

June 1854  
Sheet 525

15. In the afternoon the Captain sent out a long letter for Trans-  
lation, long because instead of confining himself to business  
he ran off into preaching somewhat like a political sermon. How-  
ever as I had the idea - in fact it is not yet given up - of once more  
entering before I leave the Looshooan mandarins in a Trans-  
into a volubrious letter. I thought Capt. Glabson's letter may be con-  
sidered at least as part of it, & I did not wonder the work its  
translation may require. Still I had to take the letter on board to  
clear up some ambiguities &c. which with copying took me several  
hours in the ship. ~~The~~ coming down all the while in floods, so that I  
could not return before evening. The whole job thus was to be done  
in the night & the following morning.

17. Meritfully had had some hours sleep. The Trans letters, clean  
copy & all, was ready before eleven o'clock a.m. when  
I took it on board after some delay caused by our flagstaff  
pulley being spoiled, so that we could not hoist a flag, our com-  
municated sign for a boat, except on a bamboo stick.

Here is the letter:

U. S. Steamship Lexington  
Napa Roads June 17<sup>th</sup> 1854.

To His Excellency  
The Regent of Looshoo.

Sir  
Your letter in reply to mine of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant was  
delivered to me on the 16<sup>th</sup> by the mayor of Napa. In this  
letter you say:

"I immediately appointed mandarins to inquire  
into the matter, & they state:

"Three American sailors walking through  
Napa entered peoples houses searching for liquor, & having  
drunk beyond measure became intoxicated, stroked about  
every where, jumping over walls, breaking in doors, en-  
tering peoples houses & frightening old & young. Two of  
them then lay down drunk in the market, while the third  
staggered to & fro till he was lost sight of. A little  
while after some native sailors in a boat, passing along near

there, something submerged in the water struck their eyes, they jumped out & on reaching it found life quite extinct. "

" This is all our evidence as to facts. - In addition having already repeatedly ordered that when our humble people meet an American in the street they must respectfully run aside & by no means behave impolitely, when meeting them, and drunk they must certainly feel still more frightened, & will not venture to slight them. How should they have maliciously inflicted injury & caused death? - Now to infer only from the two men, found drunk in the market, the third one, no doubt, must have tumbled upside down, & making a false step fell into the water & came by his death by drowning. "

But the Jury of inquest on the body of the deceased finds, both from the Post mortem examination, made by the intelligent Surgeon of this vessel, & from the testimony of the American witnesses - that of the Cochons and being found quite inadmissible - that the deceased came by a violent end from blows inflicted upon the head by a person or persons unknown, & from subsequent immersion in the water for a considerable time, after he had already been in a state of insensibility from the blows. "

As to your assertion that the deceased had been drunk, I solemnly declare, in justice to his character, that he was never addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors, but, <sup>that</sup> on the contrary, for sobriety & correct conduct he was a model of a good young man. The anatomical examination of his body showed in the stomach no vestige of alcoholic liquor, & the state of his lungs & heart irrefragably proved that drowning alone was not the cause of his death, but on the contrary that the chief cause thereof proceeded from injuries in his head inflicted

by some heavy instrument previous to his immersion in the water.

In the case of the other two sailors, who belong to the coal  
depot, & which case you mix up with that of Deceased, I have  
to inform you that one of them was severely beaten, bruised  
& cut, about the time of the murder, by a mob of Cocho-  
an ruffians.

The Cocho authorities, no doubt, have power  
to suppress all violence against foreigners, why not exer-  
cise it on behalf of lonely strangers at a time when human-  
ity demanded the weak should be protected against the strong?

