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• Ouanu Gashiki
Bozeu Bashi
Youtidaji
6th Nov. 1874

To His Excellency
Okeuma
Minister of Finance
tc tc tc

Your Excellency
Herewith I have the honor
to hand you detailed particulars of a four
year old Ironclad Man of War offered to me
through my Agents in London, and also copies
of correspondence from them on the subject, and
which I respectfully beg to offer to your Govern-
ment, in the event of their requiring such a
Vessel, and in so doing would call your attention
to the low rate at which she is offered and also
the reasons for same.

I would also call your attention to the
fact, that not only is the vessel ready for sea
and in thorough fighting order, but that the
European Government who want to sell her
will give a guarantee of the vessel if bought,
as to her fighting powers and the conditions

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she is in
Trusting that in the event of your
Government requiring any such vessel that you
will be pleased to bear in mind the one I have
the honor to offer

Mewan
Your Excellency's
Obedient Servant.

Frank Escoubert

Invulsa Nav of War.

Built in Government Dock Yard 1869.

3500 Tons Register 600 Horse Power nominal

4 1/3 inches bore Plate. Speed 11 Knots.

21 Feet draught of Water. One Lift Screw.

Consumption of Coal 50 Tons per day.

Armament 5. Twelve Sea Crew strong Pieces
with Ammunition.

Guaranteed by Government.

Price for Ship only £120,000. One hundred

and twenty thousand Pounds. Armament

Twenty thousand pounds extra, exclusive of
buying Commission.

Sept 6/80. 1874

Exceute

Copy of letter to F. Escobar from London.
with reference to an Ironclad Man of War.

The Ironclad belonging to the Government was built 4 years ago in first rate style and their only object in selling her is that the plating which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick is too light to compete with ships now building for other European powers. She is in very much better condition than the Iron Duke and is ready for sea at any moment, and being moreover in the Mediterranean much less time would be required for taking her out to Japan if purchased by that Government. She is armed with 5 Twelve Pound Armstrong Guns and ammunition complete, Steam Engine Masts and has Engines of 600 Horse power. The negotiations have to be carried on with extreme caution and privacy as it would not do to allow the sellers to know to whom the ship was passing or the sale would fall through and endless complications arise as in the case of the sale of the Danemarch to the Chinese.

We have not therefore learnt the name of the ship nor her precise tonnage but the latter can be judged approximately through the particulars given and will prove to be between 3 and 4 thousand Tons.

We have been supplied with and have transmitted to you all particulars which we are allowed

to know until we are able to present our authority to act as Agents for your Government and give evidence of the amount of purchase money being forthcoming here in London.

A second ship in all respects similar to the foregoing can be purchased from the same quarters, the only difference being that she was built 10 years ago, but has just had new Boilers put into her, making her in all respects equal to the *Twin* ship which we have offered you, and which offer we trust will lead to business.

The price asked is £22,000 One hundred and twenty thousand pounds without the armament and is very low we believe about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost 4 years ago. The Queen's Government are not at all anxious to sell but we state that the offer could not be accepted without their being included, and although we have not received a definite quotation for these we are advised that the price with the usual proportion of armament complete will amount to about Twenty thousand pounds.

The ship so far as we can learn is just suited to the requirements of your Government. We must recommend you to use extreme caution on your part in your negotiations.

Done London 10th September 1874

(Signed) Arthur Escobar & Co.

His Excellency
Munna
Minister of Finance
to be
Kerasha

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右藏者
大隈参議殿

聖地備前橋
卫不力
拜入

