

Fochow 11th Novemb: 1874.

Sir,

I had the honor of addressing your Excellency on the 21st Oct^r.

As the affairs of this government - Fokien and Chekiang - are interesting to your Excellency I will recount facts, and leave your Excellency to make your own deductions.

During the last three or four weeks the war - or what the Chinese call national - party has evidently gained an ascendancy. The conviction had been fixed upon many or most of the higher officials that organic change was necessary to preserve the existence of China. It is certain that some high mandarins accepted the opinion ascribed to Li Hung Chang that a war with Japan, probably involving defeat and humiliation at the outset was not necessary to effect the overturn the obstructive and stupid officialdom, which will not be displaced without a very serious and prolonged struggle which might even jeopardise the stability of the present dynasty. From the Chinese point

To His Excellency
Tomonori Suakura.

Yedo.

of view they contest began well. Some corrupt officials have been removed and sent to Peking for trial, the people have willingly responded to the conscription, the traders submit patiently to the levy of new taxes, the Fokien fleet is fast improving and four or five vessels are distinctly efficient, the Chinese soldiers in Formosa are being carefully drilled and have, for the most part, a certain fitness for defensive war, and money is abundant. A loan of $2\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars was made on the 4th Dec. at the rate of 8 per cent yearly interest, and the government of this province has offered loans for nearly 30 million dollars at 8 to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In short some sort of rough organization had taken place of former confusion and was preparing the way for a more complete and systematic direction of the great forces available.

On the 8th Dec. a message came from Peking with details of the settlement made there with His Excellency Okubo. The news has profoundly humbled and afflicted the Chinese officials and literates in this city, and it is said the same feelings are manifested in Nanking and Shanghai.

The dissatisfaction is so strong and open here that the city officials are disquieted, and it is said the treaty made will bring injury to the power and moral influence of the Peking government.

For my part I think that the Chinese government should at the first have given full and free reparation for the shameful outrages done to Lewchewans in Formosa, and that not having done rightly should learn that weak and bad government will bring about disagreeable consequences. But now it will be well for China and Japan to cultivate friendly relations in the future to bring to the new emergency both nations are necessary to each other. A war would have brought about dreadful calamities to both nations. Some corrupt American ministers and consuls would have made fortunes, and whether you vanquished China, or had to succumb to her prodigious numbers and resources the advantage at the last would have been taken by Russia.

It is known that in China the preparations for war are to be continued, and efforts will be still made, with good chances of success, to bring about organization. And it is openly said by officials here that they

Peking government was constrained to
make the settlement with H. E. Okubo on
account of some threat, or act, or intrigue
of Russia which is said to be openly
supporting Yakoub Kho., better known as
the Atalik Ghazee, in Yarkund & Kokand.
Details are wanting, but it is known the
situation gives anxiety to the Chinese
government, which was fearful of having
wars on two long extended frontiers at one
time. Your Excellency will recall
to memory my opinion expressed in
July last that the dispute with Yarkund
would bring about serious complications.
The Chinese are however strong in that quarter,
and armies can be readily drawn from the
warlike men of Shensi and Yunnan.

In the most recent phase of the
complications your nation has very
great concern. Your interests are almost
the same as those of China. And I would
respectfully suggest to your Excellency the
urgency of perfecting your military and
naval system. The sooner you have not
only a sufficient armed and disciplined
force, with reserves of men and equipment
available for service at a short notice the
better for Japan. The danger to you from

Russia may not be immediate, but
it will not be remote. And I respectfully
warn your Excellency of the necessities of
preparation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency most devotedly
obedient,

J. G. M.

To His Excellency
Tomomi Iwakura,
Pakaradao.
Babasakigomon.

Tokio.

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