

453,

Tokai, June 17th 1874.

Your Excellency,

I have the honor to hand
You copies of two very long and
interesting private letters from
Captain Cassel to me, the same
being a narrative of the events
that took place in Southern
Formosa from the date of the
arrival of the "Kopaul" to that
of the departure of the "Delta"
on the 26th of May.

These letters are entirely of
a private nature, and there-
fore, although I am anxious
that you should make use
of the same, I would request
You not to file them in

the public records.

I have the honor to be,
Your Excellency's
Most Obedient humble Servant,

Chas. W. H. Smith

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Copy

Camp in Liang Kiu Valley,
24th of May.

My dear General,

Your cover containing the very short pencilled notes and copies of the memo. to General Saigo and the Directions in regard to Iland, together with my letters, came to me not ten minutes ago, and, very unfortunately, too late for me to reply by the "Kepaul," which vessel was at that time only just steaming out of the bay. General Saigo, arrived with the "Delta" and "Shaftesbury" day before yesterday, and came directly to my tent from his boat, but his luggage was not landed until a few moments ago, and for that reason I suppose your cover was not sooner delivered to me. I am exceedingly sorry that I have not

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been able to send you the information I have to forward per "Napaul", but the "Delta" will get off day after tomorrow, and I hope will be but little behind the "Napaul".

I may as well commence and give you a brief but complete memo of what I have done and what has been accomplished thus far. I may say to begin with that I found Mr. Fukusima so difficult to deal with, or rather I found that he assumed so much authority that it was only with the extremest difficulty that I was enabled to carry out my orders properly - and I will say here that under no circumstances will I ever consent to carry on any operations whatever in connection

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with him.

I got here from Amoy on the evening of the 6th, and at daylight sent Johnson on shore for Mia and Kiew, who came at once on board after hearing that a messenger from yourself wished to see them. I conveyed to them the effect of my instructions, and it seemed to produce upon them the greatest and most favorable effect; so much so that they at once acceded to my request that they should engage themselves as guides. I then went on shore with Nasson, Fukusima, and two or three officers, and after a whole day spent in looking over the country, I selected a place for the camp. The next day I caused the rest of

the people, together with the "Gatlings" to be landed, and since then we have been under canvas in this spot, which is to the north of the river upon which Moia's village stands. To this place, however, is too large for the occupancy of the few men who will probably be left here after operations commence, another camp has been selected, and will be occupied as soon as possible, to the S. W. of the flat topped hill, which is so conspicuous a landmark to the bay. From the moment I landed, I devoted myself to the establishing of friendly relations with the inhabitants of the valley, and, I may truly say, with the most perfect result. As an evidence of this,

that you may judge for yourself, I can tell you that in the late skirmishes with the Douans, the valley people ran instantly for their arms, when the troops went to the front, and were apparently more than willing to fight on our side. and also that we have had no less than 500 at one time working in our entrenchments. They are delighted with all that I have told them, that we are their friends, that we come to establish law and order, to make them safe and sure in their property, their families and their lives. that we come to bridle the savages and, if necessary, to exterminate them from the face of the earth that if they serve us faithfully, lands

and money shall be their rewards together with the benefit of living where every man, woman and child shall be as sure of their rights as the greatest man amongst us all. This and much more I have disseminated amongst them, and backed by the assurance that I bring these messages from you, I believe that the people of these plains are won to our side. The land we have occupied we have paid for, and there has been no service however slight which has not been rewarded.

On the 10th Admiral Kamatz arrived in the "Neishin", and soon after two more transports, which increased our force to some 500 men. At this time I deemed it desirable to open communication

with the people of the Southern tribes through your friend Esuk, who now, since the death of Toketok, seems to be the nominal head during the youth of Toketok's son, who has succeeded him. The aborigines are held in so much terror that it was with some difficulty that I at last got a message to him through Ubia, that "I was here the bearer of a message from you to him," "that you were on your way here as the intermediary or protector of your friends the Southern tribes" and "that I very much desired to see him to assure him of our friendship for him and to tell him myself that the reports I had heard the vicious Chinese traders had carried to him [that] the

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Japanese had come determined to cut off the head of every man with large-pierced ears" was a wicked falsehood, and only devised in order to keep us from being friends. This message was finally carried to him, and he sent word that he was glad to hear all I had sent, and that though he would like very much to come and see me, and would do so if he dared, yet the soldiers were so numerous that he feared to trust himself amongst them. If however I would come out to the half-caste village nearest to his, he would meet me with the other chiefs, and we could talk at our ease. I sent him word that this would suit me just as well, and, though I felt

