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Private

Tokio 24th June
1879

My dear Lord,

Your kindness in allowing me at all times to write to you in this way enables me to say a word on a somewhat delicate subject affecting British interests in the East.

The influence of ~~Britain~~ England in China & Japan is not what it ought to be.

In China it is of late improving but in Japan it is at a minimum.

Not from one quarter only but from all sides I learn that no questions can now be settled that Foreign office business is hung up.

How or why this has come to pass I cannot say, but my personal

2
regard for you couples we not to
conceal the fact that your representative
here has been too long without going home.

In fact the dead-lock in diplomatic
work is becoming a scandal in Tokio
as far as British interests are concerned.

On the other hand, the United States,
Russia & Italy all appear to get on
smoothly and quickly with Mr
Terashima & the other members of
the government.

Personally I like our own minister
very much; but if you were to get
him to London, leaving Mr Kennedy
Charge d'Affaires, you would soon
find an alteration for the better.

The question of continuing the system
of special experts as permanent Envoys
in China & Japan will have to be
considered before long.

(turn over)

3 I am inclined to think that its advantages, if it had any, are at an end, & that of the many able men in your service there certainly must be more than one fitted for the post here by the higher qualities gained in European diplomacy and mixing in the great world. A knowledge of the Chinese or Japanese language is of small importance now compared to the real & regular training of the Foreign office. The expert appears to look at nothing beyond his own circle, whereas the man of wider experience does not forget the difficulties the Government may be involved in elsewhere & he has a larger appreciation of what British interests really are.

Forgive me my dear Lord, for saying so much & Believe me

always yours faithfully

signed J. Pope Hennessy

The Marquis of Salisbury

H. G.