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Memorandum concerning a High Commission about to leave Japan for Aboriginal Formosa, accompanied by a force sufficient for its protection, to inquire into the circumstances of the murder of fifty-four Japanese subjects there in December, 1871, and to take such steps as may be required to prevent the recurrence of such atrocities.

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. ^(a) At last eighteen of the Southern tribes under the chief Tautetok, being convinced that they could not resist the power which experience had taught them could be brought to bear against them by England and America, made an agreement with the

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

U. S. Consul for Amoy and Formosa in 1867 to protect coastways. ^(a) To this agreement they have ever since remained remarkably faithful. ^(b)

(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 Long-bee (See U. S. Diplomatic Correspondence for 1868/69, pages 500 to 510.) but the Central Government declined doing so. (See U. S. Commercial Relations for 1869, page 69.)

(b). Wreck of Bashee Islanders, September 6th 1869 (See Customs Gazette published by order of the Inspector-General of Customs, Shanghai, December 9th 1869, page 69. Wreck of the Horn in November 1869. (See Customs Gazette quoted above for 14th February, 1870. Wreck of "London Castle" in July 1871 (See Official Manuscript narrative of the occurrence by Mr. Pelham Warren, of H. B. M. Consulate, Takao.)

The Eastern Coast of Aboriginal Formosa being very little known, it was indispensable, in order to prosecute the work of pacification of the tribes north of Saucetok's dominions, to first thoroughly explore it; and as this would have entailed considerable expense and labor, it was not followed up by any one until a circumstance occurred which has rendered it imperative for Japan to take an active part in this humane task.

On the 11th of December, 1871, sixty one Japanese subjects were wrecked on the Eastern Coast of Aboriginal Formosa in about latitude $22^{\circ} 18'$ North, 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