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very sorry that he did not seem to trust me perfectly, still I would come without escort or arms and show him in this way that we knew him perfectly. Accordingly, the next day, General Fairer, Admiral Akamatz, Watson and myself went out, and upon reaching the village named were shown in to the best house, and Count the renowned made his appearance, but instead of being accompanied only by the other three head men, no less than forty or fifty of the most truculent looking devils alive appeared to start from the very bowels of the earth with the suddenness of thought. Armed to the teeth as they were, it had every appearance of a trap, and for a few seconds I could scarcely

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keep my fingers off of my "Min-
Chests" which my faithful guide
Mia had carried in the rear.
However, I was lucky with my
nerves, and I took it quite as
a matter of course. Euk then
sat down, after having been told
that I was the bearer of the
messages to him, and in a mo-
ment Tok-e-took's son, a fine look-
ing lad of 16 or 17 years, and also
the brother of the Lak, the third
Chief, who was sick, came in and
the talk began. I told him, or
rather them, all that I had be-
fore sent to them in messages,
and much more, calculated to
impress them with our friendship.
I am most happy to be able to
say that I am convinced that
I satisfied him as to the truth

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of this, and that they appeared to
be relieved in no ordinary degree.
After I had said so much as
I have stated, I added that we
desired to survey the coast of the
island which lay in his territo-
ry, and that I expected him to
send word to his people that we
were friends, and that they must
not fire upon our boats and men
while in South Bay and Pillasock
river. To this he replied that we
were his friends, and that so
far as he (Euk) and his people
were concerned, we might go
where we pleased in our boats
without fear of molestation; but
that the extreme Southern tribes
were very bad people, and that
if we left our boats, or wandered
down there by land, they would

probably fire upon us, and in that case he (Sunk) would be blamed. Therefore he hoped we would not land. I thought it prudent not to press this matter further, and stopped, or reserved it for future discussion. We were then invited to partake of a dinner which had been prepared for us, and though they (the Chiefs) at first very delicately wished to withdraw to another room for their meal while we were eating, I insisted upon their sitting down with us and we dined happily together. At the conclusion I said that as our way was long, we would now drink "Friendship" between us, and then we would take our leave. Sunk responded at once that he was glad to drink to

this, and he now believed that we were indeed his friends. Upon going away (I think it was) told me that he wished to give the Chief a greater proof of our confidence in them, and therefore we would present to them the three breach-loading rifles which were in the party, with all their accoutrements. He desired this so strongly that I assented to it, and the guns were transferred to their new owners. Sunk informed me that he should like to send an escort with us part of the way, but I told him that it was quite unnecessary, as we knew the way and feared nothing. One thing struck me particularly, and that was the Confidence which Sunk seems to place in Yourself. He at first

gave me the impression that he did not altogether believe that you were connected in any way with the expedition, and that I was only using your name in order to gain his confidence. He said, when I asked him to come down to the camp, that he did not dare to trust himself so far, but that as soon as you should arrive, then he would come down to the camp without fear. I told him that the moment you arrived I would send him word, and I hoped and believed it would be very soon. We then bade him good bye, and returned to camp.

A few days after this Admiral Kamatz proceeded in the "Kishin" to South Bay and the Southern part of the East coast below the

Tullasock. His launch was fired upon both by the Kooluts and the Singwhans in each place, and he returned to Liang Kwan bay for the purpose of consulting me as to punishing the guilty people. He wished to attack the Singwhans with the "Kishin"; and at the same time march a force from Sialiao to take the Koolut village in flank and destroy both places at a blow. It was perfectly feasible and a most excellent plan, but I so much feared that all the good effects of our recent interview with Esuk would be destroyed by a premature action like this, that I dissuaded the Admiral from it. But there was, and is, one evil which I have ever been unable to prevent, and that is the

unauthorized movements of small parties of officers and men into the country. I say "unauthorized," but after all in many cases these expeditions have no doubt been undertaken under the orders of the commanding officers. The first which came to my notice was of a party of six officers who penetrated the Southern country as far as South Bay, but which was finally stopped by the representations of the half-castes in the neighborhood, who told them that the Kooluts would surely attack them if they went further to the East. As I much feared that anything like a collision with any aborigines in the South would seriously endanger our relations with Esau, Toketok, and the rest of the people with

