# JAPAN.

*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 67.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, December 5, 1865.*

SIR: In my despatch No. 66, of the 30th ultimo, I had the honor to inform you of the results of the negotiations in which I have lately been engaged in Osacca bay, in concert with the representatives of Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands; and in my despatch No. 64, covering copy of memorandum, (enclosure No. 1,) I submitted the reasons that induced me to unite with those representatives in carrying out the instructions that had been received from their respective governments. I trust you may have been pleased to approve of those reasons. The temporary transfer of the four legations to Osacca, with the full cognizance of the Tycoon's chief advisers, was so evidently an act of peace and good will towards this government and people, that I did not hesitate in co-operating in that measure, taking also into consideration that the instructions referred to being based on the convention of the 22d October, 1864, my absence on such occasion might prove embarrassing. Under any circumstances I knew, as stated in my despatch No. 64, of the 30th October, that a golden opportunity to place our political and commercial relations with Japan on an improved basis had presented itself; the opportunity should not be missed, and the results have justified my expectations. The squadron, consisting of nine vessels, did not sail on the 31st October, as intended, but one day later, and arrived at Hiogo early on the 4th November. The anchorage at Hiogo was preferred, not only for its excellence, but principally because it was deemed prudent not to approach nearer to Osacca until the state of affairs in that city, temporarily the seat of government and the headquarters of the Japanese army, could have been accurately ascertained. Officers of the legations proceeded to Osacca on that day, bearing four letters, announcing the arrival of the four legations, and also for the purpose of arranging the preliminaries for the proposed negotiations. It was stipulated that Abe Bungo no Kami, a member of the Gorogio, held in higher estimation than his colleagues, should be charged with the negotiations on behalf of the Tycoon; he was stated to be then at Kioto, in attendance upon the Tycoon, who, on that day, in an audience of great ceremony, received the Mikado's commands to march against Chorhu and suppress his rebellion. The arrival of the legations at this juncture, as anticipated, was most opportune, as it furnished the Tycoon with sound reasons for delaying his operations against Chorhu with an army imperfectly organized and partly mistrusted—a task of great difficulty, if not impossible of successful accomplishment, particularly in this season. It also enabled him to remain near Kioto to guard his interests, which might have been in jeopardy during his absence, from the intrigues of powerful Daimios, some of whom were strongly suspected of sympathizing with Chorhu, and others of coveting the high office of Tycoon of Japan. It was conjectured that the Tycoon's departure with his forces would be the signal for a palace revolution at Kioto, leading to serious disturbances, and eventually to civil war. The political condition of Japan at that moment, from all that could be learned, may be described without exaggeration as an imperfect state of civil war. A building for conferences, with

limited accommodation for residence, had been selected at Osacca; the preference, however, was given to Hiogo, and all the conferences were accordingly held on board the British flag-ship by the British minister, Netherlands political agent, and myself, at the close of each of which the Japanese ministers proceeded on board the Guerriere, when the same arguments were used by the French minister, who was prevented by indisposition from joining the conferences on board the British flag-ship. This mode of proceeding had the advantage of allowing time, for however brief a space, for considering such proposals as might be made; and also for additional suggestions, it might be desirable to tender during the conferences either on board the British or French flag-ships, between whom, on such occasions, communications were kept up without intermission. Copies of the minutes of two conferences were transmitted with my despatch No. 65, of the 18th ultimo. During the evening of the 11th, Abe Bungo no Kami sent a message to the effect that, in his opinion, there was no necessity for an interview on the following day; he had fully understood all that had been stated to him, and he would hasten to rejoin the Tycoon, and urge a prompt consideration of the proposals made. I may remark here, that before leaving Yedo I had ascertained that, under any circumstances, this government would prefer the payment of the three million indemnity in full to the opening of Hiogo and the city of Osacca on the 1st January next, as proposed, and hence, that the action of the Senate on the convention of the 22d October, 1864, could in no degree be affected by any subsequent action on the part of the Japanese government.

The second conference was held with Tatshibana Idsumi no Kami, a member of the Second Council, who came in place of Abe Bungo no Kami. From the minutes of that conference (enclosure No. 2 of despatch No. 65) you will have perceived that he made the important admission that the formal sanction of the treaties by the Mikado had become a vital question for the Tycoon, and that he would undoubtedly succeed in obtaining it. He stated that fifteen days were required for considering the proposals and framing the reply; ten days from that date, however, were only granted, as being deemed quite sufficient for that purpose. Communications from subordinate officials, such as the governor of Osacca, and others of that rank, were frequently received in the mean time, but those were considered of minor importance and of doubtful reliability. On the 20th, however, a report was received through the senior naval officer commanding some seven armed vessels at Hiogo, that the Mikado had actually asserted his sovereign rights by dismissing from office the Tycoon's minister, Abe Bungo no Kami, with whom the first interview had been held, for urging the sanctioning of the treaties. Matmai Josu no Kami, another member of the Gorogio, or Tycoon's minister, had also been dismissed for the same cause. The next step might be an attempt to dismiss the Tycoon himself. This Japanese commodore evidently believed the statement he had made. His seven vessels got up steam and sailed for other ports in the inland sea; it was thought not improbable that the Mikado might attempt to dismiss foreign intercourse in an equally summary manner, and require him to carry out such a decree with the naval force under his command. The report of the naval officer was corroborated by an official statement early on the next day. It was well known, fortunately, that the material power was in the hands of the Tycoon, and all that was requisite for the removal of complications was the prompt and manly exercise of that power. Six of the ten days granted for a reply to the proposals made had nearly elapsed, and no time should be lost, therefore, if any action on the part of the foreign representatives in this emergency were deemed advisable. It was unanimously determined to address an identical letter to the Tycoon to stimulate him to action, and this was done at once. I herewith transmit (enclosure No. 1) a copy of that letter.

The precise manner in which that letter was made available by the Tycoon

could not well be ascertained. It may, however, be taken for granted that when the greatest excitement and confusion prevailed in the Kioto councils, the Tycoon, with a few thousand men, proceeded to Fusimi, near Kioto; a very respectful application was slightly pressed, the Mikado yielded, and his formal sanction to the treaties was obtained. This, of course, implies the formal repeal of those offensive laws against foreigners hitherto in force, according to the views of some native legal authorities, and as such appealed to on the various occasions when foreigners had been assassinated.

On the 24th ultimo the ten days granted for the reply expired, and in the afternoon of that day Matsudaira Hoki no Kami, the senior member of the Gorogio at Osacca, and suite announced their arrival. They produced (as they stated) the original document, the sanction of the Mikado, translation of which (enclosure No. 2) I herewith transmit. This was accompanied by an official letter from the Gorogio, transmitting a copy of the sanction, and containing the reply to the proposals made, in translation, (enclosure No. 3.)

Appended to the copy of the sanction is the translation of the written promise for its promulgation in all parts of Japan. The revision of the tariff on a uniform basis was readily granted. The Mikado's sanction smoothes the way for reforms, and this was one urgently needed. The indemnity is to be paid in preference to the opening of Hiogo and Osacca on the 1st January, 1866, which is, however, guaranteed on the 1st January, 1868, according to the terms of the extension granted by the United States.

The treaties, as well as all the acts of the Tycoon's government in pursuance thereof, have now become legalized, and the Tycoon is said to be again the supreme executive authority in this empire. It is deemed quite probable that the Chorhu rebellion will now be satisfactorily disposed of without resort to coercive measures. There is also little doubt that many Daimios desired to open ports in their provinces, with a view of collecting revenue; and that all restrictions hitherto interposed to the dealings of their agents with the foreign merchants, except through the custom-houses at the open ports, will be gradually removed by the Tycoon's government. If this be successfully accomplished, trade is likely to increase greatly. I hope soon to be able to inform you that the government is moving in the right direction, according to the promises they have made. I have the honor to transmit (No. 4) copy of my letter to the British minister in acknowledgment of the hospitality I enjoyed on board her Britannic Majesty's ship Pelorus during the entire period of the negotiations in Osacca bay, covering one month. If I had been in command of a squadron, no greater facilities could have been at my disposal than those so cordially extended to me by Vice-Admiral King and Captain William H. Haswell, of her Britannic Majesty's navy. I believe I am not too sanguine when venturing to submit it as my opinion that the formal sanction of the treaties by the Mikado, recognized by all Japanese as the real sovereign of their country, will prove an important result of the recent negotiations, due in a great measure, no doubt, to the perfect unanimity of views and action of the foreign representatives. The Tycoon is under lasting obligations to the four powers for the action taken by them so opportunely for his interests and the true interests of Japan, and by sanctioning the treaties, the Tycoon is recognized as the *de facto* chief of the government of this country. Much remains to be done, however. Several Daimios in the Kioto councils reluctantly assented; the relations newly created by this irrevocable act of the Mikado, between himself, the Tycoon, and the more or less sovereign Daimios will have to be adjusted; but a basis for such adjustment appears to have been found at last in the sanction granted, in connection with the various agreements made between the Tycoon and leading Daimios, which are now said to be in course of perfection.

I am inclined to share the hopeful views entertained of the future, and expressed without hesitation by the Yedo officials.

At an early day I hope to receive the official communication that the Mikado's ratification has been promulgated in all parts of this empire.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 1.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
*November* 21, 1865.

SIRE: The formal declarations of your Majesty's minister have created the impression that the cause of the difficulties experienced in the proper execution of the treaties may be traced to the opposition made by the Mikado and some Daimios of this empire.

In order to remove this cause, which injuriously affects American interests, and which is fraught with danger for the peace of Japan, your Majesty's presence at Osacca, near Kioto, has induced me to urge in person the prompt solution of those difficulties.

By approving the obligations entered into by your Majesty with foreign powers, the Mikado and the Daimios will make an end to existing difficulties, and avert future dangers.

And in view of facilitating the execution of the convention of the 22d October, 1864, it has been proposed to your Majesty, in evidence of friendship, that two-thirds of the indemnity stipulated in the said convention would be relinquished on the three following conditions, viz:

1. The sanction to the treaties of the Mikado.
2. The opening of Hiogo and the city of Osacca within a period to be fixed by agreement.
3. The regularization of import duties on a uniform basis.

On the 14th instant your Majesty's minister stated that ten days would be required for giving an answer to those proposals, and although I had then been here ten days already, their desire was complied with.

Seven of those ten days have elapsed and the intelligence is now received that the minister who was sent to Hiogo to meet the foreign representatives has been dismissed.

In view of a measure so strange and inexplicable I beg respectfully to submit, sire, that it is clearly your Majesty's duty to settle pending questions.

A good accord between the Mikado, your Majesty and the Daimios will insure pleasant relations between Japan and foreign powers, thus promoting Japanese interests and without in the least affecting Japanese independence.

A misunderstanding between those high governing powers may lead to most deplorable consequences.

Friends as well as enemies should understand that the treaty powers are firmly resolved upon securing the faithful observance of the treaties concluded with your Majesty.

I trust, therefore, that your Majesty, by a conciliatory policy, will succeed in maintaining treaties; at all events notice is hereby respectfully given that on the 24th instant a reply to the proposals made will be expected.

Whether favorable or otherwise is for your Majesty to determine, but the reply should be in writing. If an answer be not forthcoming this will be considered a formal refusal of the proposals made.

With the most profound respect,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States in Japan.*

His Majesty the TYCOON *of Japan, &c., &c., &c.*

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No. 2.

[Translation.]

The imperial consent is given to the treaties, and you will therefore undertake the necessary arrangements in connection therewith.

To IYEMOTSHI, (Tycoon's name.)

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[Translation.]

NOVEMBER 24, 1865.

The above decree, having been just issued, shall be communicated to all the Daimios and Hatamotos, without exception.

You will be informed of the terms of the proclamation at Yeddo.

I hereby put this on record.

MATSUDAIRA HÔKI NO KAMI.

No. 3.

[Translation.]

NOVEMBER 24, 1865.

We have lately received from you several communications, to which we should have fully replied; but the great pressure of our national affairs has caused the delay, for which we express our regret. However, we now reply to them all together, and hope that you may deem this answer satisfactory.

With regard to the treaties, our Tycoon has made such strenuous efforts in his representations at Kioto that the imperial consent has been given, as you will see from the enclosure.

With regard to the opening of Hiogo, we are not prepared to discuss that subject at present. However, though we intend to open that place at the expiration of the time fixed by the existing agreements, we will open it at an earlier day if the state of affairs shall permit. As we cannot do so at present, we shall send our orders to Yedo to pay the third instalment of the Simonoseki indemnity the twelfth month of this year, as provided by convention; and we agree to carry out that convention of the 22d October, 1864, according to its stipulations. We fully consent that the tariff be amended, and shall therefore at once send instructions to Midzuno Idsumi no Kami, to conduct as satisfactorily as possible the necessary negotiations to that effect at Yedo.