The subject is extremely painful to me to dwell  
upon, but it imperatively demands me to discharge my  
duty, however unpleasant the case may be to your Excel-  
lency. The crime of which some of your people, it is  
believed, have been guilty in the murder of the sailor  
Board, characterizes them as a disgrace to this enlight-  
ened age of civilization. How can you exist as an in-  
dependent body politic if you contravene the rights  
of hospitality & protection to strangers, who come to  
your shore for the common benefit of man in the  
extension of Commerce. The inhabitants of Cocho  
have been supposed to possess all the elements of a  
highly refined & polite people. But how different  
do their acts in life now appear! Your country, by  
its convenient geographical location as a stopping  
place, invites the stranger to it in the pursuit of  
lawful business or on a peaceful mission. You  
should be happy to see him come. Nature gives you  
a delightful climate, clothes your beautiful land with  
a luxuriant vegetation & kindly favours you ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> her

cessive cruelties in the course of the war, with an abundance of food & the comforts of life. Strangers, therefore, coming to Cochin from a far country, & having before them great oceans to traverse, by storm of weather or for the want of provisions & water, or on a peaceful mission for the common benefit of the world, should have the generous cooperation & protection, but never the hatred of your people.

Not the determined opposition of some of your people to cultivate terms of peace & amity with us by maltreating at different times the officers, Mr. Bickerton, and several sailors placed on shore with a party in charge of the coal depot by Commodore Perry, to show the authorities had pledged their protection to them, & by murdering, recently, the young sailor, Board, of this vessel, leaves me no alternative but to demand of you to deliver into my hands, for the action of the Commodore, all those of your people who were principals in that atrocious murder.

Let your Excellency consider well the subject & seriously weigh the responsibility that may await you should you fail to comply with this reasonable demand.

In conclusion I desire to call your serious attention to an order which <sup>as an order</sup> you have given to your people, namely, that when <sup>your humble</sup> ~~at your station~~ people meet an American in the street they must respectfully run aside. This order is not only unnecessary but has been already doing us injury. Let all walk along the street without restraint in our presence. In no civilized country do people run aside from strangers. Your Excellency must perceive

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that, were you on a visit to our country, you would not wish the people to run aside from you in the street. You people can never have confidence in our good intentions unless you immediately resigned that ridiculous order & allow all classes of day please, to interchange with us the common civilities of life.

I am, Sir,

very respectfully  
Your obedient servant  
John J. Glasson  
Lieut. Comm.

This Capt. Glasson calls a downright good American letter. Its vagueness however, in the perishing part, rendered it peculiarly difficult for Chinese translation.

Had this afternoon a blessed season in consequence of having pursued "Bishop Doctrick's advice." It is a holy book, & I feel grateful to the Christian Knowledge Society by whom it is published. The thought "that we should always feel the presence of God if we loved him, because we wish them constantly to be with us whom we dearly love," convinced me, alas, how <sup>more than any thing else</sup> poor my love to God is. Then is my wife whom I endeavour to forget but cannot succeed to get her out of my mind though she be absent, & my God, who always holds me in his tender embrace, I have to pour & struggle faintly to realize as present, & even then how rarely does the presence of God fill me with deep joy, absorbing pleasure & supreme satisfaction. O that I could say of my love to God - as David said of Jonathan - "passing the love of women!" I have only one solid excuse to make for the hardness of my heart to keep heavenly emotions: want of exercise in the chief call of my life, preaching the Gospel, & the ransacking torments of my head, making for many years, arising from my unfortunate connection: opposition maketh a man mad. I follow the with Bishop Doctrick's maxim: "All nations are taught most by their wants, but the good are best instructed by their enjoyments." It is the want of any enjoyment from my great trials here, & a constant presence of grief just from these do should remove it, which deadens my <sup>spiritual</sup> affections. I was more pious when

my wife & children was with me, because I was surrounded with more com-  
fort. & could easily give my mind to still higher pursuits. I felt more  
happy in God while my people in London showed me every possible sign  
of attachment, & care for me as their father. A fatherly affection may  
serve as stimulus to piety, but eight years in London & with my  
unfortunate Commission. I regard to say did not at all prove an incentive  
to produce or maintain a habit of holiness in me. But I have no doubt,  
under the direction and governing wisdom my heavenly father; I shall find  
that my years spent in London will be made subservient if not to my personal ad-  
vancement in holiness at any to that of his great cause on earth, to which all  
who love him should be happy to contribute not only years but their whole life,  
& though the effect of each life separately considered be but like a drop in the ocean.

