

841  
Copies into  
Correspondence Book

Honolulu October 13<sup>th</sup> 1874

I enclose herewith a note  
from Mr. Hart, the General Agent of the  
Pacific Mail Steamship Co., apologizing  
to Your Excellency for the unfortunate  
misunderstanding of Saturday last.

Having heard the means of Your  
Excellency's friends accepting Mr. Hart's  
invitation to make the pleasure trip on  
the "Chieftain" it was very mortifying to me  
that anything should have occurred to mar  
the pleasure of a trip which, I believe, was  
otherwise enjoyed by every one, and I am  
glad that Mr. Hart expresses his regrets  
to you in this way as I feel assured that  
his intention to give pleasure to all of  
his guests was sincere and that what  
occurred was nothing but the result of  
accident -

His Excellency  
Okuma Kijomoku }  
Minister of Finance }  
or or or

Hoping



Hoping that Your Excellency and  
your friends will accept Mr. Hubbs'  
explanations in the good spirit in  
which they are made and expressing  
my own regret that there should have  
been a necessity for them

I remain Your Excellency's

Obedient servant

Jno. J. Walsh.

J. S. Watkins  
Galesburg

13th Oct 1874

Enclosing letters  
of apology from  
Miss Stark

Tokyo and Oct. 13. 1874

I feel that I am called  
upon to offer to Your Excellency  
an apology for what would appear  
to be a neglect on my part in  
not having you properly seated  
at the lunch table on the "China"  
on Saturday last.

I hope you will understand that  
with the American people, lunch  
has always been considered an informal  
meal, and the conventionalities  
which are always observed at  
dinner (which is the formal meal)  
in regard to the seating of guests,  
are scarcely ever observed at lunch.  
But, notwithstanding this, I had  
set apart a table for Your Excellency  
and the Japanese Ministers and  
officers, but failed to place at your  
seat a card with your name upon  
it, as I should have done, had  
it been dinner instead of lunch.

And by a mistake on the part  
of the Steward, in allowing the  
other guests to rush in the room  
before Your Excellency's friends were  
first seated, as it was my  
intention they should be, the mis-  
fortune of having you shut out  
from the table occurred, much  
to my disappointment and  
mortification I assure you.

I beg that Your Excellency will  
accept this as a sufficient apology  
for the seeming neglect on my  
part.

I beg also to offer for Your Excellency's  
acceptance the accompanying  
photograph which was taken on  
board the ship on that day.  
I have the honor to be.

Your Excellency's  
Obedient Servant.

His Excellency  
Okuma Shigenobu  
Okura Kiyo

Atmōtairi

Henry Hart  
No. Kōhama

---

13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1874

---

Apologizing for  
my want of etiquette  
at lunch on board  
the S.S. China

---

---

841

London Oct. 13. 1874

*Copy in the  
correspondence  
of the  
British  
Ambassador*

I feel that I am called  
upon to offer to Your Excellency  
an apology for what would appear  
to be a neglect on my part in  
not having you properly seated  
at the lunch table on the "China"  
on Saturday last.

I hope you will understand that  
with the American people, lunch  
has always been considered an informal  
meal, and the conventionalities  
which are always observable at  
dinner, (which is the formal meal)  
in regard to the seating of guests,  
are scarcely ever observed at lunch.  
But, notwithstanding this, I had  
set apart a table for Your Excellency  
and the Japanese Ministers and  
officers, but failed to place at your  
seat a card with your name upon  
it, as I should have done, had  
it been dinner instead of lunch.

And by a mistake on the part  
of the Steward, in allowing the  
other guests to rush in the room  
before Your Excellency's friends were  
first seated, as it was my  
intention they should be, the mis-  
fortune of having you shut out  
from the table occurred, much  
to my disappointment and  
mortification I assure you.

I beg that Your Excellency will  
accept this as a sufficient apology  
for the seeming neglect on my  
part.

I beg also to offer for Your Excellency's  
acceptance the accompanying  
photograph which was taken on  
board the ship on that day.

I have the honor to be.

Your Excellency's  
Obedient Servant.

His Excellency  
Okuma Shigenobu  
Okura Kiyo

Hemphill



Henry Hart  
Yokohama

---

13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1874

---

Apologizing for  
my lack of etiquette  
at lunch on board  
the S.S. China

---

---