Which we have to state in reply with respect and esteem.

MATSUDAIRA HOKI NO KAMI.
MATSUDAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.
OGASAWARA IKI NO KAMI.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, &c.*

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No. 4.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, November 30, 1865.*

SIR: I take the earliest opportunity of my return to this place to request you, on my behalf, to tender thanks to Vice-Admiral King, and, through him, to Captain Haswell, commanding her Britannic Majesty's ship Pelorus, for the many courtesies so cordially extended to me while a guest on board of that ship during the whole period of the recent important negotiation in Osacca bay.

I am well acquainted with naval rules and regulations, and can therefore, to the fullest extent, appreciate those courtesies which, in the absence of a national man-of-war, enabled me to co-operate with my colleagues on that occasion in a manner consistent with the dignity of the United States.

I shall not fail to inform my government of all those courtesies, which I am sure will be duly appreciated. I can only express the hope that her Britannic Majesty's government will measure merit by success, and acknowledge that the distinguished naval officers who so largely contributed towards securing the Mikado's sanction to the treaties, which, in point of fact, is not less than their ratification, so unquestionably important and so long withheld, are no less deserving than those whose good fortune it was to command in the Simonoseki expedition.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States ad interim in Japan.*

Sir HENRY S. PARKES, K. C. B.,
*H. B. M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 68.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, December 6, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith (No. 1) translation of a letter from the minister for foreign affairs, announcing that the Mikado's ratification of the treaties was promulgated in all parts of this empire on the 1st instant.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

[Translation.]

I have the honor to inform you that, on the 14th instant, (the 1st December,) all Daimios and others were notified that the treaties have been ratified by the Mikado.

Which I have to state with respect and esteem.

On the seventeenth day of the tenth month of the first year of Ké Yu, (December 4.)

MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 69 ] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, December 7*, 1865.

SIR: As stated in my despatch No. 66, of the 30th ultimo, I that day addressed a letter to the minister for foreign affairs, informing him of my return to Yedo, and transmitting copies of the Mikado's sanction and accompanying documents. I now have the honor to transmit enclosure No. 1, a copy of that letter, and also enclosure No. 2, a translation of his reply.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 1.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, November* 30, 1865.

I have the honor to inform your excellency of my return to Yedo, and to transmit herewith for your information copies of three documents, as follows:

No. 1. The Mikado to his Majesty the Tycoon, sanctioning the treaties.

No. 2. The minister for foreign affairs to Mr. Portman.

No. 3. With regard to the promulgation of the Mikado's sanction.

I am happy to believe that the peace and prosperity of Japan, in harmony with foreign relations, have now been placed on a lasting foundation under the strong government of his Majesty the Tycoon.

Official copies of the foregoing documents, and instructions in connection therewith, from his Majesty the Tycoon will no doubt reach your excellency at an early day, and I now have the honor to request you at once to appoint commissioners for the negotiation with the foreign representatives of amendments in the tariff, so urgently needed both for Japanese and foreign interests.

With respect and esteem,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States in Japan.*

His Excellency MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI,
*Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c., Yedo.*

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No. 2.

[Translation.]

I have received your letter, No. 120, of the 30th November, informing me of the result of your negotiations with my colleagues at Osacca during your recent visit to Hiogo.

I am greatly obliged to you for your kindness in so promptly communicating this to me, thereby again showing your desire to promote friendly feeling between our respective countries.

I shall be prepared to enter upon the contemplated negotiations, as stated to you by the

governor for foreign affairs, Edzre Kanga no Kami, as soon as the official communication to that effect shall have been received from Osacca.

Which I have to state with respect and esteem.

The seventeenth day of the 10th month of the first year of Ke Yu, (December 4,) 1857.

MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States, &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 70 ] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, December* 16, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have this day received a letter from the minister for foreign affairs, accompanied by an explanatory statement on his behalf by a governor for foreign affairs, to the effect that the Mikado's ratification of the treaties had been so unexpected by those whose persevering hostility to foreign intercourse had been the fruitful source of embarrassment since the opening of the ports, that he deemed it his duty to recommend that foreigners should observe due caution when meeting Japanese, among whom there were no doubt a few whose fanaticism might prompt them to reckless deeds which the government would not at all times perhaps have it in their power to prevent. Deeming it prudent not to disregard this recommendation, I addressed a letter on this subject to our consul at Kanagawa, of which I herewith transmit copy, enclosure No. 1. I also addressed similar letters to our consul at Nagasaki and commercial agent at Hakodate.

While readily believing that this government is sincere in desiring to secure the safety of the lives and property of all foreigners in Japan, I did not fail to call the governor's attention to the omission, on the part of the minister for foreign affairs, to accompany his warning with an assurance of active measures for protection or prevention having been taken accordingly.

I felt it my duty therefore to address a letter on that subject to the minister for foreign affairs, (a copy of which I herewith transmit, enclosure No. 2,) informing him that for any failure in this respect this government must expect to be held to a strict responsibility.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 1.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, December* 16, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I this day received a letter from the Gorogio, in which it is stated that, "although greatly rejoiced at the Mikado's sanction to the treaties having been obtained, by which the relations between the United States and Japan have been placed on an improved basis, yet their anxiety has also greatly increased in view of proceedings having for their object a rupture of friendly relations with their government, being probably contemplated by persons who feel keenly disappointed at this solemn act of the Mikado."

It is clearly the duty of the Japanese government to control such lawless persons. The Gorogio have been distinctly informed to that effect; and also, that for any failure in this respect the United States will hold their government to a strict responsibility.

I request you to make the foregoing known to all citizens of the United States within your jurisdiction, and to recommend the observance of constant watchfulness against such outbreaks.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN.

GEORGE S. FISHER, Esq.,
*United States Consul, Kanagawa.*

No. 2.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, December* 16, 1865.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's letter of yesterday, and in reply to inform you that it is clearly the duty of your governmen tfirmly to control all such persons who might attempt by violent means to bring about a rupture of friendly relations between the United States and Japan; and I hereby very respectfully, but at the same time most distinctly, notify your excellency that for any attempt against the life or property of any American citizen in this country the United States will hold the Japanese government to a strict responsibility.

I shall at once communicate your letter to the United States consuls at the open ports for the information of all citizens of the United States in Japan.

With respect and esteem,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States in Japan.*

His Excellency MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI,
*Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c., Yedo.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 71.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, December* 29, 1865.

SIR: After the formal sanction to the treaties had been obtained, the British minister, instead of at once returning to his legation, proceeded on the 26th ultimo from Osacca bay through the inland sea to Shanghai. Through his interpreter, who accompanied him, he briefly communicated at Simonoseki with the Chorhu authorities, who were then informed of the Mikado's action, which they admitted to be of great importance.

On his return to his legation I received a letter from the British minister in reply to mine of the 30th ultimo, (copy of which formed enclosure No. 4 of my despatch No. 67, of the 5th instant,) of which reply I now have the honor to transmit a copy, enclosure No. 1. I also transmit No. 2, copy of a letter in continuation of that reply, and No. 3, copy of a letter of acknowledgment by Vice-Admiral King, commander-in-chief of her Britannic Majesty's forces in the east.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 1.

YOKOHAMA, *December* 27, 1865.

SIR: In consequence of my absence from Yokohama I only received, on my return on the evening of the 25th instant, your letter of the 30th ultimo, desiring me to communicate to Admiral King your thanks for the accommodation supplied to you on board her Majesty's steamship Pelorus, in the absence of a vessel of war of your own government, during the recent expedition of the representatives of England, France, the United States of America, and Holland, to Osacca bay.

I am sure it will be very gratifying to Admiral King to receive this cordial acknowledgment of the assistance which he and Captain Haswell were able to offer you on this occasion, and I have no doubt that it will also afford her Majesty's government much satisfaction to learn that her Majesty's officers have had it in their power to render to the United States representative a service of this nature, as being not only in entire unison with the

friendly feelings entertained by her Majesty's government towards that of the United States, but also calculated to prove to the Japanese government that unity of action for the purpose of securing the fulfilment of treaties continues to be intimately preserved between the representatives of the four powers.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HARRY S. PARKES,
*Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States.*

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No. 2.

No. 42.] YOKOHAMA, *December* 29, 1865.

SIR: In continuation of my letter of the 27th instant, acknowledging your letter of the 30th ultimo, in which you request me to convey to Vice-Admiral King, and through him to Captain Haswell, your thanks for the accommodation supplied to you on board her Majesty's steamer Pelorus, I have now the honor to forward copy of a letter received this day from Vice-Admiral King, desiring me to communicate to you the satisfaction which the receipt of your above-mentioned letter has afforded him.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HARRY S. PARKES,
*Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*United States Chargé d'Affaires, &c., &c., &c.*

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PRINCESS ROYAL, AT YOKOHAMA, *December* 28, 1865.

SIR: In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 38, of the 27th instant, forwarding a copy of another addressed to you by Mr. Portman, the chargé d'affaires of the United States, in which he is good enough to so handsomely acknowledge the service that Captain Haswell, of the Pelorus, had the pleasure to render him, and in referring in such flattering terms to the part in which it was the good fortune of the naval officers to participate in the negotiations so recently brought to a successful issue at Hiogo, I beg you will express to Mr. Portman that I was very glad to have had the opportunity of placing a ship at his disposal, and that I am much pleased to be able to convey to Captain Haswell the expression of the acknowledgments of any service he had the means of rendering.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

GEORGE H. VINCENT KING,
*Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.*

Sir HARRY S. PARKES, *K. C. B., &c., &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 2.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, January* 8, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, dated August 31, September 4, September 30, October 9, and October 17, respectively.

In obedience to the instructions contained in your despatch No. 3, I addressed a letter to the Gorogio, copy of which I herewith transmit, enclosure No. 1.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

No. 1.

*Mr. Portman to Midsuno Idsumi no Kami.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, January* 8, 1866.

I have the honor to inform your excellency that my despatch, conveying, at your desire, to my government the expressions of sympathy and condolence of his Majesty the Tycoon and his government on learning the assassination of President Lincoln and the attack on the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, has been received and submitted to the President of the United States. The President was profoundly affected by those expressions.

While the dangers that then threatened have been averted by an All-merciful Providence, the United States is not, therefore, by any means less grateful to friendly powers for the good wishes they expressed in its behalf.

I am authorized to renew to your government the assurances of the friendship of the United States for the Emperor and people of Japan.

With respect and esteeem,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States in Japan.*

His Excellency MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI,
*Minister for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c., Yedo.*

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*Mr. Seward to Mr. Portman.*

No. 11.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
*Washington, February* 10, 1866.

SIR: Herewith I enclose for your information, a copy of a note* of the 7th instant, addressed to this department by Sir Frederick Bruce, her Britannic Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, accredited to this government, expressing the satisfaction of her Majesty at the cordiality with which the representatives of Great Britain and the United States have co-operated in order to secure the settlement of the questions now at issue in Japan.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 7.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yokohama, February* 15, 1866.

SIR: The object of the mission of Matsudaira Hoki no Kami, referred to in my despatch No. 4, of the 14th ultimo, was to obtain an extension of the payment of the third instalment of five hundred thousand dollars of the Simonoseki indemnity, greatly desired in view of the still uninterrupted demand upon the resources of this government so largely in excess of the usual appropriations.

The Tycoon is still at Osacca; he cannot yet disband his army, or reduce it to a peace footing, and the military contingents of the Daimios will have to be continued for some time in the pay of this government, as the Chorhu difficulty has not yet been settled.

The principal motives of this prince in raising the standard of rebellion in his provinces of Suwo and Nagato were, in the first place, hatred of the Tycoon, by whom he claimed to have been betrayed when carrying out the instructions received from Kioto to fire on foreign vessels at Simonoseki, and in the second

*For enclosure see correspondence with British legation.

place a deeply felt jealousy of the Tycoon's growing power, principally derived from the facilities he commands of procuring supplies of arms, munitions, &c., at the open ports, in which the Daimios were only allowed to participate to a limited extent.

Ever since he entered upon his hostile course, Chorhu endeavored to attract foreign trade to his provinces, in the hope of ultimately enlisting the sympathy of the treaty powers in his favor. And thus Simonoseki recently became a place of resort for steamers, where even coal could be obtained. Arms and munitions were freely sold to Chorhu's agents in the ports of his provinces, and it is asserted that such supplies have even openly been purchased for his account at Nagasaki.

