

Private October 1st 1874 -

1786
a

- & E. -
Shanghai Eye,

Copied into
Corrected
Yours
Sir
at this time when
there is talk of war between
your country & China. The
experience of one like
myself might be of some
service, and if so I shall
be happy to wait on you,
or on any of your high
officers, and afford what
information I can -

I was for 5 years in
China with the Army
at the taking of Canton,
and finished in 1860 -
was present with
the Army before Peking
and at the burning of the Palace



During this time - I gained
great experience in the
landing, and movements
of Soldiers, their require-
ments, &c.

For one year. I organized
a body of Chinamen
for transport service,
and was complimented
by my Commanding
Officer on several
occasions, for the
great services I rendered
in the landing, and
transporting of a
portion of the army -
I am still particularly
interested in Armies, and

Should your Government
find it necessary to
send one or two Armies
to China. I am sure
I could afford some
useful information
as regards the transport
service, whereby a
large sum of money
could be saved, which
was in the case of
our Army in the
North of China, so
carelessly spent -
of all countries which
I visited - (I was in
Mexico with the French
Spanish Expedition
as transport officer to the

English portion of the
expedition) I know of
none, so able to
furnish ^{such} a cheap,
and serviceable transport
corps. as Japan —

As you will excuse
the liberty I have taken
in addressing you on
such a matter, but
being interested in the
welfare of this country
I don't like to remain
quiet, when I think
I could be of great
service in case of
war, having had much
experience in the man-
agement of armies than

perhaps any Mer
Foreigner in Japan,
I remain

1786
Your obedient servant
W. D. Smith

Soō Gokurama

W. H. Smith

W. H. Smith
Yokohama

1/23

1st October 1874

A private letter
offering his services
in the transport
of Troops &c