whom we had made friends, I made the strongest representations that such conduct must be discontinued. But as the officers seem to have little or no control over their men, my advice produced but little effect. On the 7th a small party of men who had recklessly gone in the direction of the Bontaw village, were ambushed on their way back, and one of them was killed—and when his body was recovered, it was without a head, which the Bontaws, after their custom, had carried off. I should have stated that this party had gone from a detached camp which some one had seen fit to establish about two miles in front of the main position. Of course, as soon as this trouble arose, I was applied to,

and as I had always considered the establishment of this advanced camp a mistake, I counselled the withdrawal of the men. This was done, but, untaught by experience, on the 21st, a party of 12 men, whether under orders or not I cannot say, were attacked by about 30 savages in the same way and nearly in the same spot that the soldier had been killed a few days before. These last, however, stood to their work very handsomely, and killed two and wounded one of the Bontans before the two companies, which had been hurried out to their relief, could get to them. Upon the approach of the troops, of course the savages retreated, and nothing more was accomplished. That night, however,

a company was bivouacked upon the field in the hope that the Bontans would return during the night or in the morning. The place where this last skirmish took place, and where this body of men took up their position, is just outside of a particularly strong pass to the Bontan country called by the half-castes "The Stone Door". Of the existence of this pass the Japanese knew nothing, though, through my guides Mia and Kiew, I had heard of it, and that the Bontans had made some attempt at fortification and were determined to make a stand there. Consequently I had been engaged in drawing the plan of a little campaign, in case the Bontans should take the initiative, whereby I felt sure

of "bagging" the whole fighting force of the tribe. I had examined people from Kouq Kang, and from different points near the Boutan country, and I felt sure that by an advance from Kouq Kang in a night-march, while a diversion was made at the same time at the "Stone Doors" to bring the Boutans down the valley, I could get them in such a trap that they could not escape. Judge of my disgust then, when, on the morning of the 22nd, the company which had been in bivouac during the night, advanced into this pass instead of returning as they had been ordered, met the savages in force, and after a sharp fight of two hours, drove them out with a loss of 15 killed and 38 wounded. Our own loss

was 6 killed and 10 or 15 wounded. Twelve ghastly heads were brought back to camp, and amongst them, all the Chinese of the valley villages recognize perfectly that of Athlok, the chief of the Boutans. The Japanese followed the horrible savage custom, and beheaded the dead and wounded alike, and, with their trophies of heads, brought back the arms and accoutrements of their enemies. It was a victory to be sure, but nearly bought at the dear price of the destruction of a plan which would place all the Boutans in their hands. Admiral Kamatz protested that the men acted without orders, and that he had ordered the immediate withdrawal of all force from that locality so that my plan would still hold good; but I

question very much whether or not I shall ever have quite the same chance again. Now that the soldiers are "blooded," this attack - must I think, be made, otherwise in their discontent at inactivity, they will undertake something hasty which may result in disaster. Therefore, my dear General, though you tell me to persuade General Saigo to remain perfectly quiet, I am so much of the belief that you would approve this plan yourself were you here now, that I shall put this forward for the moment in order to satisfy them, so that I may be better able to follow the instructions which you have given me. I shall tell General Saigo that if the people can be kept quiet, of course there

can be nothing better than the plan you have indicated, but that, if any move is made, it ought to be made as I have said.

The same day that General Saigo arrived, a very significant and important affair took place which ought to put B. and P. utterly to shame. It was nothing more or less than the arrival of a large fine Chinese sloop of war, accompanied by a smaller gun boat. These came to convey to General Saigo the compliments and good wishes of the Governor General of Fok Kien. Before they left, which they did the next day, the Chinese fired a national salute to the Japanese flag, and then steamed out of the bay. Publish it, my dear General, throughout the land, and

show up our friends B. and P. as liars and false prophets. I must ask you to pardon this letter in all its errors, omissions and abridgments, but I am writing it in a desperate hurry, in order not to miss the "Delta" which sails tomorrow morning.

There is but one more thing, and perhaps it is of more importance than all the rest, and I shall have finished. Day before yesterday the Chief guide, Mia, came to me with a message from Esuk to the effect that he wished to send me down a present of a couple of Cows and some pigs and Chickens. I at once sent back word that we could not accept presents sent in that way from

people whom we trusted, but who would not trust us. That I very much wished to see him in the Camp in order to present him to the Great General who had just arrived, and who had brought many presents to him because he had heard so much of him through you. That I also wished to tell him many things which I could not trust to a messenger, and that he must show me his trust in my word before I could be truly his friend. Upon the return of the guide Mia, he informed me that not only had Esuk acknowledged the justice of all I had said, but that he had declared that he would trust

me, and do what he had never done - come into the settlements - but that Tok-e-to's son and successor, Ah-Lox, the third Chief, and the three chiefs of the adjoining tribes would accompany him the next night (tonight) to Mia's house in the village of Sialiao, to meet and make friends with the General and myself.