With the ratification of the treaties, however, his hope vanished of obtaining foreign aid or sympathy; the encouragement he gave to individual traders was not followed, as he was led to expect, by the recognition of his sovereign rights by the treaty powers, yet it is currently estimated that Chorhu has at present about sixteen thousand men, armed with serviceable rifles, in his army, besides some rifled field artillery; and as in the event of hostilities he would necessarily act on the defensive, he is no doubt in a position to reject propositions for his unconditional surrender.

It is hard to say on which side is the greater reluctance of submitting this question to the arbitrament of the sword. Strong efforts were made to make Japan a great naval and military power and to infuse a martial spirit into the people; but as yet those efforts do not appear to have been very successful; its predilections are decidedly in favor of negotiating, and it is quite likely, therefore, that negotiations, with force in the background, will be carried on for some time yet, and until the Prince of Chorhu shall have succeeded in obtaining better terms than the Tycoon is supposed to have offered thus far.

In view of this state of things, and of the pretended inability of this government to pay the third instalment yesterday, when it became due, it has been unanimously determined to accept in lieu thereof their promissory note at three months from date for the amount named; and I now have the honor to inform you that I this day received a letter from the Gorogio to the effect that such note had been deposited with the Oriental Banking Corporation at this place.

I hope you will be pleased to approve of my action. I certainly had no authority to receive that money; neither did I feel at liberty to dissent from the unanimous opinion of the representatives of Great Britain, France, and Holland. Should you decide, after the senate shall have approved the convention, that the indemnity must be paid according to its stipulations, I beg to say that the note deposited could at any moment be discounted by the Oriental Banking Corporation, so that the total amount received thus far from the Japanese government may be said to be equal to one-half of the whole indemnity, namely, $1,500,000 Mexican currency.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Mr. Seward to Mr. Portman.*

[Extract.]

No. 13.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
*Washington, February* 20, 1866.

SIR: Your two despatches, No. 65 and 66, dated the 18th and 30th of November, 1865, respectively, have been received.

Your proceedings, as therein narrated, appear to have been discreet, and are approved. We await the details promised in your No. 66, of the late negotiations at Osacca, and in the mean time I transmit enclosed* a copy of our late correspondence on the subject with the French government.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 10.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yokohama, March* 20, 1866.

SIR: While temporarily residing at this place, for the purpose of daily consultation with the representatives of the treaty powers in reference to the negotiations for the revision of the tariff, now in progress, I soon became convinced of the great importance to our interests of establishing an American marine hospital at Yokohama

On inquiry I found that there exists a so-called general hospital in a small building, wholly unsuited for the purpose, owned by an English physician, into which no patients are admitted except on the payment of exorbitant fees.

To this establishment it became necessary to remove some of our wounded from the Wyoming, after her action at Simonoseki in 1863. The English and French have already established national hospitals at this place; and their sick, both civil and military, receive all the care and attention they require. It is principally among our destitute seamen discharged from merchant vessels that great suffering is often witnessed, which it is not always in the power of any individual to relieve. From Dr. Vedder, formerly a surgeon in the navy, I learned that only a few days ago a seaman, one of forty recently discharged from the steam covette Fuge Yama, died from a disease which might probably have been arrested had proper accommodation and applicances been at the disposal of his physician. With the early establishment of our Pacific steamship line, and the increase of American shipping at this port, the need of hospital accommodation will daily become more apparent. How many valuable lives may not be saved, or how much suffering may not be relieved, among the officers and crews of the East India squadron, if hospital accommodation be within reach, in case small-pox or any such contagious disease should make its appearance? And on this station this is of frequent occurrence. I accordingly applied to this government for a suitable location, and I now have the honor to inform you that I received a letter from the Gorogio to the effect that the governor of Kanagawa has been authorized to grant me a suitable lot of ground on the bluffs at this place for an American marine hospital.

Admiral Bell, now at Hong Kong, has been pleased to inform me that it is his intention soon to visit Japan. On his arrival I shall not fail to call his immediate attention to this matter, and feel confident of meeting with his cordial support.

I hope you will approve of my action, and that, in view of the great importance of the establishment of a marine hospital, which indeed can scarcely be overestimated, you will be pleased to recommend to Congress to make an appropriation for that purpose. It is estimated that a sum of ten thousand dollars, judiciously expended in the construction of the necessary buildings, and for providing medicines, surgical instruments, &c., would be sufficient. Respect-

*For enclosure see correspondence with United States minister to France.

fully recommending the subject to your favorable consideration, I beg to suggest, that in case of approval the fleet surgeon of the East India squadron be charged with the construction and general superintendence of such marine hospital.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 13.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, April* 11, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, No. 1, copy of a memorandum signed on the 4th instant, relative to the remittance to London of the first instalment of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) of the Simonoseki indemnity, at the fixed British official rate of exchange of four shillings and three pence per dollar, producing in sterling money one hundred and six thousand and two hundred and fifty pounds, (£106,250.)

Copy of the correspondence on the subject of the division of this indemnity money with Mr. Bigelow at Paris has been shown me by the British minister, and, in view also of the unanimous opinion of the representatives of Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands, I readily assented to the transfer of the amount named to the British treasury in London, where it will be held subject to the conjoint order of the four powers who were represented in the convention of the 22d October, 1864.

I transmit herewith, No. 2, copy of the joint letter addressed to the managers of the Oriental Bank Corporation, and of the chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China, at Yokohama. The transfer to her Britannic Majesty's commissariat chest of the amount named has now, I learn, been made by those two branch banks.

At any moment I may receive the receipt for the full amount from her Britannic Majesty's commissariat at Yokohama, in time, I hope, for transmission by this mail.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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[Memorandum.]

The undersigned, representatives of Great Britain, France, the United States of America, and the Netherlands, having considered the communications that have passed between their respective governments, at London, Paris, and the Hague, relative to the mode in which the first instalment of the Simonoseki indemnity, amounting to five hundred thousand dollars, which was received from the Japanese government by the undersigned on the 4th of September last, should be remitted to Europe, are of opinion that the proposal of her Britannic Majesty's government that this sum should be paid into the British commissariat chest, at Yokohama, and that its equivalent in sterling money should be held available by her Majesty's treasury in London, for distribution among the four powers, is unobjectionable, and may be adopted with advantage to the interests of their respective governments.

They therefore approve of the transfer of this sum from the Yokohama branch banks of the Oriental Bank Corporation and the chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and

China, to the British commissariat chest, at the British official rate of exchange of four shillings and three pence per dollar, the equivalent of the said sum in sterling money being accordingly one hundred and sixty thousand and two hundred and fifty pounds, (£160,250.)

Signed at Yokohama this 4th day of April, 1866.

HARRY S. PARKES,
*H. B. M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*
LEON ROCHES,
*Ministre Plenipotentiare de S. M. l'Empereur du Français au Japon.*
A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States in Japan.*
D. DE GRAEFF VON POLSBROEK,
*H. N. M.'s Political Agent and Consul General in Japan.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 14 *bis.*] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, April* 14, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, No. 7, copy of a memorandum signed this day, acknowledging the receipt from the Japanese government, of the sum of five hundred thousand (500,000) dollars, the second instalment of the Simonoseki indemnity.

The memorandum is dated the 8th of January last, the day on which this money was received by the Oriental Banking Corporation at Yokohama, as stated in my despatch No. 4, of the 14th of that month; but until now no receipt from the representatives of the four treaty powers who signed the convention of the 22d of October, 1864, had been applied for.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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[Memorandum.]

The undersigned, representatives of Great Britain. France, the United States, and the Netherlands, hereby acknowledge to have received from the government of the Tycoon the sum of five hundred thousand dollars, ($500,000,) as the second instalment of the indemnity due to the aforesaid four powers under the convention of the 22d October, 1864, the conditions of which convention, in respect to the periods fixed for the payment of the several instalments of the said indemnity are reaffirmed by the ministers of the Tycoon in their letter addressed to the representatives of the aforesaid four powers, at Osacca, on the 24th November last.

Under these conditions, the instalment, of which the receipt is hereby acknowledged, became due on the 17th day of November, 1865, being the twenty-ninth day of the ninth month of the first year of Kei O.

Dated at Yokohama the 8th day of January, A. D. 1865.

HARRY S. PARKES,
*H. B. M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*
LEON ROCHES,
*Ministre Plenipotentaire de S. M Impériale au Japon.*
A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States in Japan.*
D. DE GRAEFF VON POLSBROEK,
*H. N. M.'s Political Agent and Consul General in Japan.*

*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 15.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, April* 16, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, No. 1, copy of a letter received from the British minister, in reference to the recent negotiations at Osacca, and, No. 2, copy of my reply.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 1.

*Mr. Parkes to Mr. Portman.*

YOKOHAMA, *April* 14, 1866.

SIR: I have had the satisfaction of receiving by the mail which arrived on the evening of the 12th instant the entire approval by the Queen, my august sovereign, of the negotiations recently undertaken at Osacca by the representatives of the four powers who have so continuously and cordially co-operated with each other in the maintenance of treaties and the preservation of friendly relations between western nations and Japan.

In signifying to me the above approval, her Majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs instructs me to take an opportunity of assuring yourself and our other colleagues in the above negotiation that her Majesty's government most fully appreciates their zealous co-operation throughout these transactions. Her Majesty's government are of opinion that the unanimity which prevailed between the representatives of foreign powers, and their combined action, cannot fail to produce a salutary impression on the Japanese government and people, and will doubtless contribute to the development and stability of friendly relations with them.

It is with feelings of no ordinary satisfaction that I communicate to you the above opinion. The acknowledgment of mutual service and assistance cannot be regarded as a mere point of form by those who labor together for the promotion of a high and common object, and who intimately share with each other the same anxieties and are animated by the same hopes. It is, therefore, with much sincerity that I offer you this tribute on the part of my government to the important part you sustained in the above negotiations and the support which I derived from your cordial co-operation; and it is with equal earnestness that I give expression to the hope that this unity of purpose and of action, which has hitherto been attended with so much benefit to our general interests in this country, and upon which their prosperity so greatly depends, may always be maintained between all the representatives of western powers.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HARRY S. PARKES,
*H. B. M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

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No. 2.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, April* 16, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 45, of the 14th instant, informing me that you had received the entire approval of the Queen, your august sovereign, of the recent negotiations at Osacca, and that her Majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs had been pleased to express his appreciation of the co-operation it has been my good fortune, in concert with my colleagues, to render on that occasion.

I cannot sufficiently express to you how gratefully obliged I feel for this graceful acknowledgment of my share in those proceedings, and for the manner in which you were pleased to convey it.

I cordially reciprocate your wishes for the maintenance of that perfect unanimity of action between the foreign representatives in this country, which has been productive of so much benefit. Apart from its undoubted usefulness in promoting general interests, I beg to assure you that to contribute to its maintenance is a most congenial duty to me.

At a great distance from our governments, and frequently obliged to act before instructions can have been received, or which, upon their arrival, may have been rendered partly inapplicable by altered circumstances, it is chiefly from that happy unanimity that relief is derived for the severe anxieties often experienced, and for the grave responsibility it may occasionally be necessary to assume.

The day, I trust, is not far distant when the great western powers shall be as cordially united in all matters of common interest in every part of the world as they are now in Japan, and it will then be highly gratifying for us to reflect that in some measure, however humble, we have contributed to so grand a consummation.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Japan.*

Sir HARRY S. PARKES, K. C. B.,
*Her British Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 19.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, April* 22, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, No. 1, translation of a letter signed by all the members of the Tycoon's cabinet in the order in which they rank when in council on foreign relations. The object of this communication is to obtain an extension of the payment of three remaining instalments of the Simonoseki indemnity; and the application, you will perceive, is with reference to article 3d of the convention of the 22d of October, 1864, in which it is stated that the object of the treaty powers was not receipt of money, but the establishment of better relations with Japan. This improvement of relations is claimed to have been secured by the Mikado's sanction to the treaties and by the revision of the tariff, the negotiations for which will, at an early day, no doubt, be brought to a satisfactory termination. To some extent the assertion is quite correct.

In this connection I also transmit, No. 2, translation of a letter from the Yedo minister for foreign affairs, covering copy of a proclamation just issued in "ratification" of the first proclamation issued in 1859, to the effect that all Japanese of the provinces of the Daimios may freely trade with foreigners at the open ports. There is already evidence that the proclamation was publicly made in some of the nearest Daimio's provinces; yet its practical value remains to be tested.

