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Translation

Peking, 14th of the 9th
month, 27th year of Meiji.

I have the honor to congratulate
the health of His Imperial Majesty
the ~~Emperor~~^{Emperor}, the peace of our country and
the welfare of your Excellencies. As
communicated from Tsientin, I departed
from that place on the 6th inst. and
safely arrived here at noon of the 10th
after the voyage both by land and wa-
ter. Soon after our arrival the Minis-
ter Yanagiwara sent a despatch
(No. A) to the Tsung-li-yamen and
received its answer (No. B). Conse-
quently, today's afternoon at one o'clock
I went to the Tsung-li-yamen, accom-
panied by the Minister Yanagiwara,
M^r Otak, the vice-director of the rail-
way section and M^r Sei, the first secre-
tary and was received by the Prince
Kong and the high officials of the
yamen, who were waiting for us
with the provision of a banquet (the
entertainment with meat and drink
in the first interview having, it is
said, no former example.) They
were evidently intent in this first
interview to spend the day in sundry
conversations and not to do any
discussion concerning the Formosan
affair.

affair, and besides, they were evidently long expecting that the object of our present mission should be a mild and peaceable one. They were therefore truly surprised to be explained first the chief object of the present mission and then successively to be made several inquiries by us. For this, they hastily examined the books and showing an air of perplexity, returned us an evasive answer.

Thereon, we handing them the notes of the two questions contained in the accompanying draft of conference, desired them to return the answer to these questions for tomorrow, if not, to answer after-tomorrow without fail and I have every reason to expect it as desired, which circumstances you will apprehend more fully from the accompanying draft of conference. It could not still be conjectured, what answer they would return us, but as they said to pay shortly a visit to us as a return to our present visit, I should then endeavour to realize completely the intention of the government, by arguing the principles of right and justice. As to the particulars of the discussions made by the Minister Yanagiwara, your excellencies would

would have been informed of them by the official despatches successively sent by him. But, all his discussions and arguments by truly earnest endeavours, resulted merely in one point, whether the Aboriginal Formosa should belong to the jurisdiction of China or not, and he having no prospect of the solution sooner or later, considered the future measures to be taken and sent me an oral message through M^r Takasaki during my sojourn at Tsientin, as has been communicated to your excellencies by my former despatch. Seeing these circumstances I had every reason to fear the refusal of any conference by the Chinese, after my arrival at Peking, but I have been enabled to-day to open the negotiation with them. As the point, whether the aboriginal Formosa belongs to China or not, has been fully discussed already by the Minister Yanagiwara, I now expect to get a clear prospect of the future, by overcoming them through the argument supported by the principles of justice, when they would shortly visit us and on every occasion I hope to communicate your excellencies the circumstances attending my discussions

discussions with them.

The Prince Kong was once degraded from his rank of Shin-wo to that of Gun-wo but he was soon restored to his former rank. As this is a somewhat strange thing, I now send your Excellencies an accompanying note relating to it.

We have been informed by the telegrams and newspapers, that a violent storm of the 20th ult. blew down the Kencho of Nagasaki and damaged the 'Adsuma Kan' for which we felt the great anxiety; but we congratulate you on learning from Nagasaki, that this War-vessel has been already afloat. I have reason firmly to believe, that your Excellencies took every possible measure proper to meet the exigencies. Mess. Yuiamura and Inowage arrived safely here on the 12th inst. Finally, I have to announce your Excellencies, that as the secret information given by the Spanish Minister in Peking has been communicated by the Minister Yana-giwara, I intend to communicate it to the General Saigo at the earliest occasion.

I have the honor

your Excellencies
most obedient servant.

Okubo Toshimichi
the Ambassador

To
their Excellencies
Sanjo, Daijo daijin.
Shimadzu, Sadaijin
Iwakura, Udaijin
and
all the honorable members
of Sangi.

P. S. I have received official despatches addressed to me respectfully by their Excellencies Okuma, Oki and Ito. I could not answer them now, on account of the pressing affairs above mentioned, but I shall not fail to answer minutely at the next occasion.

