



国家清史编纂委员会·编译丛刊影印系列

美国政府解密档案（中国关系）

美国驻中国广州领事馆领事报告 (1790-1906)

Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Canton, China,
1790-1906

广西师范大学出版社 组织整理

程焕文 审订

— 2 —



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Copy -

R. 2 May 3. 1835.

Canton April 20. 1834-

To His Excellency
the President
of the U. States
Washington

Sir

I have had the honor to be
Consul of the U. States at Batavia, since
the year 1825, and should now be glad to
exchange that situation, to become
Consul at Canton, should it accord with
your views to appoint me to the last
mentioned Office.

I am aware there is a person
now holding the appointment, but as he
has not been in China for many years,
and as I have been told, will not return
there, I have thought it would not be
deemed undignified, or presumptuous, thus
to solicit the Office, and I beg to
accompany the application, by some
remarks and suggestions, applicable to
the present and future, probable,
commercial and political position of
the American trade to China and
American Citizens resident in Canton.

S.

Use the term political with
reference to positions, Americans may be
drawn into, or forced to take by acts of
British Subjects, and the measures of the
British Commissioners about to be placed
by the British Government in China, to
look to the interests of trade, rights &c
also to punish aggressions upon or
wrongs done to the natives of China, by
subjects of the King of Great Britain.

You are probably aware, that the
English East India Company's trade is
abolished from, and after the 21st of this
month, April, and from that time is to be
free to British subjects and vessels -
The Political functions of the Company's
Factory in China will then cease, and the
Bill called the 'China Trade Bill' provides
for the appointment of these Commissioners
with Political and Judicial Powers
to represent the Government, and
execute the Laws of England upon
British subjects in China - The
judicial Courts will probably, be
held in Canton, or on board a Ship
of War stationed at Lintin - The
providing

proceeding this Court indicates that
British subjects shall be tried by
British Laws, whatever crime they may
be accused of, and I hope it is the
determination of that Government never
again to give up to the Chinese
Authorities one of its subjects for trial
or punishment. This position of affairs
 must soon lead to collisions between the
 two parties and eventually bring some
 important questions to an issue, for I
 deem it morally certain that conflicts
 between the crews of British vessels,
 and the Chinese at Whampoa, cannot be
 prevented among so great a number of
 sailors as are requisite to man
 probably 120 to 150 junc boats, in
 which class of vessels there is
 generally, but too little discipline or
 command, certainly, far less, than in
 American merchant vessels, or in
 Company's Ships, where naval martial
 Law was in force; and many not sailors,
 belonging to American vessels, were
 heedless of the English in Apprais, and
 this

thus, improve the nation's trade and
increase its position in China.

There will be at Whampoa
between September and March,
annually, from 2000 to 2200 British
cruisers, and I may almost say "let loose"
often under the bad influence of
drunk, which may be had for a
trifling cost, or in exchange for any
implements or stolen from the ships.
There will be about 600 American
sailors at Whampoa at the same
periods.

The expected Commissioners
being representatives of the Government of
England (not as heretofore Agents, and
interested in the Company's Trade) will
probably assume, and maintain higher
grounds in the discussions that may
occur with the Chinese Authorities, than
has been heretofore, and thus difficulties
may grow up, for they, the Commissioners,
will be influenced more by the spirit of
assumed right, and national honor,
than could be expected from the Agents

J.

of a trading Company, itself so popular with the English people. Thus under the new State of affairs, whatever may occur, it is reasonable to suppose, that the Commissioners will feel safe in the protection of their Governments; and that national feelings will go with them, in a word, what was before deemed in England, only the Company's trading interests, will in future be national; and the Nations' honor must be taken care of, even at the expense of one or more years' loss of the Tea Trade —

In the event of a conflict, between the two Nations, the issue cannot be doubtful, the Chinese will submit, after a show of gallantry, and little fight, to the terms dictated, and beg for the return of trade. — How far the American trade to China may be affected by these changes it is difficult to anticipate, as the Chinese, term and view all foreigners as Barbarians, the Americans may be viewed and treated as Englishmen in case of restrictions, quarrels and

subjugation.

subsequent difficulties.

The new order of English affairs in this matter, is expected to produce great changes, that must, more or less, affect American interests, as well as English, - and is nearly all observing persons, acquainted with the English and Chinese character, their trade, views &c by residence here, agree with me in this opinion. I will not venture to attempt to predict particulars, for it would be useless, but I will venture to suggest, that American interests would, probably, be more or less served by a Consul with some peculiar powers and instructions to meet the expected changes and exigencies growing out of them, and with official Powers from the American Government to present himself to the Chinese Authorities, as its representative, and for the care and protection of American citizens and their rights & property, and show that they are distinct from others who trade in this Country.

These extraordinary powers to be

be used only in case of the most decided necessity. —

And, further, if the American Government be judiciously represented as suggested above, it would tend to prevent success to any insidious designs of another party to involve the Americans, as a party on their side, against the Chinese, as has been attempted, more than once, and if, forced by the Chinese, or the current of circumstances, to become a party in a struggle, even should it be only of a diplomatic nature, such an agent would probably wield a beneficial influence in favor of American interest, both for the present and future, to the management with the English Functionaries here, and the Chinese Government, and always keep American interests at least on a parallel with the English, or higher. Without such a representative, may not American interests suffer between the two parties, may not the Chinese after suffering

castigation

Castigation and defeat, by British Arms,
gave England a pre-eminence in the terms
of trade -

Permit me to add, that, I think
it cannot be doubted by any person, who
is acquainted with the trade of this part
of China, say the two or three Provinces
around Canton, that a population of
eighty to a hundred millions of souls,
would be plunged into the deepest distress,
beyond the power of language to describe,
were the foreign trade to be stopped for
one or more years.

It is my opinion that one or
more American Consular vessels,
would prove useful in China, in many
respects, for many purposes, especially
under the new arrangements, as they will
have a controlling influence upon
Chinese and others, particularly upon
the American Seamen, and assist the
Consul in his duties in enforcing the
laws of the U. States and maintaining
neutrality -



A Consul in China is not
officially

officially, recognized, and cannot be feared
and from the Chinese Government, even
if desired, but it is my opinion, such aid
is to be deprecated:—thus in case of
difficulties requiring force to correct
them, without an armed national vessel
in China, say Tientsin, the Consul would
be inefficient, or would have to depend
upon British or other foreign aid for
assistance in enforcing the laws
pertaining to his office and position—

In case men of war are
stationed as suggested above, permit me
to recommend that the Commanders
have particular instructions to aid
and assist the Consul in performing
his duties in executing the laws—

From information I have
received I have no doubt there will be
vigorous efforts, made by the English
to open trade with the ports of China
north of Canton, and if with success
a considerable part of the Sea and some
other trade will be diverted from
Canton into the more natural
channels

channels of those Ports, where and around which, much Tea, silk and Cassia are produced; and where are consumed many articles of import of great value, that are now forced through Canton, by the restrictive systems, and afterwards distributed to the distant consumers, but laded with great additional charges and profits made by the Hong and other merchants of Canton - I cannot doubt, but these attempts now making to open the northern ports will eventually be successful, and within a short period of time; and if they are, the whole trade of China will be greatly increased and improved, both in Imports and Exports.

The Chinese inhabiting the Coast north of Canton are in many respects far superior to those of Canton and immediately around. They are far more moral, industrious, frugal, and have carried their Agricultural arts very high, enjoying all the comforts of civilized people, inhabiting a prolific soil and with considerable commerce, and.

潮州海
德興

潮州海
德興