If the Tycoon's government had offered a fair equivalent for the concession applied for, or if any equivalent, yet to be tendered, denoted, an adhesion to a permanently liberal and friendly policy, I would not hesitate in such case to recommend this application to your favorable consideration.

I have acknowledged the receipt of the two letters above referred to, and informed the minister for foreign affairs that, in compliance with the desire expressed, their application would be submitted to you.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

No. 1.

[Translation.]

In our letter of the 7th day of the 10th month of the 1st year of Kei O, (November 24, 1857,) we promised that the indemnity should be paid in instalments, as fixed by the convention of the 21st day of the 7th month of the 1st year of Genji, (October 22, 1864.) But owing to the Choshu expedition our expenditure in the war department has greatly exceeded the estimates, and our finances are disturbed. We therefore find ourselves compelled to inform the four governments, although we promised to pay according to agreement, that in view of the circumstances as above set forth we desire that an extension of the payment of the three remaining instalments may be granted.

The object of the convention was the improvement of relations and increasing prosperity of trade. But the Mikado has sanctioned the treaties, which may be considered a substantial advantage, and with the object of benefiting trade the revision of the tariff is now a subject of negotiation.

We therefore, request that, taking these circumstances into due consideration, you will clearly explain the foregoing to your government in order that our desire may be complied with.

With respect and esteem. The 28th day of the 2d month of the 2d year of Kei Ô, (April 13, 1866.)

MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI.
ITAKWEA EGA NO KAMI.
MATSDAIRA HOKI NO KAMI.
MATSDAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.
OGASAWARA IKI NO KAMI.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States of America, &c., &c., &c.*

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No. 2.

[Translation.]

Although it has been publicly made known that the people of the provinces of our Daimios shall be allowed to trade freely at the opened ports, we have once more issued a proclamation to that effect, of which we herewith transmit a copy, which we submit for your consideration.

With respect and esteem. The 28th day of the 2d month of the 2d year of Kei Ô, (April 13, 1866.)

MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI.
MATSDAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States of America, &c., &c., &c.*

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PROCLAMATION.

[Translation.]

Be it known that those who may desire for purposes of trade or residence, to resort to the ports of Kanagawa, Nagasaki, Hakodate, as announced by proclamation in the year Hitusi, (1859,) shall be free to do so. Products raised in the dominions of the nobility may be freely transported and sold.

No restriction shall be interposed to the free purchase by whomsoever of steam and sailing vessels for commercial purposes, but arms, munitions, and ships of war can only be purchased after communicating with, and obtaining permission to that effect from, the custom-house, as heretofore.

The foregoing is in ratification of the first proclamation above referred to.

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 23.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yokohama, May* 29, 1866.

SIR: On the 26th instant I received a letter, of which I herewith transmit copy, (enclosure No. 1,) from the acting agent of the Oriental Banking Corporation at this place, dated the 16th, informing me that the third instalment of the

Simonoseki indemnity, namely, five hundred thousand dollars, ($500,000,) had been received from the Japanese government, and was held by him subject to the order of the foreign representatives.

The promissory note, deposited for that amount by the Japanese government, as stated in my despatch No. 7, of the 15th February, had thus been paid. The first instalment of the indemnity was remitted to London, as reported in my despatches Nos. 13 and 14, of the 11th and 13th April, respectively. The total amount thus held by the Oriental Bank at this place, for the four powers who signed the convention of the 22d October, 1864, was one million of Mexican dollars, ($1,000,000,) making the second and third instalments of that indemnity. In view of such a large amount of money lying idle in the vaults of one single bank at this place, the representatives of Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands, in order to avoid unnecessary responsibility, desired the remittance of that money to our respective governments. Its safety being a paramount consideration I assented to this proposal, and accordingly authorized the manager of the Central Bank of Western India to receive one-fourth part of the amount named—namely, two hundred and fifty thousand Mexican dollars—from the Oriental Bank, and invest that money in undoubted sterling bank bills of exchange, payable to your order.

I transmit No. 2, copy of the joint letter addressed to the acting agent of the Oriental Bank, announcing the division of the whole amount of the indemnity money held by him.

I also transmit No. 3, copy of my letter to the acting agent of that bank, authorizing the transfer as above stated; and No. 4, copy of my letter of instruction to the manager of the Central Bank of Western India, and No. 5, copy of his reply.

The British deputy assistant commissary general, who received the first instalment of the indemnity, had no instruction to receive any additional amounts; and in the absence of instructions for my guidance, and for the purpose of securing the safe and prompt remittance of the amount belonging to the United States, I concluded to adopt the course of action as above stated.

The rate at which this remittance is made, you will perceive, is much more favorable than the British official rate, at which the remittance of the first instalment has been made. There is unfortunately stagnation in business at this place, and the sudden demand for bills for a comparatively large amount slightly depressed the rate of exchange, which, I beg to assure you, is the most favorable one for undoubted bank bills that could be procured at present.

I transmit herewith No. 6, the original account of the manager of the Central Bank of Western India, together with the seconds of six sets of bills on London, at six months, for the aggregate amount of fifty-six thousand seven hundred and seventy pounds sixteen shillings and eight pence sterling, (£56,770 16*s.* 8*d.*,) payable to your order.

The first of these bills will be sent by me by the English mail, which leaves to-morrow morning, to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co., London, the agents of the United States, for acceptance. I enclose No. 7, copy of my letter to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co. The thirds of these bills will be transmitted to you by the next mail, within two weeks from this date. This large amount of money had either to be kept here or remitted without delay. I adopted the latter alternative, as best subserving the interests of the United States, and involving the least responsibility, if any, and I feel confident, therefore, that you will be pleased to approve of my action.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

No. 1.

*Mr. Robertson to Mr. Portman.*

ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION,
*Yokohama, May* 16, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the sum of five hundred thousand dollars—say five hundred thousand clean Mexican dollars—is held here by this bank at the disposal of the representatives of England, France, the Netherlands, and America, in satisfaction of the third instalment of the indemnity money now due by the Japanese government.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. ROBERTSON, *Acting Agent.*

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

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No. 2.

YOKOHAMA, *May* 26, 1866.

SIR: With reference to Mr. Rickard's letter of the 8th of January last to the address of the representatives of Great Britain, France, the United States of America, and the Netherlands, advising us of the receipt from the Japanese government of five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) on account of the above-mentioned four powers, and with reference, also, to your own letter of the 16th instant, advising us of the receipt from the Japanese government of a second sum of the same amount, making in all a million dollars ($1,000,000) now held by you on account of the said four powers, we hereby request you to pay to the order of each of the undersigned one-fourth of the said total sum, or two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, ($250,000.)

We have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servants,

HARRY S. PARKES,
*H. B. M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*
LEON ROCHES,
*Ministre Plenipotentiare de S. M. l'Empereur des Français.*
A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Japan,*
D. DE GRAEF VON POLSBROEK,
*H. N. M.'s Political Agent and Consul General in Japan.*

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No. 3.

*Mr. Portman to Mr. Robertson.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yokohama, May* 28, 1866.

SIR: With reference to the letter addressed to you by the representatives of Great Britain, France, the United States, and the Netherlands, dated the 26th instant, desiring you to pay to the order of each of them the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, ($250,000,) being one-fourth of a sum of one million clean Mexican dollars ($1,000,000) received from the Japanese government and now held by you on account of the said four powers, I have the honor to request you to pay into the Central Bank of Western India at this place, duly authorized by me to receive the same, the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, ($250,000,) being the share of the United States

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Japan.*

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No. 4.

*Mr. Portman to Mr. Morrison.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yokohama, May* 28, 1866.

SIR: I transmit herewith a letter addressed by me to J. Robertson, esq., acting agent of the Oriental Banking Corporation at this place, requesting him to pay into your hands the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand clean Mexican dollars ($250,000) received from the Japanese government for the United States and now held by him.

I have to request you to invest the amount named in your own or other undoubted bank sterling bills of exchange in the usual manner, drawn in favor of the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, and, on delivery of these bills of exchange, to furnish me with an account of the transaction for transmission by me to Washington.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Japan.*

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No. 5.

*Mr. Morrison to Mr. Portman.*

CENTRAL BANK OF WESTERN INDIA,
*Yokohama, Japan, May* 29, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, with enclosure for the manager of the Oriental Bank Corporation, requesting him to hold to my order the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, ($250,000.)

In accordance with the terms of your letter now under acknowledgment, I beg to hand you herewith six sets of bills, aggregating £56,770 16*s.* 8*d.* sterling, and also memorandum of account and particulars of said bills, the receipt of which please acknowledge.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

For the Central Bank of Western India,
J. MORRISON, *Agent in Yokohama.*

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Acting Chargé d' Affaires of the United States in Japan.*

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No. 7.

*Mr. Portman to Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yokohama, May* 29, 1866.

GENTLEMEN: I transmit herewith the firsts of six sets of bills on London at six months, aggregating fifty-six thousand seven hundred and seventy pounds sixteen shillings eight pence sterling, (£56,770 16*s.* 8*d.*,) payable to the order of the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States. These bills, all of this date, are drawn by the Central Bank of Western India, at Yokohama, on the London County Bank, London, as follows:

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|---|---|---|---|
| No. 41, favor of the Hon. William H. Seward, &c., &c. | £10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| No. 42, favor of the Hon. William H. Seward, &c., &c. | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| No. 43, favor of the Hon. William H. Seward, &c., &c. | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| No. 44, favor of the Hon. William H. Seward, &c., &c. | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| No. 45, favor of the Hon. William H. Seward, &c., &c. | 10,000 | 0 | 0 |
| No. 46, favor of the Hon. William H. Seward, &c., &c. | 6,770 | 16 | 8 |
| | 56,770 | 16 | 8 |

Be pleased to cause these bills to be accepted and to advise the honorable the Secretary of State accordingly.

The seconds of the bills above mentioned, together with a copy of this letter to yourselves, will be sent by me to Washington via California by a vessel which sails from this port on the 31st instant.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the United States in Japan.*

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*Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.*

No. 28.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, June* 1, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith No. 1, translation of a letter from the ministers for foreign affairs, informing me that Japanese of all classes are

now permitted to visit foreign countries, and of the establishment of a passport system accordingly.

Another barrier of Japanese isolation has thus been removed.

I transmit No. 2, copy of my acknowledgment of that letter.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Acting Chargé d'Affaires in Japan.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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No. 1.

[Translation.]

Since the opening of the ports in our empire friendly intercourse has made steady progress, and some of our people, both officials and merchants, may now visit the countries of the treaty powers. Having learned that it is the custom to furnish persons who visit foreign countries with a permit to that effect, we have adopted that custom, and all Japanese who may wish to travel abroad shall be furnished with such a permit accordingly. We shall soon send you a form of such a permit for your government, to be compared with the permit to be shown by the Japanese; and being thus identified, we request that they may be treated with kindness, and also that Japanese not provided with such permit may not be considered as such.

We request you to make the foregoing known to your government.

With respect and esteem. The 13th day of the fourth month of the second year of Ke-U, (27th May, 1866.)

MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI.
MATSUDAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States.*

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No. 2.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, June* 1, 1866.

It is with great pleasure that I now have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your interesting communication of the 13th day of this fourth month, informing me that you had concluded to issue passports to those of the subjects of his Majesty the Tycoon who may wish to travel in foreign countries. Such a passport, when issued by your government, being, in fact, a certificate of respectability, I do not hesitate to give your excellencies the assurance that this communication will be received by my government with much satisfaction, and that your countrymen may rely upon receiving all needful aid and protection in the United States.

With respect and esteem,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States in Japan.*

Their Excellencies MIDSUNO IDSUMI NO KAMI, and MATSUDAIRA SUWO NO KAMI,
*Ministers for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c., Yedo.*

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*Mr. Seward to Mr. Portman.*

No. 20.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
*Washington, July* 14, 1866.

SIR: Herewith I enclose for your information a transcript of an instruction* of the 26th ultimo, which was addressed to Mr. Adams, at London, immediately after the receipt of your despatch No. 14, dated the 13th of April last. Mr.

* For enclosure see correspondence with United States minister to Great Britain.

Adams has been authorized to receive the quota part of the Japanese indemnity due the United States, and to deposit the same with the Messrs. Barings to the credit of the Secretary of State.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Seward to Mr. Portman.*

No. 20 *bis.*] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
*Washington, July* 18, 1866.

SIR: I have received and laid before the President your despatch of April 16th, No. 15.

It contains the correspondence which has taken place between yourself and Sir Harry S. Parkes, the British plenipotentiary in Japan.

The President is gratified that, in the wise execution of instructions which left you a large discretion, you have won for yourself, and for your country, the respect and gratitude of her Majesty's government.