Oh that you were here, my dear General, to follow up the advantages that are now before us! Lose not one moment in getting down here to follow out your plans to success.

If there is time, I will write you this evening of the result of our interview, and if not, I think I may say that

we shall be successful in making these people our true friends.

I have no time to write you another word, and so bid you good bye.

Faithfully
(Signed) Douglas Cassel.

Copy

Last-

Camp in Liang Kiang Valley.

26th of May.

My dear General,

Fortunately the "Delta" has been a little delayed, and I have time to tell you of the meeting last night with Sunk, Tok-e. tok's successor, two other lesser chiefs, and last and most important of all, the chief head-man of the Hoaluts. These came in, as I had suggested, to give in their allegiance or, at least, professions of friendship. I had previously written to the General requesting him to give orders that no soldiers should be permitted to go on the southern side of the river after 7 o'clock, so that, in coming in, the aborigines should not be

unnecessarily alarmed, lest they should after all take fright and retreat again to the mountains. These orders were given and enforced; and after suffering some anxiety as the time passed, I was much delighted at about 9 o'clock when the guides came in with the information that the Chiefs were actually at Mia's house and waiting for us. They had brought a large following, but these had been left a half mile or so outside the village, and the five head men were indeed in our hands trusting to my faith. I immediately called the General, and accompanied by him, Admiral Akamatz, General Tamin, Nassow, Brown, House, and two or three interpreters, we

started for the village, a few hundred yards distant. The General also ordered a very large package of every handsome present to be brought, and these, at the end of the interview, were presented to the Chiefs. Upon entering the Court-yard of Mia's house, which was very decently lighted, we found the Chiefs seated together upon the benches, and totally unarmed. They immediately arose, and instead of the usual noisy chattering, there was perfect silence, while they stood and joining their hands, "Chin chinned" the General and myself after a fashion which had evidently been taught them, or rather been suggested to them by the guides as the proper thing

to do. I said, through Johnson, that I had the good fortune to bring them to the presence of the great general of all the soldiers who had come to the island, and that he had come here tonight to tell them how glad he was to see that they trusted in our friendship and faith. To this Cook, who was spokesman, replied that he did trust and believe in us, and that, for that reason he had come, as we had requested, and to bring some little presents of friendship.

It then said that there were other reasons that had made it desirable that we should see him face to face in this way, and amongst other reasons that we did not wish to trust

certain messages to any one but ourselves. I said that he and all his people and all the tribes of the South for whose faithfulness he would vouch, should be our friends forever, whom we would not only not disturb, but whom we would protect against all enemies. But there were two tribes of people with whom we have a deadly quarrel, and that not one single man of these should escape the death which they deserved at our hands. These were the Doutans, and the Kousisants who had helped them, and that, as sure as the sun rose in the East and set in the West every man of these wretched people should surely die by our

hands. But that we had heard that some of the people from Cavali and Tullawock, and the other Southern tribes had availed themselves of the Mountain roads to go round and join our enemies, these treacherous and murderous Bontans, and I wished to solemnly warn him that if this were really done, the most dreadful punishment would fall upon him and all his people. That also I believed that when our vengeance should fall upon the Bontans, some of the remnants of the tribe would endeavor to find refuge with his people, and, sheltering themselves under the protection which we have given to our friends, the Southern tribes, endeavor to

thus escape the consequences of their crimes. This, I said, he must prevent by every means in his power, and so far from giving to these bad men a hiding place, he must capture them and hand them over to us tied hand and foot. To this Cenk replied that he knew that the Bontans and the Kussentuts were indeed bad men, and that all I had said was just, and that we might be sure that neither could any of his people be so foolish as to fight against their friends, but that he would show that he was in earnest by taking prisoner any of the Bontans or Kussentuts who would dare to venture within the limits of his dominions.

He said also that one of his villages lay directly in the road to the Bontau country, and that he feared that its people might be mistaken for the Bontaus and suffer unjustly. That he was sure that they were good people, and that he wished for their protection. I said that we had believed that they were allies of the Bontaus, and therefore they had already suffered in the late fight; but that if he, himself, would vouch for these people, we would take his simple word, and they should not be molested.

