

over his umbrella, very glad to give him their assistance. The man
they must have arrived on board almost at the same time with the
wife. And I consider the whole event highly providential, to in-
tended to show the abstinence of the Commodore to the needs of the
Interpretorship, & that his Expedition don't lack no good they.
Such trifling circumstantialities, brought to light by an all wise
& overwatching Providence are to my humble faith the best
signs of measuring by the divine favor toward his Expedition.
Had the Commodore arrived sooner, or myself fallen into
sleep ^{his company} after two very restless nights pass'd, my wife would not
have gone off. -

The yesterday's evening boat had lost their anchor
of about 70 pounds weight. They were searching it this morning,
but could not find it, & so more the natives, whom I sent to
their aid. But I have no doubt it will be restored as soon
as discovered.

Some publishing men, who since the arrival of
the Squadron hang again very busily around my house,
& the beach at our back, requested me to let once more
a boat be erected for them near my house, which I had
the best way of declining, this being Lord's Day.

Teat, praster on in our family worship : we love him because
he first loved us. -

From papers we read, we learned, to our great grief, that
Mrs. Alcock, the accomplished lady of our Convent at Shanghai
was dead. A great loss for her family & the whole Community of
Shanghai. To judge from the amiability & graces of her sister,
who was our fellow passenger on board the "William Fortune" on our
journey from England to China, & who, we are told, was still
surpassed both in beauty & talent by her sister, the late Mrs.
Alcock must have been one of the rarest women of her
age. Young, rich & blessed with all the goods of time, death
struck the poor while in her blooming prime: youth, beauty,
riches, talent, where's your shadow? True faith alone lives, lies without
shadow. - I have unawares been betrayed into an alexandrine, done
only worth - if it has any - arises from the occasion which it is writing.

dispatch a ship especially for the purpose of bringing two excellent Chinese scholars, I cannot hide it from you that I consider the success of your Expedition so intimately connected with perfection - as far as attainable - in the Interpreters' department, that I feel it my imperative duty humbly to request that the first ship proceeding hence to China be charged with the Commission of procuring two accomplished speakers of the mandarin's dialect, to arrive before the Squardrons arrival at Japan. The men would be best chosen from among those brought up at Macao, all of whom speak Latin. This would an additional important advantage, as it is but likely the Japanese Government has in employ Dutch listeners who understand both the English & Chinese, but also are poorly off for Latin. I have no doubt but the Bishop of Victoria, Dr. Medhurst, Birdman & similar men would willingly part with their own, or otherwise find ways specially to accommodate us with suitable subjects, & I am equally persuaded Dr. Williams' views will coincide with mine in the aforesaid suggestion.

Yrs

I have the honour to remain
with profoundest respectfulness

Your most humble & obedient servant

B. J. Bonnelein.

P.S. In case the man cannot be removed to-day, I must beg a person should be sent to watch over him, as at times he appears delirious & is scarcely able to stand without being supported. Some coffee also would do him good. We have none. If he is to be removed - which is best - some warm clothing or covering should be sent to be wrapped round him while in the boat. —

This was no sooner ~~than~~ than the Comptrollers who had just to take some provisions on board, said, à la Goodwin, had had this slings worked on the China man, offered him a passage which he most gladly accepted, & though it rained heavily & he was too weak to walk, he drenched himself up

May 1853.] } had to pencil down several of his sayings, among which one
Feb 421 was: "How much & can he earn yearly as physician?" I said,
this he need not care about. again he asked: what my yearly expense
amounted to? and I answered again. This was not his care. He then
works here 耶穌教我是最信的, I am a strong believer in
christianity. I congratulated him on this confession, & expressed a hope he
was sincere in it. Took then the man to his bed, & bade the servants mind
him & the lamp if for, I conjectured. The man did not altogether please me, &
he was besides so weak as scarcely to be able to support himself. If
I left me, he would have a man to mind him, but none came off.
29. Tuesday. The anxieties of the day past, which I usually ruminate
over the night following, kept me again sleepless last night, & addi-
tionally the Chinaman notion about the stole right, so as to cause the
servants great inconvenience. They declared him mad, and I got
from a clue to his real state, then on my looking after him, he
urgently cried out: give me opium, or send me to the ship where
I have my own." I was extremely glad that none was present at
his his ejaculation, or I know not what the coolie would have
thought. Your friend employing such a subject as official mouth-
piece. As the interests of the Japanese Expedition lie very near my
heart, I sent off very early the following note.

Commissioner M. C. Perry

Naga, May 29th 1853.

M. S. Navy.

Lis. I deeply regret to have to inform you that the China-
man sent into my house is not ill of sea sickness. He is a
confirmed opium smoker, and as it cannot but be highly inj-
urious if he fast - which sooner or later it must - be divulged
among the coolies. I am in the necessity of begging you
to let the man forthwith be taken on board his ship. He told me
his opium was there.