Your reply to the letter of Sir Harry is approved.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Seward to Mr. Portman.*

No. 21.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
*Washington, July* 18, 1866.

SIR: Your despatch of the 22d of April, No. 19, has been received. It is accompanied by a copy of an application of the Tycoon's government to the western treaty powers for an extension of the three remaining instalments provided for by the late treaty.

The President is of opinion that in the absence of any sufficient equivalent for such an extension, and also in the absence of any adequate guarantees for a more just and faithful execution of the treaties, this extension ought not to be granted. Nevertheless, the application being made to all the treaty powers alike, concurrence in their action is doubtless more important than even correctness of the decision which may be adopted.

I shall at once communicate upon the subject with the governments of Great Britain and France, making known to them the President's views as herein expressed, but with the assurance that you will be instructed to concur in such course as the European powers, with better information than can now be had here, shall conclude to adopt, and which they will make known to their representatives in Japan.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

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*Mr. Seward to Mr. Van Valkenburgh.*

No. 4] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
*Washington, July* 27, 1866.

SIR: This department has been officially informed that the Italian steam corvette Magenta, having several learned gentlemen on board, is now, by order

of the Italian government, prosecuting a voyage of scientific exploration in the Indian, Chinese, and Japanese seas.

It is the President's desire that the Magenta and her scientific party should be treated by the diplomatic and consular agents of the United States, in the prosecution of the voyage mentioned, not only as neutrals, but as friends, in whose comfortable and successful voyage the United States feel a lively interest.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Same to United States minister to China.

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 38.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, September* 18, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, a translation of the charges preferred by the government against Prince Choshu, lord of Suwo and Nagato, to evade punishment for which he rebelled against the Tycoon.

Accompanying this paper I forward a copy of a memorandum, kindly furnished me by Sir Harry S. Parkes, her Britannic Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, of an interview between himself and two of Prince Choshu's officers, on the occasion of his recent visit to the straits of Simonoseki; which will be of interest as giving Choshu's story of the causes which led to the rebellion.

I also transmit a translation of an order of the Mikado, dated July 18th, 1866, directing that hostilities be commenced against Choshu, from which it appears that the Japanese government is united against him.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Summary.*

In the beginning, Najai Ulta and others were sent to propose that the Mikado and Tycoon should be reconciled. Your master himself entertained the wish very strongly, and both Mikado and Tycoon were extremly pleased with him on that account. But, led away by a set of turbulent and disloyal men, he slew Ulta and the rest, who were honest and loyal, and surrounded himself with a set of runaways and rascals. He made a hell of the two peaceful and beautiful provinces. He allied himself with proud and haughty nobles of the court, and dared to approach the sacred person. He advised an imperial progress to Yamato, set the capital on fire, and then persuaded the Emperor not to return. He then directed the course of the imperial carriage toward his own province, in order that he might get the Mikado in his power, and then be able to dictate his own will to the empire. This wicked conspiracy makes crime No. 1.

No. 2. The imperial decree for the expulsion of the barbarians on the 10th of the fifth month (June 20, 1863) had been transmitted to him by the Tycoon, and the latter also gave him orders to sweep them out if they came to attack. He pretended to carry out the imperial will, but in reality he was wickedly scheming how to annoy the Tycoon government, and therefore he fired at barbarian vessels, which were passing through in a peaceful manner, without the slightest intention of attacking. Then he persuaded some nobles of the court to come to him as envoys from the Mikado, in order that he might be able to intimidate the empire by asserting, on their authority, that what he had done was the imperial will. This makes crime No. 2.

No. 3. He, violently and without provocation, fired upon a Dutch vessel, which was not intending to attack him, and in spite of the red seal of Gongen Gama, by which the Dutch were permitted to voyage hither as our spies on foreign countries, thereby breaking one of Gongen Gama's old laws. This makes crime No. 3.

No. 4. However, as the expulsion of the barbarians had just then been decreed by the Mikado, his crime was left unpunished. Was not this a great and abundant mercy? And when the Tycoon sent an envoy, to examine into that matter, he killed the envoy without the slightest reason. This most treacherous and cowardly action makes crime No. 4.

No. 5. But the ways of Heaven are clear as the noonday. What was secretly conceived suddenly came to light. The court became suspicious of him, and he was relieved from the duty of guarding the palace gates. This order he refused to obey, and attempted to raise a tumult by the side of the imperial chariot. His Majesty, however, was firm, and sent an envoy to order the immediate withdrawal of his troops. Then he complied, and withdrew, compelling Gango and others, by threats and intimidations, to accompany him to his territories. This makes crime No. 5.

No. 6. If an army of execution had been put in motion against him, and he had been punished for the crime, he could have had no possible exculpation to make, but, instead of such a course being pursued, with unexampled clemency, time was given him to repent in. This excess of kindness he was unable to appreciate, and he continued to persist in his wicked designs In the year 1864 Daizen and his son equipped and sent an army with regular instructions to Kiote to attack the imperial palace, while Nagato, at the head of a body of men, went by sea to Turoe, where he took up a position. This was an act of rebellion of a magnitude unknown since the days of Genand Hei. All the bamboos which grow on Nanzan would be required to inscribe it; nay, all the hairs on a man's head, pulled out, one by one, would not suffice to enumerate it. It is a crime too large to find space between heaven and earth to contain it. This makes crime No. 6.

No. 7. If this had not been intended by the prince, and really was the act of his retainers, on their own responsibility, he should have cut off the heads of the ringleaders, and come, barefooted, to submit to the Tycoon and petition for his own life; but instead, he urged the father and son on to plot in secret a division of the country. This makes crime No. 7.

No. 8. In consequence of these unpardonable crimes, and this obstinate hardness of heart, Owari Teu Dainangory was sent against him, as commander-in-chief. It was not before the advance of the army that he cut off the heads of his three retainers, and offered to submit. Such a delay was an offence in itself. His letter, offering to submit, was sent by the Teu Dainangory to the Tycoon's government for approval; but until the sentence to be passed on him by the Mikado and Tycoon could be learned, he could not consider himself free from the odium of having been declared an outlaw to all eternity. But the evil disposed gave out that the affair was already settled, in order to deceive the nation. Now, except by a decree of the Mikado and the Tycoon, how could his outlawry be remitted? This was to assume, for his own purposes, the right to decide a great law of the empire, and to set himself in direct opposition to the Mikado and Tycoon. This makes crime No. 8.

No. 9. In opposition to the Tycoon's orders, he behaved with over-impetuosity, and, making the expulsion of the barbarians his pretext, fired into barbarian ships. But when the barbarian ships came into the neighboring seas, and inflicted a severe defeat on him, he lost heart at once, and wrote a letter, sealed with his own seal, offering to submit. He falsely declared that he had been compelled by the Mikado and Tycoon to fire, against his own will. Thus did he attempt to make the Mikado and Tycoon responsible for his own crime. He also entered into relations of friendship onhis own account, and permitted intercourse to take place. This makes crime No. 9.

No. 10. After this, in consequence of several suspicious occurrences, the Shogun set forth. With renewed goodness and magnanimity, he sent for three of the Cadet Daimios to Osacca, to interrogate them. They refused to come, under the pretext of illness. This was involving the honest and loyal Cadet families in his own crimes. This makes crime No. 10.

No. 11. After surpassing clemency and mercy had been exercised, the matter was referred to the Tenslie, and then the Rojm, in fulfilment of the commands of the Mikado and Tycoon, advanced toward the frontier. In order that he might have no grounds for misunderstanding, the Cadet Daimios Kikkawa and others were sent for; but he stopped them, and refused to let them come, on pretence of illness. This makes crime No. 11.

No. 12 Each of the Cadet Daimios, under pretence of sickness, sent a substitute instead; but Ghishido Bingo Noske was believed never to have really belonged to the family at all. He was suddenly adopted into it as a son, and sent as a substitute. He went to Geishu on the business of his prince, and never stated that there was anything the matter with himself; but when, on the 13th of June, he was sent for to hear the imperial decision, he complained of boils, which prevented him from sitting or standing, and sent to say that he could not come at all. This was treating the Mikado's and the Tycoon's commands with contempt—no light matter. This makes crime No. 12.

No. 13. The imperial decision was pronounced to the three Cadet families, but, on the pretence that it would excite the populace, they kept it to themselves, and did not communicate it to Daizen and his son. They, moreover, took upon themselves to write an humble petition, and to request the Geishu clan to forward it. This makes crime No. 13.

No. 14. Bingo Noske declined to attend on account of illness. As he thus neglected his office of a substitute, he was relieved from it. He was sent for to Kokudaigi, to be questioned about the suspicion attaching to his own origin; but he again refused to come, alleging sickness as an excuse. Messengers were sent to read his sentence to him on his sick-bed, and he was placed in charge of the Geishu clan; but, owing to some circumstance which prevented the Geishu troops from taking charge of him at the time, some musketeers were sent instead. He was taken in charge because he neglected to do the business with which his chief had charged him, and because of the suspicious matter connected with his origin. This measure was communicated to Mori Okumaru and to the Cadet Daimios Kikkawa, and they had no reason to say a word about the matter. They ought, rather, to have kept quiet themselves; but because some musketeers were sent on the occasion of Bingo Noske being taken in charge, they made reprisals with horse and foot, pretending that the duty of a servant to his master necessitated their acting so. Are Nagato and Suwo the dominions of Bingo Noske? or are they the hereditary dominions of the Mori family? If they are the latter's dominions, held by them since the time of their ancestors, to despatch troops on behalf of Bingo Noske to disobey the Tycoon's orders and rebel against the imperial decision, was to put their master in the position of being liable for this crime. This makes crime No. 14.

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*Memorandum of interview between Sir Harry Parkes, British minister, and Katsura, governor of Simonoseki, and Ito Shunskee, officer of Choshu, at Simonoseki, August* 4, 1866.

Sir Harry Parkes professes to speak not only for himself, but also in behalf of the French minister. Object: Information as to cause of dispute between Choshu and Tycoon, with a view of aiding in bringing about an adjustment. Why were the previous negotiations unsuccessful? Katsura states Owari's mission, in the winter of 1864–'65, supposed to have been successful. On demand, three karos (secretaries) were executed, in atonement of troubles caused at Kiote. Tycoon declined to ratify Owari's arrangement, and insisted on inflicting additional punishment. After the visit of representatives to Osacca, the Tycoon sent Najai Mondonosho (governor of Osacca, who had been connected with the Osacca negotiations) to inquire into the government of Choshu and the intercourse of its people with foreigners, being evidently suspicious that such intercourse might lead to a treaty with them.

Mondo was informed that, in virtue of the agreement entered into with the allied naval commanders in September, 1864, the Choshu people were bound to treat the foreign vessels in a friendly manner, and furnish supplies of coal, &c. It was also shown him (Mondo) that the people were well satisfied with the government of the prince. It was apparent that the occasional intercourse with foreigners was reckoned one of the crimes of the prince.

Mondo went away, and Osarawara Ike-nokami (the same who previously had notified the foreign R. R. that Yokohama should be closed by order of the Mikado) came to Hiro Smia, (an island with straits,) demanding that four members of the Choshu family be sent to meet him; these were Kikawa Kinmolsu, Mari Sakio, Mori Awagio, and Sayemonoske. The people of Choshu, looking upon Osarawara's arrival as unfriendly, sent an address praying that their peace and prosperity might not be interrupted. The petition was presented through Aki, Prince of Geishi, who was directed by Osarawara not to receive it. The relations of Prince Choshu, who met Osarawara at Hiro Shima, endeavored to make him accept it, but unsuccessfully. The four above-named relations of Prince Choshu went to Hiro Ghima in charge of Shinido Bingo Noske, one of the principal karos, (secretaries.) Osarawara then presented the Tycoon's ultimatum—sequestration of territory to the value of 100,000 koku annual revenue, and Mori Nagato (son) to retire forever, with loss of all their dignities, the Tycoon appointing their successors. After making their report, the four relatives were again sent to inquire whether the opinion of the people as to the manner in which they were governed was to be allowed to have no weight. Osarawara's reply was, acceptance of ultimatum or fight, and on the 9th day of the fifth month (January 21, 1866) he seized Ghinido Bingonoske, the chief envoy of Choshu, and threatened to attack Choshu unless he immediately submitted. No intention of submitting and waiting for the first attack from the Tycoon. On the 7th day of the sixth month (July 7, 1866) four Tycoon's steamers sailed to Osima, fired into the village, and wounded a few women. Four days afterward a more serious attack was made on the same island; troops were landed; men, women, and children were killed, houses plundered and burned, and booty carried off.

