

C471

No 2.

Amoy, August 8th 1844

Your Excellency,

I arrived in HongKong on the 1st inst., and at once placed myself in communication with the Consul there. He appeared to be somewhat embarrassed in getting information through Chinese sources, from his ignorance of the Chinese spoken language. It being very important to know something of the preparations which the Chinese are making at Canton, I directed the officer who had accompanied me from Tokio, to proceed to that place, ascertain all he could, and report to me in Amoy at the end of the present week.

On my way to Amoy I stopped at Swatow, and there
I saw
Lass

2
~~the~~ ^{saw} landed from the steamer I was
on several thousand stands of arms
which I understood were the complement
of twenty thousand stands which the
Chinese had purchased at Hong Kong
some time previously. Mr. Stevens, an
American Gentleman living at this
place, tells me that about a month
ago, when the Chinese official requested
him to try and induce me to enter
their service, they negotiated with him
for the purchase of seven thousand
stands of arms; but the negotiations
fell through, as they could not agree
upon the price. The arms were
subsequently purchased from other
parties, but they were of an inferior
quality.

From Canton to Foochow
heavy requisitions for money are
being levied upon the people.

One rich Swatow merchant
who refused to contribute in this
manner
matter

3
maker ^{now} a hundred thousand dollars,
was tried on a fictitious charge of
piracy said to have happened ten
years ago, and was convicted, beheaded
and his property confiscated.

The authorities do not
conceal their reasons for thus obtaining
money from the people. They say
that they are preparing to resist an
invasion by the Japanese, against
whom a deep feeling of hatred is
thus engendered among the native
population.

The mass of the Chinese
however, are not for war, which they
dread; and in the towns of the sea-shore
the fear amongst the wealthy people
is so great that at night they withdraw
from their houses and retire some
distance into the country, returning
to their business the next morning.

Mr. Riquel, I am

informed

informed by the French Consul, has gone to Shanghai to aid in the manufacture of torpedoes and other engines of destruction.

So long as war has not actually been declared, he will continue to help them. One of his officers, Mr. de Segonzac, is in Formosa organizing and drilling troops.

Some time ago it was said in one of the Yamen at this port that all their preparations would be completed in two months from the first of August.

By that time the monsoon will have changed and all the ports of Southern Formosa will be accessible to transports. Thus is explained the inaction of the Chinese fleet at Canton, of which the following is the list. —

Name	Tons	Runs	Commander
An lan	431	7	J. Laball
Chen-to	431	7	Geo. Robertson
Chen-jui	²⁸ 280	1	Poynter
Ching-ting	150	4	F. Bessard
Chun-hai	230	6	C.F. Demer
Fei-ho	300	5	Blayson
Fei loong	120	5	W.T. Wright
Kien Wee	450	in	in
Ling-Feng	300	5	Cocker
Ngant tien	140	1	Wm Stewart
Peng Cho-hai	200	7	Palmer
Sui-ting	280	5	J. Stewart
Sen Chi	150	5	Sharp
Ta-an law	700	7	Leu Buch
Tien-po	150	6	C. de Longueville
Wan ngantsing	800	7	Chong Fa
Wing Po	600	3	Lam man wo
Yewng Po ^{no 12}	700	7	San chu Fat

Although this fleet will be ^{of} little avail to the Chinese after war has been declared, from the fact that most ^{of} ~~was~~

6
of the foreign Commanders
will not be allowed to remain
in the Chinese service during
wartime without forfeiting
the protection of their Govern-
ments, Yet they have
been encouraged to prepare
themselves under the
supposition that the Japanese
iron clads were unseaworthy,
a statement which was publi-
shed in the "Japan Herald"
and reproduced in all the
China papers, as you may
see from the following
cutting taken from a Hong-
Kong paper.

7
The arrival of the iron clads
in these waters will demonst-
rate to the Chinese the
falsity of these reports
and may be the means
of bringing them back
to their bases.