There was one other thing that I wished to say, I told him, and it was this - that upon a recent visit of one

of our ships to South Bay for the purpose of looking at the Coast and making friends with the people, the Koaluts and Lingwhans had fired upon us. This, I said, was much more than unfriendly, it was an act of war - and with these people we did not care for peace; but that if such an act was repeated, or if they did not come in and express their regret, we would exterminate them from the face of the earth. I forgot to say before that when we first got into the house, Bent had, in reply to a question from me, stated that no Koaluts Chief was present, that they wanted to be friends, but feared to come in with

him. After, however, I had said what I have just written, in regard to the punishment of the villages which had fired upon us, he said at once that the Hoalut chief was present, pointing to the man next to him, and that the firing was a mistake, and was done by some of the boys of the village who were "shooting birds." This was of course a very lame excuse, but I accepted it, and said again that Esuk's word for the faithfulness of any of his people was sufficient, but that, in this case, the Hoaluts must accede to certain things before we could grant them protection and friendship. I went on to say that at certain seasons

the Bay of Liang Kiao was very rough, and that in consequence the people of the ships could not land to walk about, get water, &c. &c. Therefore we must have a place on the other side of the island to do this. That on the East Coast below Tuillassock, and where we had been fired upon, there was a suitable place, and that we would purchase at their own price a small piece of ground for our purposes. To this Esuk replied that now we were friends we might land freely and safely anywhere in the South of the island, but that the ground we spoke of belonged to Tuillassock, and that we had best consult with the chief

of that village. That so far as landing for all the wood and water we needed, I might be sure that we could do so in perfect peace with all the Southern people, and that, if one of them dared to fire a shot upon us, he himself would guide us to the guilty village and assist in the extermination of all its people. I replied, after observing on the part of all the chiefs an evident reluctance to immediately comply with the demand or request in regard to the sale of the land, that everything seemed very satisfactory and that, after we had drunk "Friendship" to them, and presented them with the marks of the General's regard for them, as

their way was long we would not keep them longer. That, however, if he and his associates would remain until tomorrow, the General would like to show them the Camp, the drill of the troops, the Cannon, and many other interesting things. Esuk replied that he would very much like to do so, but that his people were anxiously expecting his return, and that therefore he would wait for another opportunity to visit the Camp in daylight.

At this time the presents were brought in and distributed, Esuk receiving among other things a very beautiful Japanese sword; and after many compliments we separated and

returned to camp. I forgot to say that I promised to each of the faithful villages a Japanese flag, bearing an inscription, over the General's signature, to the effect that the village over which it floated was under our protection; and in this manner the Japanese soldiers would know our friends when they were marching through the country. All the chiefs, and particularly Tsuk, seized the idea with avidity and wanted the flags at once, Tsuk begging for 16, one for each of the tribes, saying that he would answer for these, and that they would, in having them, feel perfectly or better protected than in any other way.

I answered that the flags were not yet ready and that when they were, one should be given to himself, and to each of the other chiefs who accompanied him, but that before any could be given to the other villages, their chiefs or head men must come in as he had done to pay their respects to the great General, and to show that they trusted us as true friends. To this he replied that they should all come in as I said, that up to this time they feared to do so, but when he got back and told them all he had heard, they would gladly come in to show themselves our

friends and to obtain our protection - Before going over to this conference General Saigo said to me that he put himself entirely in my hands, and that he hoped I would do all possible to effect what was desirable; and during the conference, he and the rest of the Japanese high officials sat listening and silent - Upon coming away, the General expressed his great thankfulness to me for what had been done, and his appreciation of its importance - In conclusion, my dear General, I may say that what has been accomplished up to this time is beyond my most sanguine expectations, and the only regret in my mind is

that you are not here to carry forward your plans under these advantages.

Now few words about the East Coast and I will close. Every day since I came here the advantages, nay the necessity, of a suitable vessel for this work has been more and more forcibly brought home to me, and I feel more convinced than ever that the "Tabor" is the only suitable vessel attainable. Do not fail to insist upon her presence here at the earliest moment; and I have told Captain Brown to telegraph you Nagasaki that she must be gotten down here if possible in the course of the next month. I consider

her as a necessity to the
work upon the East coast.

Pray pardon this horrible
scrawl &c.

Yours truly,
(signed) Douglas Cassel.

カッセル藩地ヨリノ信書
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李氏添書附