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correspondence book
No. 6

Shanghai Oct. 26/1874

Your Excellency,

I arrived here on Thursday last, and find no particular change in the feeling, or action, of the Government at Peking than it was before leaving Yedo.

I sent by wire on the 24th as follows:

"Arrived Shanghai Thursday, advices here and from Peking, War feeling increasing, 5 more Chinese steamers gone to Formosa from Yang-tze river ports."

Since then, later arrivals from the north, report no further change; Although here, it is reported, that war is inevitable, "News from Peking compells Japan to ~~evacuate~~ evacuate Formosa immediately," which I do not believe, and look to see Okubo soon

To His Excellency,

Okuma Shigenobu,

with you in Yedo.

Army.

As for the Chinese army, it is believed by many intelligent Chinese, that China has an available army of 130,000 soldiers, so far as the payroll is concerned, granted,

There are in Formosa to-day, about 21,000 men, of which not over 7,000 have been partially drilled, and only 4,000 of the 21,000 have had anything like the instruction, and drill of your own army, the rest are nearly all raw recruits, who will run on the approach of Japanese army now in Formosa and not win a battle.

At Foochow, less than 2,000 well drilled soldiers, and in Fukkien an army of fresh recruits 17,000 strong. There are 14 foreign drill sergeants in Fukkien and Formosa.

Shanghai, Ningpo, Cheukiang and Hanking, have about 2,000 disciplined troops, and 20,000 fresh recruits. While Li Hung Chang has in, around and about Tientsin, Taku, and Peking 7,000 of the best drilled troops in China, which he keeps for his own future protection and

promotion. Foo has in the western provinces with him almost 5,000 reliable Chinese soldiers, a portion of which went from Fuhkien and coast provinces.

The other provinces are supposed to have enough to make over 100,000 soldiers, and I will soon get the number in each province.

" I would note for your information, that the first 6,000 men who left the Yang-tze ports for Formosa refused to leave Chinkiang, after a months pay in advance, giving as a reason that they were to be soldiers in China, but not to ^{be} a foreign country and Formosa was foreign because they had to go by steamer there, and could not go by land, after some delay and cutting off the heads of 12 of the noisier soldiers, then the army was convinced it was better to go on board the transports. "

From information I received thus far, I believe the army has at present 40,000 common muzzle loading Snfields, old flint lock and very poor rifles, and breech loaders as follows:
6,000 Sniders, 4,000 Burnside, 3,000 Peabody, Henry & Spencer.

also bought and on the way 8,000 Remington, 20,000
Snyders, 200,000,000, Caps, Powder plenty here, and
making at the powder works here and at Tientsin,

Navy.

The Chinese navy has one frigate and
21 small and large gun boats in active service.

The frigate No. 2 will soon be ready for service.

There are 8 Chinese steamers, of about 7,000
capacity suitable for transports.

The "Nanzing" leaves here next
Wednesday for Yokohama direct, should your
Excellency wish to buy, you have full particulars
with painting of the steamer, the price I gave
you by order of Jardine, Matheson was \$60,000 and
should you buy if your Excellency mention
the price and particulars which I handed you
to Mr. Whitall I should be entitled to a commission
on her sale as agreed with him.

Faithfully Yours

J. M. Batchelder.

J M Barchelder
Shanghai

26th October 1874

As to Chinese Army
and Navy