Since my arrival
here I have lived very
quietly, seeing no other
officials than those who have
first called upon me. The
French Consul, who is very
well acquainted with Captain
Liquet, confirms the statement
previously made to me
that the organization of
the Chinese forces can not
possibly be perfected in
less than two months. N.B.
Mr. Consul, who called upon
me this afternoon, is of the
opinion

8
opinion that, should war
be declared, and the Chinese
forces meet with reverses,
one of the most formidable
insurrections that has ever
broken out in Southern
China will be organized
in Kwang tung, Fuk Kien and
Chekiang, and that even
should they happen to meet
with success at first, and
yet their adversary should
maintain a bold front and
show evidences of their
ability to carry on the
contest for any length of
time, the population in
those provinces which must
supply the funds to sustain
the armies in the field
would still rise against
their rulers, hoping that
by so doing, they might
be
win

7
by negotiating with the enemy
at the same time put an end
to the war and stop the
squeezes which deprive them
of the very means of subsistence

The news which has
come from Foochow today
(and when I say "news" I
do not mean mere rumors
but private and reliable
information) is that the
provincial authorities are
^{as the news they have received}
so incensed in Formosa,
that they are preparing
day and night for the impen-
-ding contest with Japan.
The Tartar General Wang,
who commands the troops
and who is an intimate
friend of mine, probably
exaggerating the importance
of securing my services
to China, on hearing that

his

his proposition to me had
met with no favor asked
a leave of absence of two
months from the first of
July, on plea of sickness,
hoping that by the end of
August, those who act for
him at interior^m will be
made responsible for
whatever may go wrong

From the foregoing
it is easy to be seen that
Japan has nothing to gain
by delay, which the Chinese
are doing all they can to
obtain by showing an
apparent disposition to
treat, while in reality
they are simply trying to
gain time, to get ready
for any emergency that
may arise. It is now,
I believe, the policy of
Japan

Japan to require the
immediate settlement, one
way or the other, of the
Formosa matter, and act
promptly and in such
a manner as may be dictated
by the reply received.

The telegraphic
despatch signed Okuma,
Tokio, to which I have
alluded in my telegram No 2,
directing me to proceed to
Shanghai and report to
Mr. Okubo there, was the
first hint I had that
the plan of action was
changed from the one we
had laid down in Tokio.

It led me to suppose
that the Government
apprehended that I would
meet with some opposition
on the part of the American
authorities

Authorities in Foh Kyeu. So I had quite made up my mind what I should do in case such opposition were made and when the marshal of the U. S. Consulate came to serve upon me a warrant of arrest, I told him that I had determined that I would yield only to force.

The marshal reported my reply to the Consul, who then called upon me in person. I was absent. He then had a force of Marines landed from the U. S. S. "Saubie" and I allowed myself to be arrested by the officer in command of the boat. I accepted the proposition made by the Consul that I should be released on bond, not so
much

much because of my desire to avoid going to gaol as to obtain facilities to freely correspond with you, and attend to whatever duties might devolve upon me.

My telegrams informing you of this event you have doubtless received. In them I stated that, in contempt of all known Law, the charge upon which I was arrested was not mentioned in the warrant. When brought into Court I asked what charges were made against me and received the reply that I had been arrested by order of the Minister. The next morning I again appeared in Court and read the protest, copy

of
mine

of which I beg to enclose.
 The Consul then
 read me a lengthy document,
 wherein it was stated in
 substance that I was
 arrested by special order
 of the Minister, who, from
 information received through
 the Chinese, charged me
 with giving aid to the
 Japanese Government in
 carrying on war against
 China. At the same time
 he plainly stated to me that
 it would be useless for me
 to show any documents
 or produce any arguments
 tending to prove my innocence
 that the court had decided
 to hold me for trial, and
 that anything I might
 say to show cause why
 this should not be done
 would

would be of no avail.
 I still made the
 attempt to dispute the
 authority of the Court,
 but, unwillingly, he stopped
 me, repeating that any
 thing I might say would
 be useless. He, however
 proposed to release me on
 bond of appearance, to
 be given by five sureties
 the penalty for each being
 twenty five thousand dollars,
 the whole amounting to
 the enormous sum of one
 hundred and twenty five
 thousand dollars. Had he
 named a sum a very little
 larger than this, it would
 have been perfectly useless
 attempting to find it in
 Amoy. However, in
 less than an hour, the
 bond

bond was furnished,
 the sureties being the
 representations of the leading
 mercantile houses in the
 place, both English and
 American. For this
 mark of sympathy and
 friendship towards both
 Japan and myself we
 can not be too grateful
 and I beg to furnish
 you, in this despatch,
 with the names of the
 gentlemen who, in this
 great application, have so
 kindly assisted us.