Choshu could wait no longer. The Tycoon's minister had seized his envoy and killed his people, without distinction of age or sex, and he resolved to act, all officers urging to take up arms, to unite as one man in defence of their homesteads. Orders were accordingly issued. It was known that the Tycoon's forces intended to cross his frontier at three points—Osajawa Ingeshu; Sekishin, in Iwani: and Tanaura, on the south side of the straits, opposite to Simonoseki. Choshu surprised and defeated the Tycoon's forces; Osajawa on the 25th of July, Sekishin on the 27th, and Tanaura on the 28th. At Osajawa the Tycoon's troops were driven away easily; at Sekishin about forty were killed, and inflicting a loss of ten guns; at Tanaura about sixty were killed and thirty guns captured, also a large flotilla of boats collected for crossing the straits. Choshu's loss was trifling on each occasion.

Katsura further stated, in reply to question presented, that Choshu had never promised to accept the Tycoon's terms, nor had offered to give hostages. They had met Osarawara's demands to send to Hiro Shima their principal karo, Shimido Bingo Noske, and four of the Prince's nearest relatives. They were sent to confer with Osarawara, but not to accept the severe and impracticable conditions of the Tycoon, and Osarawara abused the confidence by treacherously arresting the karo. They deeply regretted the hostilities, and greatly appreciated the motives of the English and French ministers in desiring to see Japan at unity and at peace; but they had been attacked; they had to defend themselves, and overtures for an arrangement could not be made by them, but should come from the Tycoon. The Tycoon had to engage them single-handed. The support he received from other Daimios was faint, as they regarded his conduct as oppressive, and so did the people of Choshu. Choshu felt strong in the support of his people; he sought no foreign aid; hoped none would be given to the Tycoon. Choshu did not dispute the superior authority of the Tycoon, whom he recognized as the delegate of the sovereignty of the Mikado; but he believed that, in his case as in many other matters, the Tycoon acted beyond and independently of the orders of the Mikado. The Tycoon had never informed him that the sentence he wished to impose had received the approval of the Mikado; but he knew, on the contrary, that the Mikado had instructed the Tycoon to give an equitable judgment, instead of which he intended to enforce an oppressive one. As long as the Tycoon acted in that spirit there would be no chance of an adjustment of difficulties being arrived at. Katsura informed Sir Harry Parkes that he would at once inform Prince Choshu, then at his residence at Yamaguchi, thirty-five miles in the interior, of the willingness of the minister to meet him at some convenient place, if he desired it, and that his reply might be expected on the 5th of August.

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JULY 18, 1866.

The judgment passed upon Mori Daizen and son was communicated to them after having been reported to the Mikado. They have, notwithstanding, disregarded it, and the Tycoon has now represented to us that he is going to proceed with military force to inquire into his offences. This measure has been approved by the Mikado. His Majesty is pleased to express his thanks to the Tycoon for his prolonged stay at Osacca; and, as he may now take the field, he hopes that he will meet with honorable success in his campaign, and thus put the imperial mind at rest. The attacking forces of the various Daimios are to be informed of this.

This is the mandate of the Mikado.

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 39.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, September* 20, 1866.

SIR: On the 18th of July, as stated in my despatch No. 38, of date of September 18, the Mikado issued to the Tycoon an order directing him to commence hostilities against Prince Choshu, who for some time had been in a state of rebellion against the government.

In compliance with this order the Tycoon at once made preparations to move upon Choshu's forces, and on the 24th of July a communication was received by W. P. Mangum, esq., United States consul at Nagasaki, from the governor of that place, (a copy of which is herewith transmitted,) requesting that he issue to American citizens a notice that they must not anchor in the ports of Suwo and Nagato, and giving the reasons for this request being made to him by the governor. This letter of the governor of Nagasaki was referred to the legation.

On the 1st and 4th of August, despatches were received from the Gorogio, by Mr. A. L C. Portman, then chargé d'affaires, requesting that he would issue a notification forbidding the anchorage of American vessels in the straits of Simonoseki or their passage through those straits.

In compliance with the request of the Gorogio, as expressed in these two communications, Mr. Portman at once issued to each of the United States consuls in Japan a notice, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, and communicated his action to the Gorogio. On the 7th of August a similar notification

was issued by Mr. Von Polsbroeck, H. N. M's political agent and consul general a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

On the 10th of August, Choshu sent a communication, announcing that war had actually broken out, and requesting that American ships might not approach the coasts of Suwo and Nagato by night, and that they would always show their colors in order that they might not be mistaken for enemies. About the same time a notification, especially intended for the people of the disaffected districts, was circulated from the Japanese war department.

On the 28th of August I had a long interview with Sir Harry S. Parkes, her Britannic Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, and we came to an understanding, in pursuance of which he issued, at the times on which they bear date, the three several notifications enclosed herein.

In pursuance of the same understanding and in furtherance of Mr. Portman's notification of August 4, I issued on the 11th of this month the enclosed notice and regulation for the guidance of American citizens during the pending hostilities.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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[Translation.]

I have the honor to suggest to you that as Moori Dizen, the Prince of Nagato, has failed in obeying the order of our government, so there will be a war to try his crime as soon as our troops are ready. For the above reason it is certain that our Gorogios at Yedo will discuss with the representatives of the treaty powers so as to prevent the foreign vessels from anchoring in the ports of those provinces, viz., Nagato and Suwo, and from passing through the straits of Simonoseki. Accordingly I have received the despatch from a member of the Gorogio at Kokura, ordering that, as Nagasaki is so distant from Yedo, while the notification is not yet circulated to all the foreigners, most probably, on the other hand, the war will have been declared at that place, it is necessary to request you will please give the notice to all the subjects to abstain from anchoring at those ports and passing through those straits until further suggestions shall be made by me.

With compliments.

NOZE OSMI NO KAMI.

12th of 6th month of 2d Kaiao.

WILLIE P. MANGUM, Esq.

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[Translation.]

We have the honor to inform you that we already desired you that you would give a notice to your people that vessels of your country shall not anchor in the strait of Simonoseki, in Nagato, for we have been told that some vessels, though we know not to what country they belong, have often anchored in the places above mentioned. Now, as two provinces, Nagato and Suwo, have become the seat of war, and as hostilities will soon be commenced, it is not unlikely that some accident will happen during the campaign. We wish, therefore, that you will soon declare that vessels of your country shall not anchor on the coast of these two provinces.

With respect and esteem,

INOWEYE KAWATSI NO KAMI,
MATSU DAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.

20th day of 6th month of 2d year of Kaiao.

His Excellency A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America.*

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[Translation.]

We have the honor to make the following communication: We believe that you have already executed our wishes to give a notice to your people that vessels of your country

shall not anchor in the harbors of the provinces of Nagato and Suwo, because these two provinces have become the seat of war. Now we desire you will again declare that vessels of your country shall not pass those coasts, as the troops of both sides are marching to those provinces and there is great confusion there, and if any accident should happen to the foreign vessels it might cause bad feeling between them and us. Though we are sorry to give you the trouble twice, we are obliged to write this, as we are very uneasy on the subject.

With respect and reverence,

INOWEYE KAWATSI NO KAMI,
MATSU DAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.

23d day of 6th month of 2d year of Kaiao.

His Excellency A. L. C. PORTMAN, Esq.,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America.*

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
*Japan, August* 4, 1866.

SIR: I received two communications from the Gorogio, in quick succession, informing me that the forces of this government are now closing in upon Choshu, and urging, with a view to avoiding complications, the immediate issue of a notice requesting American shipmasters to give the coasts of Suwo and Nagato a wide berth pending those military and naval operations. In compliance with the desire expressed I have now to request you to make the foregoing known to all American citizens within your consular jurisdiction.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

A. L. C. PORTMAN, *Chargé d'Affaires*

GEORGE S. FISHER, Esq.,
*United States Consul at Kanagawa.*

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
*Japan, August* 4, 1866.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two communications, dated the 20th and 23d day of this year, 6th month, respectively, and to inform your excellencies, in reply, that, in compliance with the wish expressed, I have at once issued a notice to American shipmasters, desiring them not to approach the coast of Suwo and Nagato.

With respect and esteem,

A. L. C. PORTMAN,
*Chargé d'Affaires of the United States.*

Their Excellencies INOWEYE KAWATSI NO KAMI,
MATSU DAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.

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[Translation.]

NOTIFICATION.

KANAGAWA, *August* 7, 1866.

The war operations of his Majesty the Tycoon against Mori Daizen, Prince of Suwo and Nagato, having commenced, commanders and masters of Netherlands men-of-war and merchantmen are earnestly warned, by desire of the Japanese government, not to anchor off the coasts of those provinces or to pass the strait of Simonoseki.

D. DE GRAEFF VON POLSBROECK,
*H. N. M.'s Political Agent and Consul General in Japan.*

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[Translation.]

SECOND DAY OF THE 7TH MONTH—(*August* 10, 1866.)

Though the warm weather is nearly over, I hope you will continue in good health. I have to inform you that the Tycoon will commence war, and that, in consequence, the population of Boshu and Choshiu (Suwo and Nagato) are necessarily united in repelling those hostilities. I have to request, therefore, that your ships of war and merchant vessels will not approach the coasts of those provinces by night, and that they will not pass through the straits of Simonoseki, but that they will always show their colors in order to prevent their being mistaken for enemies.

Which I have to state with respect.

CHOSHIU BASHIKI BUNGYO,
KATSU URAGORO.

His Excellency the AMERICAN MINISTER.

[Translation.]

## NOTIFICATION.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August*, 1866.

The attacking forces have now been directed to advance, because Daizen, father and son, have been prevented, by evil persons, to behave penitently, although they have before reported themselves undergoing submission.

This expedition is only directed against those evil-doers whose opposition to the judgment of the government is only contemplated to make the offences of Daizen and son worse. As this expedition is intended to punish these men only, those that remain orderly in the interest of the country have nothing to fear. Even those that have plotted together with the evil-doers but repent of their offences and submit themselves shall be pardoned, and those that indicate the whereabouts of the evil-doers shall be duly rewarded. Peasants and citizens shall remain undisturbed and continue their usual occupations and professions. Old men and children should be removed for a time from the scene of battle, to a place of safety where no harm shall reach them.

The above notification is to be circulated among the people of the two provinces of Suwo and Nagato without exception, and they are carefully to bear it in mind.

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## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION.

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S LEGATION,
*Yokohama, September* 1, 1866.

In view of the state of war which now exists between the Tycoon of Japan and the lord of the Japanese provinces of Nagato and Suwo, otherwise known as the Daimio Choshu, the undersigned, her Britannic Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in Japan, deems it advisable to draw the attention of all her Majesty's subjects in Japan to the undermentioned sections of the order of her Majesty in council of the 9th day of March, 1865:

"SECTION 81.

"If any British subject commits any of the following offences, that is to say—

"1. In China, while her Majesty is at peace with the Emperor of China, levies war or takes part in any operations of war against the Emperor of China, or aids or abets any person in carrying on war, insurrection, or rebellion against the Emperor of China;

"2. In Japan, while her Majesty is at peace with the Tycoon of Japan, levies war or takes part in any operations of war against the Tycoon of Japan, or aids or abets any person in carrying on war, insurrection, or rebellion against the Tycoon of Japan:

"Every person so offending shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be liable (in the discretion of the court before which he is convicted) to be punished by imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labor, and with or without a fine not exceeding $5,000, or by a fine not exceeding $5,000 without imprisonment.

"In addition to such punishment every such conviction shall of itself and without further proceedings make the person convicted liable to deportation; and the court before which he is convicted may order that he be deported from China or Japan to such place as the court directs."

"SECTION 92.

"All trade of British subjects in, to, or from any port of Japan, except such ports and towns as are for the time being opened to British subjects by treaty between her Majesty, her heirs or successors, and the Tycoon of Japan, is hereby declared unlawful.

"If any person engages in such trade as a principal, agent, ship-owner, shipmaster, or supercargo, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to be punished (in the discretion of the court before which he is convicted) by imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years, with or without hard labor, and with or without a fine not exceeding $10,000, or by a fine not exceeding $10,000 without imprisonment."

"SECTION 94.

"The officer commanding any of her Majesty's vessels of war, or any of her Majesty's naval officers authorized in this behalf by the officer having the command of her Majesty's naval forces in Japan, by writing under his hand, may seize any British vessel engaged or reasonably suspected of being or having been engaged in any trade by this order declared unlawful, and may either detain the vessel with the master, officers, supercargo, crew, and other persons engaged in navigating the vessel or any of them, or take or cause to be taken the vessel and the master, officers, supercargo, crew, and other persons aforesaid, or any of them, to any port or place in Japan or elsewhere convenient for the prosecution of a charge for the misdemeanor alleged to have been committed.

