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Tokai, April 1874.

Your Excellency:

The cruel treatment of castaways by the inhabitants of Aboriginal Formosa has long been a subject of much solicitude to mariners and to the governments whose duty it is to afford them protection in their perilous avocations; and in more than one case western powers have had to resort to acts of war against these tribes to punish them for



their crimes. At last eighteen of the Southern tribes, under the Chief Tau-Ke-tok, being convinced that they could not resist the power which experience had taught them could be brought to bear against

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(a). The Dutch sent an expedition against the Bontans in 1654. (See "Relation de la prise de l'isle Formosa par les Chinois, le cinquiesme Juillet, 1661, traduite de l'Hollandois. Paris, MDCLXIII." Pages 36 and 37.)  
U. S. S. "Cormorant", Capt. B. B. Broad, bombarded the Koaluk on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 1867. Admiral Bell landed a force of marines at Kwaliang Bay in June, 1867. (See Report of U. S. Secretary of Navy, 1867, pages 54 to 57.)

them by England and America, made an agreement with the U. S. Consul for Amoy and Formosa, in 1867, to protect castaways. <sup>(a)</sup> To this agreement they have ever since remained remarkably faithful. <sup>(b)</sup>

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(a). An effort was made at this time by the Consul to induce the Chinese to annex that portion of Aboriginal Formosa that lies South of Foug-lee, (see U. S. Diplomatic Correspondence for 1868/69, pages 508 to 510,) but the Central Government declined doing so. (See U. S. Commercial Relations for 1869, page 69.)  
(b.) Wreck of Bashee Islanders, September 6<sup>th</sup> 1869. (See "Customs Gazette", published by order of the Inspector.



imperative for Japan to take an active part in this humane task. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, 1871, sixty six Japanese subjects were wrecked on the Eastern coast of Aboriginal Formosa in about latitude 22° 18' N, and all except twelve, who made good their escape, were murdered by the Bontans, one of the tribes of that region. When our ambassador went to Peking last year and asked that an adequate punishment should be inflicted upon these savages, the Tjung-lee Yamen replied that their region did not belong to China. A reference to Chinese maps whereon, of all that was known of the islands of Formosa by the Dutch in



1635,<sup>(a)</sup> only the Chinese possessions therein, that is to say, the Northern and a portion of the Western coast, were marked, convinced our ambassador that not only was H. I. C. M. Government sincere in making this affirmation, but that it really had no desire to extend its sway over the island further than the natural boundary line formed by the chain of mountains that separates Chinese from Aboriginal Formosa, and stretches from Pong-lee to Sau-o Bay.<sup>(b)</sup>

On the return of the Embassy to Tokai, orders were issued to

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(a). See Chart marked A.

(b). See plates B, C, and D.

make preparations for a High Commission to be sent to Aboriginal Formosa, to investigate the circumstances of the murder of our countrymen, and to take such other steps as may be found necessary to ensure the non-recurrence of such tragedies there. These preparations being completed, the Commission is now about to leave Japan. It will be accompanied by both naval and military forces, which it is hoped will give such emphasis to the words of persuasion which the High Commissioner is instructed to use towards the Bontans as will compel the latter, without effusion of blood,



to give satisfaction and -  
such assurances for the fu-  
ture as Japan has a right  
to demand, but which will  
also enable him to inflict  
a terrible punishment upon  
them should they refuse to  
do so.

○ To accomplish this suc-  
cessfully, it may prove nec-  
essary to close to foreign trade  
several bays and streams of  
Aboriginal Formosa, from which  
the Bontans, who manufacture  
nothing themselves except a  
sort of heavy cloth, derive  
all their supplies of arms  
and ammunition. These places  
are Cha-la-tong, Che-fong-ka,  
Hong-kong, Chasiang, Sialiao,  
Tou-pang-nak on Howaliang Bay,



Tuak-soek ang, the first stream on the east coast north of South Cape, two bays north of the latter place situated respectively in about latitude  $22^{\circ} 3'$  and  $22^{\circ} 18'$  north, and Pilaw, in about latitude  $22^{\circ} 31'$  north.

A rigid enforcement of this blockade, should it become necessary to proclaim it being likely to contribute greatly to the success of the labors of our Commission, whereby the work of pacification in Aboriginal Formosa, in which the whole civilized world is interested, is likely to receive a considerable impulse, His Imperial Majesty's Government expresses the



hope that the representatives  
of foreign powers residing at  
Tokio will use all the means  
at their command to have  
it respected by their people.

