

Collier, 23 January

1875

My dear Mr. Hiram,

Herewith Mr. Jones'

Report. Would you call

the attention of Mr

Okuma to the fact

that a memorial in

The Morning Gazette of
 15th December shows
 that the Church still
 maintain a semblance
 of suzerainty in their
 relations with Lochee,
 as shown by the

extract of the ~~Morning~~
 N. C. Daily News
 hereunder given.
 The N. C. Daily
 News is a reliable
 paper; and the state-
 ment therein contained

could ^{be} easily verified
by a reference to
the Selling Gazette
of the 15th of
December.

ever yours

Chas W. B. Smith
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A memorial in the *Peking Gazette* of 15th December shows that the Chinese still maintain a semblance of suzerainty in their relations with Loochew, although the Japanese have formally taken the islands under their protection. True, the junk with tribute arrived at Loochew in the end of last year, before the Formosan difficulty arose; but a year before that, it had been officially intimated to foreign powers that the sovereign of the islands had been reduced to the position of an ex-daimio and assigned a residence at Yedo. The departure of the junk on her return voyage is now noticed; and according to precedent, the duties on Chinese merchandise shipped by her have been remitted. In acknowledgment of the graciousness of the "Sacred Ruler" to the men from afar, however, the Envoy, followed by his attendant officials and the crew of the junk, has had to perform the ceremony of the *kotow*, at the Custom-house.

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