HARRY S. PARKES,
*Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

The undersigned, her Britannic Majesty's envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary in Japan, having been officially informed by the ministers of the Tycoon that the forces of the government of Japan have been moved against Mori Daizen, the lord of the Japanese provinces of Nagato and Suwo, and the navigation of the strait of Simonoseki being endangered by the hostilities that have already commenced between the parties above-named, the undersigned, in the exercise of the powers vested in him by section 95 of the order of her Majesty in council of the 9th of March, 1865, has this day made the following regulation, which he hereby notifies to all subjects of her Majesty for their information and guidance.

As coal, wood, water, and fresh provisions cannot, during the period that this regulation remains in force, be obtained as hitherto at the town of Simonoseki, British ships are hereby informed that they may purchase supplies of this nature at the town of Kokura, near the western entrance of the straits:

*Regulation.*

From this date and until further notice, every British merchant vessel passing through the strait of Simonoseki must do so without anchoring or stopping in the waters of the said strait, which, for the purpose of this regulation, shall be held to be comprised between a line drawn on the western side of the strait from Entrance Head to the eastern extremity of the town of Kokura, and a line drawn on the eastern side of the strait from Cape Kusi Saki to the eastern extremity of the town of Tanoura, or such other limits as may from time to time be indicated by the commanding officer of any of her Majesty's ships.

Furthermore, on being warned by the officer commanding any vessel of war of her Majesty that the passage through the said strait is unsafe, every British merchant vessel must abstain from entering the said strait until informed by the said commanding officer that she can do so without danger.

Any British merchant vessel committing an infraction of this regulation forfeits all claim to her Majesty's protection, and, as provided by the 97th section of the order in council aforesaid, may be compelled by the said commanding officer to desist from violating the above regulation, or may be seized and detained at the place of seizure, or may be taken to any port or place in Japan or elsewhere where the offence so committed may be most conveniently prosecuted.

In addition to the above proceedings against the vessel, every person convicted of a breach of this regulation may be punished by any of the penalties named in the eighty-sixth section of the order in council aforesaid, viz:

Imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labor, and with or without a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars without imprisonment.

Given under my hand at the British legation in Japan, at Yokohama, this 1st day of September, A. D. 1866.

HARRY S. PARKES,
*Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

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## OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION.

By virtue of the powers vested in the undersigned by the 95th section of the order of her Majesty in council, dated the 9th day of March, A. D. 1865, and with the view of avoiding acts of disturbance or violence which might endanger the maintenance of peaceful relations between the government of Great Britain and Japan, the undersigned has made, and hereby promulgates, for the information and guidance of her Majesty's subjects in Japan, the following regulation relating to the navigation of the strait of Simonoseki by British ships:

*Regulation.*

The conveyance by British ships through or into the strait of Simonoseki of troops or armed Japanese, or of Japanese passengers, in any larger number than may be authorized in each instance under the hand and seal of one of her Majesty's consuls in Japan, or of arms and munitions of war, is from this date, and until further notice, strictly prohibited.

Every British merchant vessel must display her colors while passing through the said strait, and must not enter or pass through the said strait at night, and must also follow such other directions as may be given with the view of preventing danger or disturbance by the officer in command of any of her Majesty's ships.

The limits of the strait of Simonoseki are those described in the regulation made and issued by the undersigned on the first day of the present month.

Any British merchant vessel wilfully infringing the above regulation forfeits all claim to her Majesty's protection, and, as provided by the 97th section of the order in council aforesaid, may be compelled by the said commanding officer to desist from violating the above regulation, or may be seized and detained at the place of seizure, or may be taken to any port or place in Japan or elsewhere where the offence so committed may be most conveniently prosecuted.

In addition to the above proceedings against the vessel, every person convicted of a breach of this regulation may be punished by any of the penalties named in the 86th section of the order in council aforesaid, viz:

Imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months, with or without hard labor, and with or without a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, without imprisonment.

Given under my hand at the British legation at Japan, at Yokohama, this fifth day of September, A. D. 1866.

HARRY S. PARKES,
*Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

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NOTIFICATION.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, September* 11, 1866.

In furtherance of the notification issued on the 4th of August last by this legation, through the consulates at the open ports, requesting American shipmasters not to approach the coasts of Suwo and Nagato pending the then contemplated hostilities between the Tycoon of Japan and the Daimio of said provinces, and in view of the authenticated report now received that such hostilities have actually commenced, and with the desire of preventing acts which might affect the relations now existing between the government of the United States and Japan, the undersigned, minister resident of the United States in Japan, by virtue of the power vested in him by the act of Congress approved June 22, 1860, decrees and promulgates, for the guidance of his countrymen, the following

*Regulation.*

American merchant vessels or steamers will not stop or anchor at any port or roadstead in this country, except the three opened ports, viz., Kanagawa, (Yokohama,) Nagasaki, and Hakodate, unless in distress or forced by stress of weather, as provided by treaty. Masters of vessels committing a breach of this regulation render themselves liable to prosecution and punishment, and also to forfeiture of the protection of the United States, if the visit to such non-opened port or roadstead involves either a breach of treaty, or may be construed as an act in aid of insurrection or rebellion.

The undersigned further calls the attention of the citizens of the United States in Japan to the following extracts from the law approved June 22, 1860, above referred to:

SEC. 15. *And be it further enacted*, That murder and insurrection or rebellion against the government of either of the said countries [China or Japan] with intent to subvert the same, shall be capital offences, punishable with death.

SEC. 24. *And be it further enacted*, That capital cases for murder or insurrection against the government of either of the countries [China or Japan] hereinbefore mentioned by citizens of the United States, or for offences against the public peace amounting to felony under the laws of the United States, may be tried before the minister of the United States in the country where the offence is committed, if allowed jurisdiction, and it shall be competent for each of the said ministers to issue all manner of writs to prevent the citizens of the United States from enlisting in the military or naval services of either of the said countries, to make war upon any foreign power with whom the United States is at peace, or in the service of one portion of the people against any other portion of the same people, and he may carry out this power by a resort to such force as may at the time be within his reach belonging to the United States.

[L. S.] R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States in Japan.*

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 41.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, September* 27, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the latest official intelligence, received by me on the 16th of September, concerning the illness of the Tycoon.

It is generally reported and commonly believed that he died of dropsy in the latter part of August, and that Hitotsbasi has been appointed his successor; but this cannot, by the laws of the empire, be made known until the choice of the new Tycoon has been approved by the Mikado, and a decree has been issued announcing him.

There are also reports in circulation that three powerful Daimios, whose territories lie contiguous to those of the Choshiu, and who have hitherto remained neutral, have not only sent in their adherence to Hitotsbasi, but have sent their contingents of troops to aid him. If these rumors are true I have no doubt that the war will soon be ended, either by a treaty or by the subjugation of Choshiu, for it is generally believed that it was brought about in great part by the personal hostility between the late Tycoon and Choshiu, and it is known that Hitotsbasi is personally friendly to Choshiu, and that he is a man of decision and promptness.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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[Translation.]

His Excelleney Hon. R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister of the United States:*

We wish to send to you, for your information, the enclosed document, which has been issued in regard to the illness of his Majesty the Tycoon.

With respect and esteem, the 8th day of the 8th month of the 2d year of Kaiao, (September 16, 1866.)

INOWEYE KAWATSI NO KAMI.
MATSU DA IRA SUWO NO KAMI.
MATSU DA IRA NO OIE NO KAMI.

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[Enclosure.]

His Majesty the Tycoon, having been unwell for some time, finds himself growing worse and worse daily, and it has been officially announced that in case of his Majesty's death Hitotsbasi Chio-onagon will be his successor. Hitotsbasi has been ordered to command the army as the representative of his Majesty, and he has been directed to carry on with vigor offensive operations against Choshiu.

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 42.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, September* 28, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that on my arrival at Yokohama, on the 12th of August, I found the Italian frigate Magenta in the harbor, whose captain was accredited as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, as I was informed, with full powers to conclude a treaty with Japan. About the 1st of September, I learned from public rumor that a treaty had been concluded with Italy by the Japanese government, and about that time the Italian frigate left the harbor of Yokohama.

On the 14th of this month, having received from the Gorogio no communication relative to this subject, I addressed them a letter calling their attention to the fact that five years ago the Japanese government had desired the then minister of the United States to request his government to notify Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Italy, Spain, and Sweden, that treaties could not then be made, and sug-

gesting that I be informed officially that a treaty had been concluded with Italy, and that the United States government be requested to inform the other five powers that the Japanese government was then prepared to enter into treaty relations with them.

Immediately I was called upon by one of the governors of foreign affairs, in order that the matter might be explained. In the course of the conversation he told me that Denmark had applied, through Mr. Van Polsbroeck, H. N. M. political agent and consul general in Japan, to make a treaty with the Japanese government, and that the Hawaiian government had also applied to enter into treaty with Japan, through Mr. E. M. Van Reed, consul general of the Hawaiian islands in Japan.

The governor gave as a reason for not notifying me that they were ready to enter into treaty relations with the five other powers; that the Japanese government was at war, and they desired to defer the treaties until peace should be restored. However, on my explaining to him that courtesy, both to the United States government and from the United States government to the government of these other countries, required such a communication should be sent, he promised to forward it at once, and on the 27th instant I received the enclosed communication, which I have the honor to forward as requested by the Gorogio.

This government will make treaties with these powers whenever ministers shall arrive properly accredited for that purpose, but they prefer to defer it until peace shall be restored to the empire.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, September* 14, 1866.

With reference to your archives, your excellencies will perceive that more than five years ago a letter was transmitted from your government, at your request, through this legation, by the government of the United States to the governments of Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Italy, Spain, and Sweden, to the effect that his Majesty the Tycoon was not then prepared, owing to the state of affairs in this country, to enter into treaty relations with them. The recent conclusion of a treaty with one of those powers, namely, Italy, is a pleasing evidence of the removal of the difficulties set forth in your circular letter; though I must express my regret, while cheerfully acknowledging the progress made by Japan since that letter was written, that after the friendly action of my government above referred to, your excellencies have omitted to inform me officially of the conclusion of your treaty with the kingdom of Italy. As it was at the request of your government that the government of the United States notified the six powers above named that treaties could not be made, now the treaty with Italy having been concluded and the disabilities mentioned in the circular letter having been removed, would it not be expedient for your government, without delay, to request the government of the United States to use its friendly offices with the governments of Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Spain, and Sweden, on your behalf, and announce your desire to enter into treaty relations with them, as international courtesy would seem to require?

When announcing the conclusion of your treaty with the kingdom of Italy, I shall of course inform my government that the disabilities mentioned in your circular letter of 1861 are removed, and that you are probably prepared to enter into treaty relations with the five other powers, to whom such circular letter was addressed, though I hope that on a careful and prompt consideration of the matter to which your attention is now invited, you will at once enable me to convey to the five powers named the pleasing intelligence of your readiness to conclude treaties with them, in precisely the same manner as adopted by you in 1861, when, through the considerate courtesy of my government, you were enabled to convey to them the unpleasant intelligence that you were not prepared to do so.

With respect and esteem,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States in Japan.*

Their Excellencies the MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
*&c., &c., &c., Yedo.*

[Translation.]

SIR: We have the honor to make the following communication:

Lately an ambassador was sent from the Italian government, who applied to make a treaty, but we intended to refuse to treat, as we troubled the former minister of your country to give information to the government of each power that we were obliged to decline to make treaties with any foreign powers, except those with whom we were already in amity, until our realm became quiet and in peace; and Italy is one of those powers, and our government has not become quiet. However, the reason that the ambassador gave was not only for the benefit of commerce, but was this: that when Italian men-of-war, which are in the eastern seas, may be in peril, they would have no port in which to take refuge unless the treaty was made, and Italy was now engaged in war with Austria. This reason made it unavoidable for us to consent, and in compassion we could not refuse, and so the treaty was concluded at last.

We give you this particular account of this, as we troubled the former minister of your country on the subject. On the application of her ambassador we made the treaty with Italy. Now, our government is willing to make a treaty with other powers, but at present we are busy raising an army and transporting ammunition, and engaged in war in Nagato and Suwo, and we have many other troubles.

We prefer to wait for making treaties with other powers until peace be restored in our country. We hope that you will understand our condition, by which we are compelled to say this, although it is unpleasant to us, and will report it properly to your considerate government.