In commending this  
important matter to the  
attention of the members of  
the Diplomatic Corps through  
Your Excellency, I take with  
pleasure the opportunity to  
renew the expression of the  
high consideration and res-  
pect with which I have the  
honour to subscribe myself

Your Excellency's  
Most Obedient Humble Servant,

To

His Excellency,

Sir Harry Parkes,

A. B. M. Envoy Extraordinary and  
Minister Plenipotentiary to Japan.  
Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps.



Department of Foreign Affairs.

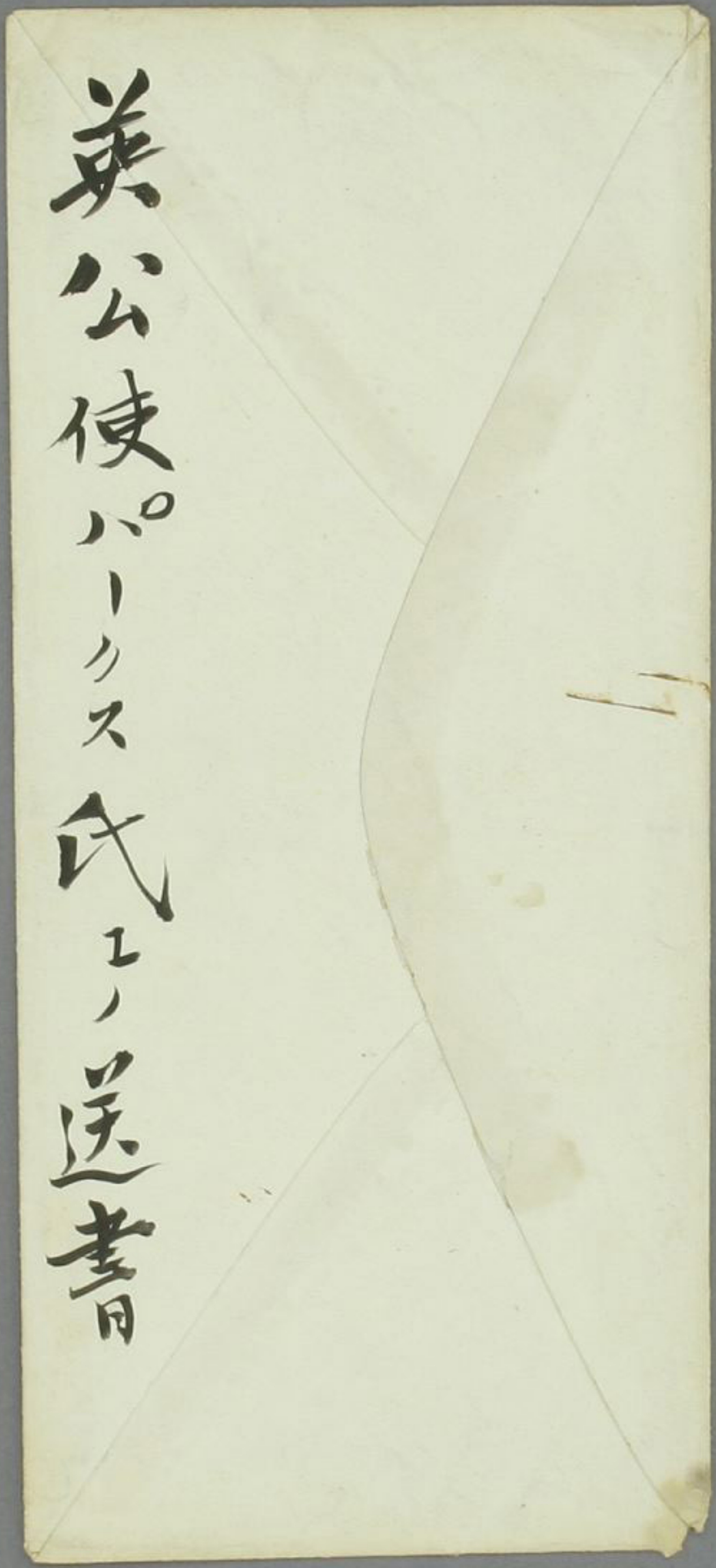
His Excellency,

Sir Harry Parkes, K. C. B.

A. B. M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister  
Plenipotentiary, etc. etc.

Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps.





美公使パルクス氏への送書