In consequence of his unfortunate - perhaps I
should rather say fortunate - discovery, not to mention the ex-
tremely bad & unintelligible pronunciation of the man, in
my humble opinion, he is totally unfit for his position, as
spokesman, copyist or any slave labour in your great Commis-
sion, and if you should not deem it of sufficient urgency to

excuses for them) & to make his movement I took the party on to the
gates of the few foreigners who did less. I could have at the same time
left him the Tamaï Creek, where he landing is much better than
at Naga. - On our return-way Dr. Wm^s told me had the Fleet
Commander Buchanan was ~~for~~ with my unwillingness to bring the Regu.
a second time into his apartments. & that he thought I was wrong also
in sometimes interrupting the Commodore, both of whom are a sort
of Kings in their own spheres. I told Dr. Wm^s the management of the
meeting this morning was exceedingly difficult. It would certainly
have come to unpleasant scenes had I not made its termina-
tion when all that was essential had been clearly stated. The
Officers of the Squadron can & doubtless have no doubt but I work
most faithfully for their interest, & now confide in me, when
I find very little acquaintance with Japanese manners & cus-
toms is likely to bring us into difficulties. Ichitarochi,
the Agents' interpreter, understands poorly with the English
language. & it is natural several points should not be
fully spoken off in his hearing, though the Commodore may
address me or Dr. Wm^s. I assured Dr. Wm^s that I shall
never be offended at any thing, & begged him to explain
matters to the Officers of the Squadron that they neither be offend-
ed at me. But at the same time I purpose in myself
- and w^t Dr. Wm^s. w^t that henceforth I will do little my
Caption, so that, as far as possible, I might displease none.

Came home very tired. Prepared a good bed
for the China man. Had him at supper with
us. He appears a very rough ungeate fellow, putting
his chopsticks about into every plate, though his
plates were ready before him. He greatly offend-
ed manners from our own Chinaman, we had nothing
unable sometimes to make out his dialect he

a Captain should have his own patera-boats. I declared the English ships
usually bring the authorities to do so in the ships' boats. Not all was
in vain. ~~He refused to go back to his ship & said he would be
concerned~~ and not only his commander Buchanan now absolutely would
have the party entering a second time his own apartments for another
cup of Champagne, and he was almost angry with me for remonstrating
him that our best policy now was to get rid of our guests. He would ab-
solutely have it, & I had to yield. Repeatedly did I hear Ichitaro-
chi & the Ge-fus' exclamations: "Be sure, they were not his Country-
men, not his Countrymen!" meaning, I had told them often,
America was not the same Country with England, & had separated
interests. They cannot here conceive, how it is that two countries
should friendly assist each other in the same object. Fools, they
perhaps expected me to speak not only, but even to plead
for them, although I have repeatedly told them, I shall never
sue with them on their peculiarities, & shall always work ~~with~~
my understanding with to them real good.

Spent with the Comptroller. - Returned with all the papers,
who wrote out their orders. While this was doing I had already sent
for Ichitarochi & a Ge-fu, so that when they arrived, it took
truly a moments time to have our provision orders sent
off to the right quarters. - Dr. Wm's had brought on shore
with him his Chinaman, an elderly, sickly fellow whom I
really pitied, & assisted with tea & Kusaki (the native
rubbed soft rice) while he was writing out the provisions or
dishes. I was sorry to see Dr. W. did not allow him the time
for taking his rice, though the man was very poorly; having
as I heard, taken a negative this day, which compell-
ed to relieve return while writing before us. - He
wishes to remain in our house till cured, & I willingly
promised to do my best for him. - Found the mayor of
the maina to be full plain (he wanted a good plain for military

to enter the palace, adding, he wishes certainly to be received at the same
Hall where the Chinese & English Envoy had been received. "What?" said
the Regent, "to return the compliment of the few presents I brought - for
indeed they were - he wishes such an extraordinary thing? To end the
matter here, I now reported to the Commodore, & of course was once more
authorized to state that I had correctly declared to them the Commo-
dore's intentions. Fearing an outburst like that on board the
ship, when I was told, the Regent was on his knees crying &
graining for a commutation of his sentence. I begged with uplifted
hands ~~the~~ Regent, & persuaded Ichirorichi to commit himself
entirely into my hand, & not to irritate the Commodore immediately
at the first interview, which had begun & gone off friendly. They
had now 10 days before him, time enough to consider the matter
over & over again. It certainly is a great thing that just at
present the native authorities are at most friendly terms with
me, & that they confidently listen to my advice. My oration
& prayer had the desired effect, & nothing was now remaining
than to drop the point altogether & have round the parting
glass. But here was Dr. Wm. & his Chinaman & the Fe-
tus still hammering away at the same point, & the
Regent & Ichirorichi but too glad again to beat away
at it. The Commodore now made some excuse for breaking up
the meeting. This was rather abruptly done & cannot but hurt,
& might entirely have been spared with a little management.
But though the Commodore, all the officers, the Regent & his fol-
lowers were already on foot, he was still debating going on
on Dr. Wm.'s Chinaman's side, till I persuaded the Com-
modore to send him a message to desist. - We came thus
out of the great Cabin upon deck, & to speed our guests
away in a polite manner, nothing could have been more
opportune - & even becoming - than to send them off in
the best boat the flagship could afford. This was first con-
tested by some, who maintained such small vessels as

