of the ships, and lastly I could not but
act on the same principle, even without venturing any unwelcome suggestion
at all, then, without being informed of before or soon yesterday the letter of the
native authorities, & without being consulted while the reply was composed,
just at a time when you were busied in closing your mail, & without
Dr. Wm's even as much as hinting at a wish of showing me what he had
written. I was, yesterday, hurriedly requested to glance over a ready
made Dispatch, & to accompany Dr. Wm's on its delivery, and that
too a Dispatch embodying - with the only exception of the request
for 4 horses & a horse - several important topics, which I often
happily & warmly begged might not be even as much as hinted
at before the great public meeting; under similar circumstances
how could I venture intruding on your time? without having any thing
new to say, & saying all I had said rejected, what could I but ap-
prove & obey!

But having saved your faithful service con-
jointly with obediency I beg to inform you

that the disappointment, consternation, and - I am
sorry to add - irritation also, are very considerable on account of your
absence at the intended banquet of yesterday. The whole population
of Naga & Hany had had due notice of it, & a festival day had
been proclaimed, of which Dr. Wm's and myself saw unavoidable
evidence while bending our way to the office of the mayor. The
Agent himself & his retinue were in waiting. They said:
as you invited the Agent, he has a right, nay, a duty, to in-
vite you, why then disappoint him? - Is it then justice, they
exuse even their opponent, and rather than charge a mistake
on a ^{Dignitary} man of your rank & responsibility they charge their disap-
pointment on Dr. Wm's difficulty in understanding & speaking
the mandarin dialect, & thus support the whole invitation.

To him or to her, matters lightly, & hence the fatal disappointment. This, I confess, was to my perception, the best turn the affair could take. For little as he nation crafty &c of our mandarins are entitled to receive honourable treatment, yet they take care, however complicated their visiting round about ways, to give free place to none & having heard from several officers of the Insquekanna that the invitation had scarcely been accepted I could not within myself judge otherwise than that the absence of the guests was a deep offence given them, & any way they might imagine as palatable & satisfactory to his own mind, I was ready to let pass, feeling almost grateful to his own inventive brains for the way of escape they had discovered.

Left out, as usual, the remaining sort of the hand to our poor neighbours. But, our steward reported, all ran off. No mean proof that since the question is in fact strict exclusive matters must again have been enjoined. For my readers will know we have hitherto sent out & carried out many gifts of charity among the people & they ^{have} always been permitted to accept them for the last 4-5 years.

3. Found means, among which to prepare the Commodore for my party, presenting to him a despatch, as messenger on the side of the mandarins - which he might perhaps consider strange - induced me to send off early the following note:

Private

Commodore M. C. Perry
U. S. A. Insquekanna.

Naga June 3^d 1853

Sir
I have in a former letter word you which obediency, by which I mean, that though seeing my humble suggestions rejected I would still chearfully cooperate

June 1853 } my house, to know whether the Commodore would come, & when
July 4th } it became late & he did not appear, to know why he did not
come? My disappo^tnt them & cause them to disgrace before the people,
he first having been publicly announced, & the Agent being in writing
since an early morning her^r? " I could not before answer them say
that as I had heard nothing of the invitation on either side, I could
say nothing at all on the matter. But this, they again would not take
as substantial truth. For though full of duplicity, Memphis they can-
not persuade themselves Christians in their dealing. Had methods ap-
proaching to this, & they could not persuade themselves, after the
Commodore had invited me to the first meeting, that he then should
leave me uninformed concerning his further steps. No position is
indeed can be more difficult, & exposed to various suspicions in
many respects, than the half & half situation, ^{not with} I occupied—for
I am plain & simple in all I do—but is this either party
would keep & use me. However, I was firmly resolved not
to one for more confidence than was spontaneously injoint in
me, to guide the coolheads honestly through displaying them,
& thus to be able in all sincerity to continue faithful to the
interests of the Squadron. — The degree of irritation among the
native authorities was so strong, that they actually stopped all
the supplies of provisions, which I had ordered this morning,
till toward evening, when a compromise was proposed to turn
this hour, & that was to send off the various sides prepared
for the first, partly on board the Commodore's ship, partly
to my house, either a goodly number of officers resolved,
^{to partake in them.} and I had additionally to consent
to present a despatch of this & explain it to the
Commodore, supporting as they did that Mr. Wm. had attempted
conversant with the mandarin dialect, had not explained

cial meeting soon to take place, matters which should have been reserved
properly for it, could be introduced in a Despatch a day or two previously.

While waiting to be Rung-Kunng that he mayor should be in waiting Dr. Wm's
in our house gave us some particulars about his family, & some inter-
esting Hong-Rong-news. I deeply regretted now to learn once more with
certainty that Dr. Gutzlaff from his large substance had made no Legacy
to any mission in China, had neglected all his relatives, except his
last wife, concerning whom - except her person & cleverness - Dr. Wm's
could not speak favorably.

