

My dear General -

I have been here for the last half hour going through the ship and upon my soul I feel almost disheartened. The ship is no more ready for sea than you are and frankly & plainly unless Captain Brown is sent here at once with full powers to get her ready she will never get away in any useful condition. I know how much you are annoyed & worried with other matters but if I am to serve you I must speak plainly & to the point and to that end I say to you distinctly that this ship will not be of the least use, will never fulfil her mission unless you move heaven and earth to put her to day in proper hands -

The Captain with the half dozen or so men comprising the crew are camping about together & the former tells me that the ship is ready, quite ready for sea when upon God she is no more so than the Sampan which brought me off to her -

They have so loaded her down with coal that there is not a foot of room in the hold for the storage of her provisions - Stores arms &c & in consequence these things are stowed in the "between decks" where the arrangements must be made for the accommodation of the horses - cattle &c In addition to this I am informed by the Japanese Captain that two hundred men, more in fact than that are ordered to be accommodated on board - There is not one of the sailors promised to be sent

has yet made his appearance - The arms intended for the gun are boxed up and stored away so one knows where - Ammunition of all kinds - powder that shall fulminate & God only knows what else are stored or huddled in together God only knows where -

In the word my dear General
intransigent defiance will surely follow this ships motion & if she leaves Japan in her present state and for my own part, though you know how devoted I am to your and your interests and the interests of the Government of the Expedition I must prefer the lesser chance of turning my back upon what looked so like a brilliant success to the greater one of an utter failure so far as my efforts are concerned. I simply despair of conveying to you an adequate idea of what ~~the~~ an aspect this ship presents to a person thoroughly acquainted as I am with the objects she is expected to accomplish. - You know ^{and} of me I feel sure to be satisfied whether or not I am easily discouraged and when I tell you that I feel so this morning for the first time you may understand how urgent the case is and how ~~absolutely~~ necessary decision measures are -

There are no Officers provided as was promised and this morning when I explained the matter to Mr Akamata through Comie the interpreter he immediately gave me an order in writing to the effect

that Capt. Brown was to provide two persons for the provision of European Chief & second Officers - That is I so understood it but I find that Mr Akamata must have misunderstood the Interpreter for the order contains simply instructions to receive on board Captain Brown & two other persons for passage. Now in Gods name ~~is~~ is it to be expected that we can carry out the delicate and laborious instructions without proper subordinate instruments. I am willing to do anything myself which will not involve the loss of my dignity but I foresee that nothing but failure in my efforts to carry out your plans should we not succeed in changing this affair of the "Kuroda" - If you do, as I feel and know is custom, attach the least importance to what I am to effect in the coming moments do for Heaven's sake, if it is in the range of possibility, get orders for Brown to come here & ~~get~~ take our charge of the ship.

Full charge - No half way measures will have the least effect and, if all the efforts ~~that~~ of men & seamen avail them ~~we~~ we will get to sea and accomplish the work laid out for us - The matter of the Officers, Brown's subordinates, is of the last importance and it will take all the energy of Brown - his Officers and

myself to get this ship away tomorrow
night.

Faithfully and in the
most haste
D. M. S. P. S. -

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