18 Godday. Rained heavily till about 3 p.m. Had our usual morning service  
at home. Read in Bishop Portricks' advice, then Josephus' 2 books against Apion.  
In the afternoon went out with Mr. Mowbray. In our front temple spoke first to  
the aged waiter, who appeared sitting with age & thinness unswerving. And then his son  
as hearse, who gave some attention for a good while, then all on a sudden  
a boy came with the alarm: "habe a snake!" my hearer immediately  
ran off looking about for sticks. But when we came out, we saw none of  
them. The alarm having proved a mere trick to get rid of us. - At our  
neighbours' in a hub, a woman & boy being present, I could speak only  
a few words, as they soon made off. The woman however returned before we left.  
Read & prayed with our baptized Sabamaker. It is no small blessing to me  
to see my children walk in the truth. I always find this poor man rich  
in grace & delighted to hear of his Redeemer. He declares that he daily prays  
& is wonderfully assisted from above. - In a grave had had an exceedingly  
good hearing of two. one often greatly alive to the truths of the Gospel.  
May God seal his word to this child of his in an everlasting covenant.  
Crossed several lanes & streets, & found many outsiders before & behind us,  
so that all doors were shut, & we had to take to side townings. Here in  
a respectable house we met 3 women, 5 children & a servant. I had  
taken the precaution to shut the street door behind me on entering  
the house so that we might remain undisturbed. And a blessed reason  
indeed it was. For after having overcome the resistance of one of the women,  
I had a quiet & most attentive hearing for nearly 3/4 of an hour,  
both old & young being delighted with what they heard. - made then  
towards the market to witness whether indeed, as we had heard, the markets

was closed. Indeed this we found to be the case. Several boys running before us  
drove off a few women with their baskets, & the market was as empty as I  
never saw it, except perhaps on New Year's Day. The poor creatures run into  
side lanes & other by-paths, & turn out again when we alter direction.  
I asked several what was the cause of this, but got no answer. - On our  
homeing entered two houses, in one of which I fell in with Juning, got  
ready from Fodge's & now a Japa. but could learn nothing of the reason  
of the market being entirely empty. So bow & Jim are out morn-  
ding that rather than show fear at the heavy accusation brought a-  
gainst them they increase the breach between the people & the foreigner.  
Two other laws now gone about unimproved are likely to be watched by  
the Americans also. Near Joms. motion in the evening asked, whether  
under similar circumstances I thought it was advisable to carry on the  
mission? I said, of course I do. for those countries before & behind are  
nothing new to me. They usually give in after some time. And we had  
this very day good opportunities, & besides I think missions are not  
to be carried on to get converts as much as to preach & glorify  
God, leaving the result with him. Mrs. Morison, however, easily  
persuades herself, there is scarcely any opportunity of preaching.  
I will know whence such thoughts arise. Whether they tend. However  
my way is clear. And persuaded I am that though the missionaries might  
learn with or even before me, they will have more honors & position  
for the £ 4-500 than perhaps to his already cost, than I may for  
family for the eight years of toil he has spent & the £ 1500. Which,  
& approved, in historical salary, less heavy expenses the keeping up  
of mission & translations volume. Do I envy such successful christi-  
anity? God forbid. you rather I possess God that my life is not fallen with  
them, & daily resolve to continue as I have hitherto. I am implicitly  
in whatever business I may be led by God to undertake after my separ-  
ation from this mission.

20. Went on board to see my Chinamen. Had a hard time, the sea being very rough  
but we richly indemnified in the attention with which I was heard by some of my hearers.  
One in particular, read through a whole pamphlet after me, & though Capt. J. sent for  
me twice, to dine with him I could not separate myself from my devoted hear-  
er. I rather, comparatively, trivial circumstances gave to me that my ministry  
is of God. When I find I serve my God, nothing but absolute physical want of  
of strength in my organs of speech can stay my mouth. with pleasure do I sacri-  
fice dinner, & even strict formal politeness when real good is at stake.

Happy as I feel to-day in my ministry to God it is not to be wondered that my feelings go again to better over my judgment & I gave the secretaries to understand that in case they left I should feel it my duty to continue on my post. This sentiment, I perceived, made strong impression on them, & I hope it may lead them to resolve to continue their stay, though the Committee, as I think will be the case - might not take any prominent steps in demanding satisfaction in the case of Board.

