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AMOY.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company,

18<sup>th</sup> Sept 1874

General G. W. de Groot  
Shanghai

Sir

The Company has placed in our hands for sale in China, or Japan the steamers "Massilia", "Behar", "Candia", "Columbian" & "Orissa" particulars of whose dimensions, and capacity we beg to hand you herewith.

We make this communication to you with the view of your probably being in a position to purchase any, or all of these steamers on behalf of the Japanese government.

Should connection with such business be out of your province, we have merely to apologize for troubling you, and on the other hand should you  
Entertain

entertain our proposition, a survey of the vessels, which are all good serviceable mail steamers of the Peninsular & Oriental Line, could be arranged by a Japanese Commission coming south, or by the steamers going north as opportunity might occur.

The Company is anxious to dispose of the steamers, as competition introduced by the Suez Canal compels them to run their fleet, in favour of steamers more adapted to the present exigencies of the trade.

We consider that for the "Columbian" \$130,000 would be accepted, while the price of the others ranges about \$100,000.

We are

Sir

Your obedient servants

J. A. B. Co