

Hong Kong

13<sup>th</sup> December 1878

Sir,

Since writing Your Excellency last on the 29<sup>th</sup> ult., I became aware that all the American Trade dollars in this and the neighboring ports, were being purchased by the Foreign bankers for shipment to San Francisco, where the United States Mint are buying them at 2 per cent premium. I considered this of sufficient importance to urge Mr Taro Ando to advise Your Excellency by telegram.

It is evident that the object the United States government have in view, in thus recalling from circulation

Your Excellency

Okuma Sonogi

the American Trade dollar, is to try and circulate in China, in lieu of it, the new American dollar of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  grains. I do not think the American government will succeed at all in competition with the Japanese Yen; and now is certainly the right moment for Your Excellency to press the adoption of the Yen throughout Japan to the exclusion of the Mexican dollar.

The Oriental Bank Manager (Mr Crombie) informs me that it is rumoured in Japan that Your Excellency intends altering the design of the Japanese Yen.

I would point out respectfully to Your Excellency that it is advisable not to alter the design of the

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old Yen at present, until it is adopted as a legal tender everywhere in this part of China. The Chinese after accepting a coin of a certain design don't like changing, for this reason the "Scale" Mexican, has always remained at a discount with the old "Eagle" Mexican dollar. Besides the old <sup>pattern</sup> Yen is the one adopted in the Straits Settlements, and with a coin of a new design, we shall have to get a new ordinance passed. I have informed the Oriental Bank that I think there is a mistake and that I don't think it is the intention of Your Excellency to alter the design of the Yen. I will however ask Mr Taro Ando to telegraph to Your Excellency on this subject.

I remain, Sir

Your most obedient servant  
John Pitman

在香港「デヨン、ピットマン」氏ヨリノ來翰譯

去月二十九日書ヲ閣下ニ捧呈セシ以來余カ聞知セシ所ニ依レハ外國銀行者輩ハ当港ニ近傍ノ開港場ニ流通セル亞米利加貿易銀ヲ陸續購求シテ以テ米國「サンフランシスコ」港ニ輸送スト爰ニ於テカ米國造幣寮ハ二分ノ打歩ヲ以テ之ヲ買入ル、ト云フ

想フニ此事タル實ニ至緊至要ノ件ナレハ報道早キヲ貴フカ故ニ則安藤太郎君ト謀リ電報ヲ以テ閣下ニ報道セシメタリ

合衆國政府カ斯ノ如ク其貿易銀ヲ買入レテ以テ之ヲ流通上ヨリ引去ントスルヲ視レハ政府ノ目的トスル所ハ日貿易銀ヲ廢シ更ニ四百拾貳「ドレイシ」半ノ新造「ドル」ヲ貸ラ支那ニ試シ以テ之ヲ代用流通セシメント欲スルニ在ルヤ明白ナリ

大藏省

想フニ假令ヒ米政府ニテ此四百拾貳「ドレイシ」半ノ新造「ドル」ヲ流通セシメテ以テ日本内銀ト競争ヲ試ムルト雖ヒ米政府全勝ヲ此際ニ得ル能ハサルベレ

夫レ今日ハ必ラス閣下カ日本全国内ニ普ク内銀ノ採用ヲ促シ以テ洋銀ヲ排除スヘキ至当ノ時至レリト云フヘキナリ

蓋シ閣下ハ日本内銀ノ圖画ヲ變更セシテ企テ、由ノ風評日本ニアル昔ヲ東洋銀行ノ支配人「クロムビ」ヨリ余ニ報道セリ

爰ニ於テ余謹テ聊カ閣下ニ卑言ノ呈スヘキモノアリ他ナシ夫レ日本ノ旧内銀タル支那地方至ル所皆之ヲ合法貨幣トシテ採用スルノ日ヲ俟タサレハ目下俄ニ其圖画ヲ變更セサルコソ策ヲ得タルモノナリト則チ是レナリ

凡ソ支那人ハ一旦或ル圖画ノ貨幣ヲ領諾採用セシ上ハ後々其

更更ヲ好マスヤレバコソ夫ノ「スケイル」<sup>ドル</sup>ノ如キハ平生  
必ラス割引ヲ被ムルヲ免レス旧「エーケル」<sup>ドル</sup>ノ如キモ亦  
以テ然ルナリ（母面ニ以上「スケイル」<sup>ドル</sup>ノ兩貨トモ一ハ其實  
幣面ニ天秤ノ因ヲ画シ一ハ驚ノ因ヲ画キタルカ  
支那人ニ斯ル習風アリ且ツ右ノ如キ類例アルノ外（外幣ノ）旧造円  
銀ハ既ニ「ストレイツセトルメント」<sup>（新埠坡近傍殖民地ノ總稱）</sup>  
ニ於テ其合法貨幣ト定メタルモノナラスヤ  
然ルヲ令儀ニ新圖画ノ貨幣ヲ以テスルニ於テハ新ニ又法令ヲ  
公布セサルヘカラス  
蓋シ國画更ノ企アルト云フカ如キハ全ク誤解ノ然ラシムル  
所ニシテ閣下ニ於テハ円銀ノ國画更ノ企ナカルヘシト余ハ  
思考スル昔ヨ東洋銀行ニ報道セリ  
猶ホ此後ニ付テハ安藤太郎君ニ依頼シ電報ヲ以テ閣下ニ伺フ

大藏省

「アルベ」謹言

千八百七十八年

在香港

十二月十三日

デヨン、ピットマン

大隈参議閣下

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Handwritten Japanese characters in black ink, including a star symbol and a circled character.

His Excellency

Okuma Sanji

Okumastō

Shōkō