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to make these waters a home for his ships for a long time to come. (In my humble judgment all such topics should have been left till after the great meeting or they would only render its realization more difficult.) 2. That parties making excursions into the island, having only scientific objects in view, should not be molested. - A fine specimen of scrofous was shown, which your old friend almost trembled to touch. For some time the new fashioned Cigars with a straw ring were admired & spoken of & smoked. After, H. R. the Regent had escaped the danger of setting his mustaches on fire while lighting the Cigars. He had on this occasion nearly pushed his nose twice into the candle. Although myself held it for him, wishing sincerely to serve him. To return the compliment of the Cigars, he drew ^{out} his little brass pipe & punch, had it filled, & offered it for a sniff to Commodore. Now did he apparently disdain tasting the ~~taste~~, ^{material} &c. placed on the table. Tea & Coffee were also repeatedly served, & every effort made to keep the party in good humor. But the blow was near to come. For while the Regent thinking he had now for once enough of exercise announced his intention of leaving by declaiming he fell ^{momental} sensick, the Commodore, while permitting him to withdraw on the strength of this plea, desired me interpreter to say: as he was glad to see the Regent & received his presents, himself would return the compliment, with presents, in the palace on June the 6th. I gave this news a concise as possible, sure it would cure at once the pretended attack of sensickness, & lead to a long sermon apiece. The Regent after some meditation with a sombre face, & if I am not mistaken with big drops in both eyes, told Ichinouchi to have the matter clearly inquired after through the Chinaman, belonging to Dr. Wms. as he (the Regent) was sure I was mistaken. After long discoursing too & fro, myself repeatedly turning off Ichinouchi & the Regent's replies, indicating by a move of hand they had better try Dr. Wms this Chinaman's channel, if they intended to resist. They had got it firmly in their mind, the Commodore only wished to see they only on the ground of returning the compliment of the presents, & that I had been mistaking in the matter. I plainly declared once more, the Commodore wished

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After a short pause, the 1st time being already over, the Regent really arrived. Saluted with three pieces fired, he was received into Commodore Buchanan's apartments, & seated upon with tea, cakes &c. While myself acting as interpreter, Mr. Williams was called off, & I soon saw from the whispering among the officers that something was going on, without being able to guess at it. The Regent had brought some trifling presents, which first won instant acceptance, but while conducted round the ship, his name, on his & Johnstone's repeated request, was granted. She is a splendid specimen of steamer his generation. Her machinery of gigantic dimension bespeak great power. Her lower decks, & all dark corners, lighted up with fine bright lamps. Displaying an abundance & variety of military stores all kept in rare cleanliness & surprising order, at once told the magnificence of the government of the U. S. & of the strict surveillance of the ships' officers. Never before did I see so large a steamer, nor Regt in such admirable state. - When now we were on our return from the poor quarters, & coming near the Commodore's apartments, I hinted to the officer next me, that some care should be taken, our friends yet not within sight of the Commodore himself. "They are immediately to be taken down in his state cabin" or something similar, said Commodore Buchanan, certainly to my great surprise. However, I was immediately letting my mind into the new arrangement, & was fully composed when we immediately were ushered into the presence of the Commodore. Now the band struck up very lustily & very agreeably indeed, terminating the first interlude with the national anthem (I think, usually termed "Hail Columbia") Seeing how awkward it is for natives to hold an European cup and saucer in hand, our guests were invited near the table, & having made already considerable progress in the art of sitting on a chair, the Regent & others soon found themselves in the use of our cups, spoons, glasses, cigars, &c. - The topics of conversation were, the intention of Commodore

the sacred palace of American Majesty, & your officers, on whatever occasion your delegate, a sovereign, whose every hint must be devoutly respected. Severity in mien, voice & gesture are certainly of less hindrance than fine words; they have a wonderful effect on the eastward Japanese mind, why then should such innocent weapons be rejected? The mandarins dread an American officer's even look quite as much as the Cossack peasant dreads his mandarin's look, as is my humble experience; the whole of his eastern quarter, tried under humiliating, degrading Confucian principles, can impossiblly be raised at once, even to as much as a perceptible degree of liberty.

I beg to inform you that the authorities have requested me to intercede for them, & that I have respectfully but firmly declined.

Whatever your Squadron needs on provision - if you desire to purchase through government, & not on the markets, I'll pledge myself to have effected it in an hour after the arrival of an officer with such message.

I beg to remain
with profoundest respectfulness

Lid

your most humble & Obed. Servt
R. J. Rebbeckius.

I was just having a Chinese chat with my Tofis, all eagerly listening to my revelations concerning China & the American Squadron, when a boat arrived with a message from the Commodore that I should immediately come on board. Went. Commodore told me he had received my note, & thought I might have yesterday immediately reported what I thought had been wrong. I said, I did not feel myself empowered to speak at all at that meeting. Commodore Perry told me plainly, at the meeting of this day, I should be interpreter as well as Dr. Williams. It was then agreed on all sides, if the Report arrived, the Commodore should continue invisible, & the Commander of the ship would