We now proceeded to the Rung-Kunng, finding the whole street
exhibiting a festive air. None was at work, all lounging & passing
about, & crowds in several places assembled, the usual indications
of a Londonian holiday. Arrived at the Rung-Kunng to my
great surprise I found a wide feast set out. The mayor of Nagasaki
& even the Li-li-Kwan present. How it appeared quite clear the
rumors of yesterday concerning the banquet to be given had good
foundation, and I was only surprised to find Mr. Wm's doing
as if he had quite ignored the fact. Dr. Wm's took out his
Despatch, delivered it, & upon a pull or two of mine he ^{understood} it
was best to be as dark as possible & ~~say~~ ^{were} P. Ichirarichi
now plainly told me they were in expectation of the Commodore &
officers, & on my expressing surprise that they had told me nothing
of his intention, he said they thought the Commodore would no
doubt bring me with him, as they had invited me also having
been present at the first interview on board the Flagship.
On our homeward Dr. Wm's still would half & half ignore the invitation,
but I could easily perceive this was not altogether the case,
although I could quite make out why the authorities did not
consult me about their intentions, seeing as they now must
^{have} from the first meeting, that I cannot work in their favor, in
the way they mean it beneficial to themselves. - As soon as
Dr. Wm's had left home was a rush of official messengers to

came & until we could get a native boat for them. Mr. Banting
will be fine to promise me a Reg of Bribes for Mrs. B. - though as it may
appear, & good as Mrs. B. is of a bit of bribes, which tell me earnestly
a trading for the throughout the Squadron. I could not obtain a bit, &
not even a bottle of wine or beer, though I paid the price for it. This
once more shows when it is considered that the Squadron's aim is to
open trade with Japan, & once more when it is remembered that we
give the Squadron our best services, involving much labour, fatigue
& real expense. How much more still will the Reader be sur-
prised to learn hereafter, that Mr. Banting's promise likewise
turned out a failure, & that he went away with \$3. in my debt.

2. Went on board the Insquashan. Found my Rowin over
the ship, & explained to him that they were much annoyed with
me. He was invited to take breakfast with the commandant myself. Saw the
Commander, & told him. I was just going off to the Caprice. He
was just busily writing, & he invited me to return after
my visit to the Caprice. The Captain of the latter appears a
kind man & of business habits, gave me a receipt over the money
& a watch which I sent to China for repairs. N. B. our Com-
mittee agent at Hong Kong had bought this watch for me, as
he says for 35. Dollars, but now I see it is much overpaid
with 20 Dollars, & I had scarcely 2 months use of it, when it
was out of repair. The Caprice lay beside the supply ships to
unload or take in something, & I had thus the first time op-
portunity of visiting this ship. Found it quite large, & much
larger than it appears when looked at in the distance. All
the officers appear very kind, gentlemanly people. - Return
to Commander. He was pleased to give me to read a Despatch
in Chinese translation of which Dr. Wm's was just sealing up. &
I was requested to accompany Dr. Wm's. down with to the
Hong Kong. I could & course nothing but approve & accom-
pany Dr. Wm's. But I could not understand how with an off-

In the afternoon heard through my Hsuy-tou-jis that there was to be a grand banquet given to-morrow by the Naga Sung Kunning for the Commissioner & officers. I was rather surprised that Dr. Wms. had this morning not made the slightest allusion to it, and considered it almost unfair to me now that I had not been invited - this may be owing to my gradually coming out of favour with the mandarins - but that I had not even been told of such meeting coming off, or consulted as to its expediency, then I hardly more decently have opposed it, as indeed it can be intended for no other purpose than make the Palace-meeting retrograde.

I must not omit mentioning that one of the ships of the Squadron, the Caprice, being destined for China, I succeeded this morning in sending off to it a bag of money, which I was led to deposit in a bank in China as the first instalment towards a sum which I intend partly for aiding on the mission & partly for my wife & child. Times may get less troublous & it is not advisable to keep much cash, & moreover with the prospect of frequent communication with China I neither need keep here much money & had better get some invested in it. Had it not been for Mr. Barry, the regulation containing very & unserviceably of Dr. Wms. would have caused me this morning the loss of the only opportunity offered. ^{To get a} heavy bag out of my house without drawing the mandarins' attention to it. As it was I got a sister to take it down to ship's boat, in a large bag hanging over his shoulder, & it naturally passed off without eliciting ^{special} notice.

wrote letters, as the Caprice was to start this evening, or if late to-morrow morning. It was no easy labour instead with my Commissariat upon me, & the rush of visitors now to our house.

Very late in the evening, two gentlemen, respectively named: Francis C. Hampton, and Richard Follings, who had been out shooting & had now no boat to return to the ship,

June 1853 } customs, now bear him out in the false statements they give
Recd 424 } above themselves & their crew. Ichirōshi respects all
this in his own hypocritical way - for as long as a Commodore has his
belly full he is nothing in the world that could seriously affect him - , except
but also that my present views do not altogether square with my
resolve of leaving him as soon as an English ship arrived. And for
my part I thought it all the better for that, as I could not bear this
indulging even for one moment. He thought that a Christian mission-
ary would take part of with a crafty complice beaten against the in-
tentions of a Christian government. I last night wrote to the
confidence of the mandarins than allow them to continue in such
fatal mistake. as I spoke on Ichirōshi was immediately to send
the man to show the writing place. - Sent off note to Capt. Walker of
Tartagon - whilst a boat was just proceeding - containing intelligence
of the writing place, & Mr. Madigan soon arrived as also did the
man who was to accompany him to the place. - Dr. Wm. & the
Drum of the Susquehanna also arrived. & I saw them of the
conversation I had just had with Ichirōshi, with which they
were more pleased than I was with the half & half inquiries they
made concerning articles which we might prefer to the ^{tips} provisions,
which we had agreed yesterday. Dr. Wm. also threw out hints
intimating that the Commodore could do nothing at all concerning the
requests, made ^{to him} in my letter of May 31st. The state of his & Mr.
Burry's communication - if such it may be called - of this morning
perfectly convinced me that we are not to expect either great aid
or countenance from the Squadron, & moreover that my hope of
seeing Japan soon is but very weak. I was quite satisfied
that I had now something decisive on the matter, as nothing is to
me more vexatious than a protracted suspense. But am yet
fain to feel that this would alter nothing in my service to
the Squadron while here. In fact I seek nothing for myself
& can therefore be contented at nothing, & hope to be able
to continue my good offices to the Squadron as heretofore.