Okubo.

Postscript of the 15th.

After the above has been written,
The Tsung-li-yamen sent us well-
dressed meat and drink at 11 o'clock
A.M. today the 15th and after that
on the afternoon, the four members
of the Tsung-li-yamen, Tong-tung,
Shing-ki-fing, - Tsong-ling and Tsong-han sent
their cards to announce that they
would visit us at one o'clock, P.M.
tomorrow the 16th and I expect
then to hold the negotiation with
them as has been above said.

Okubo.

大分傳五長 有十四日付事箱

廿五

川本長次郎
相模大分傳五長
出陣御書
一紙

以書狀致啓上候時下秋冷之候工處
 聖上倍御機極短克被多後清國內平寧
 各位愈勉勵所奉務被成在平下是實
 在在拙官儀過日天津府有申進在通
 本月六日回不發報通列之經行水陸無異
 狀十日十二時清京工安着在除所安候可
 及照會各處之号之通照度有之本日午後
 一時公使及太田鐵道權臣鄭外務一等書記

蕃地事務局

隨於一日總理衙門之至、在處親王諸大臣
 列席酒肴等整備在待 初對面之酒肴ヲ設ケテ
 候之、於前無キトノコト
 居席之本日、初面會之儀、舟雜談等、テ日ヲ
 消シ事件ノ談ハ及申間敷見込、有之候体且
 此度拙官奉使着系、旨趣ハ必寬裕ノ法ニ
 涉リ可申ト臆測ヲ以テ、過日未麴首相待被
 居在由之處、此ヲ其ニ使命ノ大旨ヲ説明シ
 續テ漸次詰問及在處實ニ彼ノ意外ニ出候
 書籍等ヲ取出シ狼狽ニ色相顯シ曖昧ニ返答
 ノミニ有之依テ別紙ノ通リ問書二條ヲ相渡シ明

日迄三可相答若不能儀三在少明後日ハ
必不答書首之度旨申談置反条必然無違
約可差越事ト在反猶別紙筆記ニテ法承知
首之度就テハ彼ノ答書振如何様可者之感
豫メ難計 在得去不日諸大臣答禮トシテ我
旅館来初ノ趣故猶公道正理ヲ以テ談論ヲ
遂ケ政府ノ御旨趣徹底在縁致度日夜焦心
彈思區在事ニ在尤於前柳多公使談判ノ顛末
ハ日人順次送呈ノ公翰ニテ法詳知有之在係ト
海反且日人是迄不容易苦慮盡力ヲ以テ百方

蕃地事務局

論於在儀ハ互ニ蕃地ノ属ハ不属ヲ争ヒ在マテ
事ト相成早晚議論ノ結局ニ可至是据無之
在リ遂ニ後國ヲ熟案ニ拙官洋津中高崎
議官ヲ以テ申越在係ハ先便申進在通者
在方以テ拙官進京在テモ彼ノ談論ヲ拒在儀モ
可有之カト云フ掛念罷在在更無異議今日
談論ヲ開キ在事ニ至テ就テハ蕃地ノ属不
属ハ公使ノ所論ニテ既ニ相盡ニ居在儀ニ付決
大目ノ来訪ヲ待テ大條理ノ在在所ヲ以テ論破
在得ハ凡ク後來ノ目途ニ相立可申ト被在考

岩倉吉大臣殿

参上儀各位

法中

追テ大隈殿大木殿伊藤殿等ノ公翰一
紙讀今使法回若可申之處亦文ノ繁雜ニ
付不能其儀之間追テ可及細書上書也

十五日追加

亦書相認之後本日總理衙門十名等午
前十一時頃鄭重ニ料理ヲ被贈越又午後
ニ至リ明十六日午後一時董恂沉桂芬崇

蕃地事務局

編^崇厚ノ四大臣旅館ニ来河ノ趣名刺ヲ授
申来各條亦文ニ申啓各通り夫ニ備徒
可及上書也