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1879 - 1880

To the Right Hon^{ble}. W. E. Gladstone M. P.
Newar den Castle Chester

Private

Nara, Japan 24th Aug^r. 1879

My dear Sir,

You may be interested perhaps in seeing the enclosed reference to the Finance minister of Japan. No Chancellor of the exchequer has had such a task to deal with as Mr Okuma.

He is familiar with your labours & frequently speaks of you; but unfortunately everything British is now flattered in Japan by the somewhat acrid policy of our Minister here, - the former consul Parkes of Canton.

As Sir Harry & Enoy he is talented & personally agreeable as when he was in China, but he is not less aggressive.

Whilst some of my old political friends talk a good deal of Russian influence in the east, they seem but little aware of the fact that every man of position in Japan and the generation that are passing through the schools and colleges here are now looking upon England as the enemy of their country. In this respect things have been growing very much worse since you left office, - not that Lord Derby and Lord Salisbury have really done anything, but a remote place like this is sometimes almost forgotten; & indeed the

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Foreign office management of China & Japan has drifted very much into the hands of one man - the late Attorney General of Hong Kong, Sir Julian Pauncefote, - who with all his ability is more an exponent of the British Trader abroad than of real English interests.

Over and over again members of the Mikados cabinet have said to me, - how different would be the feeling of this country towards England, if the generous policy that Mr Gladstone has shown not only in Europe but ⁱⁿ distant Borneo was adopted by the British Ministers instead of the constant bullying we receive.

Whilst the bullying has not strengthened British ~~interests~~ influence in Japan, it has enabled the Russian and the United States Ministers to gain a position in the empire they are not - according to Board of Trade returns - entitled to hold.

Believe me, with great respect

Yours faithfully,

signed

J. Pope Hennessy

Copy of address delivered in Hakodate enclosed.