24. upon the whole a good week. my soul got food. Read memoirs & Remains of R. M. McChesne. this is an Israelite indeed. I had nothing to blame & was in constant prayer to be made like him. I long again to be in the bosom of a family, or at least in a place where people are permitted to gather round a minister of God, once more to taste the delight of pouring out my love to God in the hearing of many, that they might be partakers with me in the grace wherein I stand. I don't not but this book fell providentially into my hand. I have missed the great end of my life, forsaking the gospel. I think I have done my duty as missionary. No providence favours my plans for the heathen. To serve as a mere instrument in the plans of others, and at the cost of all prospects for my children, & the forsakenness of old age staring me in the face, I can feel I feel no calling for. Nothing remains for me but to give my life to the ministry of the gospel in a free country, not overworked with workmen, where I hope to be a blessing to others, & to be enabled honestly to earn for my own, either by the ministry itself or by medical practice, a professorship in languages, provided always that my chief occupation is the service of the Sanctuary.

I can do more heartily give myself to these plans for the future as in all the searching questions put to myself this week while reading such a practical book of fortitude as Mr. Deques' life is, my conscience witnesseth with me that under present circumstances - which I see no way of hope to alter - it was necessary both for my own peace & the usefulness of my life to break connexion with my Committee. I can't excuse. To my great comfort I also find the secretaries more settled down & at home here, & I was greatly pleased indeed to-day with a real look-hoo-Construction Mr. Morstan read to me among his exercises, so that I am sure, that I could be of help to him in acquiring a good grammatical knowledge of the Look-hoo is in a great measure done, & that my time spent for this end is not lost. He can now help himself with the Dictionary & the books which I have prepared.

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well de Capt. & Officers repeatedly express to me their pleasure in observing China  
men listening & reading so attentively. I only differ from them as to the indivi-  
duals in whom the gospel, as I believe, is at work. They, naturally enough have  
better opinion of two youths, do on their sermons & read over to below, & show  
more interest than the rest. I for my part have more proofs of genuine  
& earnest work going on in a man from among the single sailors. He to-day  
again, although he dinced hell very spontaneously refused to listen to it on-  
ker than to me. Twice did I, at various intervals, ask the men whether  
they did not think it better to take their sermons first & read me afterwards,  
my man said no, he was very glad to hear & read." & he then joined in. I read,  
spoke & prayed with them.

In the afternoon went out accompanied by Mr. Morston. Entered a very  
respectable house, where I had visited also with Capt. Pope & some of his officers.  
The master of the house, after some interchange of the usual compliments, being  
requested to bring in his children & grand children to hear what I had to  
teach them, to our surprise, unhesitatingly did so, & we had an audience  
of about 10. fine youths besides 3 adults. I hope I used the opportunity  
to work. I gave them nearly an hour & felt much enlargement. It  
was on this occasion I felt how well the Goodbook language is fit  
for expressing all a full Christian's heart has to say. Myself was  
surprised into texts of phrases, which rolled out with such ease as if  
I had quoted from the English Bible. The master of the house indeed asked  
me where I had my Goodbook form. Oh said I, we open neither pains nor  
diligence to get anything. Wherby we may do you good. We had just read on  
the books being opened & every man being judged according to his works." & I told  
my hearers they would find it recorded that Petering on the 1st day of the 5th  
month (Chinese Date) had preached to them the gospel of Jesus Christ, themselves  
confessing they understood well what they had heard) so that they with the wisest  
excuse if hereforward they should unheppily reject the truth as it is in  
Jesus. Prayed with all my heart. and so I do now. Oh Father, let  
him words be precious in thy sight! Let thy truth abide in them. Seal it  
on the hearts of the young lambs & say them near their own. There are yet  
days of refreshing in store for Goodbook. my own heart often takes me  
so. And I think that I also have the spirit of God. Mr. Morston told me,  
he could scarcely have believed, had he not seen it, that such a work meeting  
could be held in Goodbook, a samure, in a first rate house, himself to do