They are N. C. Stevens Esq
 (American) who escorted
 me to the court, and
 who, on hearing of the
 difficulty, went to Amoy
 to procure the sureties;
 John Middleton Esq (American)
 who

17

who offered, in case it should be acceptable to furnish the whole security himself; J. C. ^{Wardlaw} Waddow Esq. (English), in whose house I am residing; Edmund Pope Esq. (English) of Messrs. Ellers & Co.; and Robert Craig Esq. (also English).

Being anxious to go in Shanghai in compliance with your directions, as soon as I was set at liberty I suggested to the Council the propriety of allowing me to go to Shanghai where I could obtain the benefit of legal advice, which cannot be procured here.

In compliance with my request he at once telegraphed to Shanghai. I

I also

also telegraphed to the
 Consul General, and
 copy of my telegram
 is enclosed. Up to this
 hour, we have received no reply.
 I have decided to keep the "Yuko Maru"
 in port until tomorrow, and if I
 receive a favorable reply, I will at
 once proceed in her to Shanghai.

It is very evident to me that,
 in the present emergency, the only
 thing for the Japanese government
 to do is to direct Mr. Boissonade to prepare
 a careful protest, to be addressed to
 the American Government in Washington,
 wherein the injustice and ^{illegality} of
 my arrest shall be clearly demonstrated,
 and all the redress to which the Japanese
 Government is entitled firmly demanded.
 Mr. Fish, the Secretary of state, may not
 be disposed to act as fairly in this
 matter as he might, but the people
 of America are, and the secretary
 will

will think twice before giving an
 unjust decision in the matter -
 especially so, if the Japanese take a
 decided stand - Copy of the protest
 should be sent to Mr. Williams, U.S.
 Charge d' Affaires at Peking through
 Mr. Yamagawa - and when the American
 Minister to China arrives at Yokohama
 on his way to Peking, a plain statement
 of the case should be laid before him,
 that he may see the matter in its true
 light. I also think that while he is in
 Japan it would be good policy to
 show him some attention, of which
 he would entertain a pleasant recollection
 after his arrival in China.

Where he will certainly meet with none

If I can only reach Shanghai and have the case brought before the ^{Court} ~~Court~~ there by an able legal adviser, I have no doubt that it will be decided in my favor, the charge made against me being that I have aided Japan in making war against China, since no war has yet been declared between the two countries, and considering the fact that I came here on a mission of peace, that from the ^{time} ~~time~~ I left Yokohama until my arrival here I have spoken to no ~~one~~ ^{one} about Formosa or the operations that are being carried ^{on} ~~at~~ there, and that the only connection I have had with the Formosa mission was while I was in Japan, an offence, if any for which I cannot be made responsible in China, the case cannot fail to be ^{dismissed} ~~dismissed~~ by the court; At all events, the fact that I have my ^{liberty} ~~liberty~~ here enabled me to render the government some assistance; and if the American authorities

would, but leave me alone, I am ready
 to ~~forget~~^{forget} all the protection that they could
 give me. If I can in this way aid your
 excellency or Mr. Okuma in carrying out
 the great plans you have in view, it will
 be enough to make me forget all the
 annoyances and troubles I have met with
 during the ~~past~~^{past} six months.

Hoping that my proceedings will meet
 with the approval of your Excellency's
 Government.

I have the honor to be
 Your Excellency's
 most obedient humble servant,

Ch. W. Le. Jandre

His Excellency
 Okuma Shigenobu
 Minister of Colonization
 etc etc etc.