With respect and esteem.

The sixth day of the eighth month of the second year of Kaiao, (September 14, 1866.)

INOWEYE KAWATSI NO KAMI.
MATSU DA IRA SUWO NO KAMI.
MATSU DA IRA NOO-IE NO KAMI.

His Excellency R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States of America.*

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 46.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, October* 6, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Gorogio which I received yesterday, announcing the death of the late Tycoon on the 20th day of the 8th month, (September 28th,) and the appointment of Prince Hitotsbasi to be his successor, with the title of Nye Sama, (his majesty.)

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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[Translation.]

SIR: We have to inform your excellency that it has been published that his Majesty the Tycoon is dead, and herewith send you a copy of that proclamation.

Which we state with respect and esteem, on the 27th day of the eighth month of the second year of Kaiao, (October 5, 1866.)

INOWEYE KAWATSI NO KAMI.
MATSU DA IRA SUWO NO KAMI.
MATSU DA IRA NO-EO NO KAMI.

His Excellency R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States of America.*

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[Translation.]

Kubo Sama (his Majesty the Tycoon) got sick and did not recover, and died at Osacca on the 20th instant, at 6 o'clock in the morning.

As previously announced, Hitotsbasi Chunangong Sama (his highness Prince Hitotsbasi) succeeds to the throne, and since the 20th instant is styled Nye Sama, (his majesty.)

*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 50.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, October* 15, 1866.

SIR: It is almost impossible to learn from the government any facts connected with the pending war in this empire. They either do not know, or, knowing, prefer not to communicate. I wrote you in my despatch No. 41, under date of September 27th, that it was generally "reported and commonly believed that the Tycoon died of dropsy, in the latter part of August," and enclosed to you in my despatch No. 46, under date of October 6th, the official notification, announcing his death on the 20th day of the 8th month, (September 28th.) I believe he died in the latter part of August, and that his body was yesterday received for burial in this city. Acting Rear-Admiral H. H. Bell, commanding Asiatic squadron, has this day forwarded to me extracts from the report to him by commander R. H. Shufeldt, of the Wachusett, who left Yokohama for Hong Kong, *via* the inland sea, on the 13th of September last, as follows:

"I made no stay at Simonoseki, because it was quite evident that Choshiu had complete possession of both sides of the straits; the southern shores presenting a scene of entire desolation. The Tycoon's steamers are all here, (Nagasaki,) as their anchorage became unsafe from the batteries on the northern bluffs, and they do not seem disposed to force a passage through. For twenty-five miles south from Simonoseki, in the Tycoon's territory, we saw burning villages. Indeed, Choshiu seems to be advancing quite rapidly, and here at Nagasaki they are beginning to apprehend an attack from him.

"At Simonoseki the Choshiu steamers, five in number, dipped their flags as we passed; as it was the national flag of Japan, I returned the salute."

The Japan Herald of Saturday, October 13th, published at Yokohama, contains what purports to be names of all the Daimios furnishing contingents of troops to the new Tycoon, together with the number of such troops, the names of their generals, and the revenue of each of such Daimios.

Choshiu's troops are said to be well armed, and are evidently making a strong opposition to the government.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 53.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, October* 26, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith No. 1, copy of a letter from the British minister, informing me that in view of the prior claims of the United States, France, and the Netherlands to compensation for special injuries, Great Britain had received, of the 2d and 3d instalments of the indemnity money received for the four powers named from the Japanese government, a sum of thirty-five thousand dollars ($35,000) in excess of her proper share, and that therefore the senior British commissariat officer at Yokohama had been instructed to pay to me, for the United States, one-third of the amount named, viz: eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents, ($11,666 66.)

I transmit herewith No. 2, copy of the letter of the British commissariat officer, and Nos. 3 and 4, copies of my replies to the British minister and the commissariat officer respectively. When the remittance of one-fourth of the 2d and 3d

instalments of the indemnity money, namely, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, ($250,000,) was made in May last, the mode of division between the four powers, as adopted in London or Paris, was not known, nor had any instructions on that subject been received at this legation; and the first instalment of the indemnity remitted through the British commissariat was deemed sufficient to meet any balance that might have to be adjusted between the four powers.

I now understand the above account to stand as follows: A prior claim of one hundred and forty thousand dollars ($140,000) each for the United States, France and the Netherland, on the total amount of the indemnity of three millions dollars, ($3,000,000,) having been admitted, it appears to have been agreed that one-sixth of the total prior claim, amount of four hundred and twenty thousand dollars, ($420,000,) namely, seventy thousand dollars, ($70,000,) shall be first in equal shares apportioned between the United States, France and the Netherlands; the balance remaining of each of the six instalments of five hundred thousand dollars, ($500,000,) namely, four hundred and thirty thousand dollars, ($430,000,) to be then equally divided between the four powers, who signed the convention of October 22d, 1864.

In this manner only can I account for the difference of $11,666 66, now stated to be due to the United States. Instructions in accordance with those received by the British minister being no doubt on the way, I did not hesitate to receive the amount of $11,666 66 named, for which I purchased a bill of exchange on London, at the current rate of four shillings seven pence, at six months after sight. I now enclose the third of this bill of exchange, for two thousand six hundred and seventy-three pounds twelve shillings and two pence sterling, (£2,673 12 2,) drawn by the Oriental Bank Corporation at Yokohama on the Union Bank, London, in favor of the honorable Mr. Adams, our minister in London, to whom, in obedience to the instructions contained in your despatch No. 20, of the 14th July last, I transmit the first of this bill by this mail, and the second of the same I shall send to London, similarly addressed, by the next mail, which leaves Yokohama on the 13th proximo.

I also transmit, No. 5, copy of the receipt given by me to the British assistant commissary general, and, No. 6, copy of my letter to Mr. Adams.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Sir H. Parkes to Mr. Van Valkenburgh.*

YOKOHAMA, *October* 8, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of my having been instructed by my government that in receiving, on account of Great Britain, $250,000 as one-fourth share of the second and third instalments of the Simonoseki indemnity, in accordance with the understanding arrived at with Mr. Portman, as United States chargé d'affaires, in conjunction with our colleagues the representatives of France and the Netherlands, we omitted to consider the prior claims of France, the United States, and the Netherlands to compensation for special injuries to the amount of $70,000 on each instalment, which had already been recognized by her Majesty's government.

Deducting, therefore, the last-mentioned sum from each of the aforesaid instalments, the amount remaining to be divided equally between the four powers was $860,000, instead of one million dollars, and the share to be received by each power (after payment of the special compensations) was $215,000, instead of $250,000.

Great Britain having accordingly received $35,000 in excess of her proper share, the senior commissariat officer in Japan has been instructed by her Majesty's treasury to adjust this matter by paying the sum of $11,666⅔ to each of the representatives of France, the United States, and the Netherlands, in completion of the amount to which they were respectively entitled.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

HARRY S. PARKES.

General VAN VALKENBURGH, *&c., &c., &c.*

*Mr. Murray to Mr. Van Valkenburgh.*

COMMISSARIAT OFFICE,
*Yokohama, No.* 103, *October* 18, 1866.

SIR: Having received instructions from the lords commissioners of her Majesty's treasury to pay to the representative of America the sum of eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents, ($11,666 66,) being the amount received into the treasury chest here in excess of the proportion due to her Britannic Majesty's government of the second and third instalments of the Japanese indemnity, I have the honor to request that your excellency may be pleased to inform me when it will suit your convenience to receive this amount. Payment will be made by check on the Oriental Bank Corporation.

I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient, humble servant,

JAMES W. MURRAY,
*Assistant Commissary General.*

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Sir Harry Parkes.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, October* 22, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 18th instant, informing me that the senior commissariat officer of her Majesty's government has been instructed to pay to the representative of the United States the sum of $11,666 66, being the amount received into the treasury chest at Yokohama in excess of the proportion due to her Britannic Majesty's government of the second and third instalments of the Simonoseki indemnity. I have received a communication from Major Murray, requesting to know when it would be convenient for me to receive the money, and I have notified him that I would receive it soon at Yokohama.

I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States in Japan.*

Sir HARRY S. PARKES, K. C. B.,
*Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Japan.*

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Major Murray.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, October* 22, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, informing me that you have been instructed to pay to the representative of the United States the sum of eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents, ($11,666 66,) being the amount received into the treasury chest at Yokohama in excess of the proportion due to her Majesty's government of the second and third instalments of the Japanese indemnity. I will call at your office, or send an order, for the check soon.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States in Japan.*

Major J. W. MURRAY,
*Assistant Commissariat General, Yokohama.*

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YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *October* 23, 1866.

Received from Assistant Commissariat General Murray the sum of eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents, ($11.666 66,) equivalent in sterling to £2,479 3*s.* 4*d.*, being excess of the proportion of second and third instalments of the Simonoseki indemnity received by the British government.

£2,479 3*s.* 4*d.*

(Signed in duplicate.)

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States in Japan.*

Witness: A. L. C. PORTMAN.

*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Adams.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, October* 26, 1866.

SIR: In obedience to instructions, of which you are no doubt apprised, I have the honor to transmit herewith the first of a bill of exchange for two thousand six hundred and seventy-three pounds twelve shillings and two pence sterling, (£2,673 12*s.* 2*d.*,) at six months after sight, drawn in your favor by the Oriental Bank Corporation at Yokohama on the Union Bank, London, representing, at the rate of four shillings seven pence, the amount of eleven thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars and sixty-six cents, ($11,666 66,) Mexican currency, being one-third of thirty-five thousand (35,000) dollars received by her Majesty's government in excess of their proper share of the second and third instalments of the Simonoseki indemnity. The third of this bill will be sent by this mail to the honorable the Secretary of State, to whom I also send a copy of this letter, and the second of the same I shall send to you by the French mail which leaves Yokohama on the 13th proximo.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident in Japan.*

Hon. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS,
*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, London.*

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 54.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, November 5*, 1866.

SIR: I am informed by the governors of foreign affairs that during the fifty days of mourning prescribed for the late Tycoon there is a cessation of hostilities between the government forces and those of the rebels. That this cessation was proclaimed by the Mikado, and that Choshiu, the leader of the rebel forces, acquiesced in it. As soon, however, as these days have passed active operations will again be resumed. This proclamation of the Mikado was issued about four weeks ago, so that more than half of the time has already elapsed.

The body of the late Tycoon was brought from Osacca and has since been lying in state in the temple of the Tycoons in this city, until the burial, which took place on the last day of October.

In consequence of this war, and perhaps of a small decrease in the quantity of rice raised, the poor people are suffering for the want of provisions, and rice riots, like the flour and bread riots of more civilized countries, are frequent. Mobs at times have paraded the streets breaking into rice warehouses, and committing other crimes attendant upon such *emeutes* of the people. I had, on the 26th ultimo, a slight experience in this way. Some guests and myself rode out to Ogee, a distance of twelve miles, in the morning, and, on our return in the afternoon, by another route, near the temple of Osaxa, rode into a crowd of these poor rice rioters. We were not aware that riots were then raging in the city. It was impossible to retreat, but we were compelled to go forward, and, for two miles or more, we found the narrow streets thronged with dense crowds, sometimes in procession with banners, and again entirely unorganized. At two points they threw some stones at us, but our Japanese guard behaved bravely, charging in upon the crowd and driving them back until we came through safely.

I am sorry to say three of the guard were slightly hurt with stones and clubs, and that probably two of the rioters were killed by the swords of our escort.

At daylight next morning two of the governors of foreign affairs called upon me to explain and apologize, and to express the regrets of the government.

They told me the government was building houses and purchasing rice for the purpose of relieving as much as possible the necessities of the poor, and they hoped in a few days that all would be quiet. I took the occasion to urge upon them the importance of permitting their people to purchase of foreign merchants

rice and provisions, and to sanction it by proclamation. Foreign rice can be imported from China and sold at one-half the cost of Japanese rice as it now sells in market.

Their own rice has raised in price from one cent per pound to about five and a half cents per pound.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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*Mr. Van Valkenburgh to Mr. Seward.*

No. 56.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN,
*Yedo, November* 10, 1866.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith (No. 1) the translation of a communication received on the 7th instant from the ministers for foreign affairs, together with the form of a passport adopted by them under the proclamation of the Japanese government, dated May 23d, 1866, and the tenth article of the convention of Yedo, dated June 25th, 1866.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
*Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

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[Translation.]

We have to inform you that the form of passport to be issued to any Japanese, without distinction of class, either official or merchant, who may wish to travel abroad for purposes of study or trade, has been determined upon, and herewith send you a specimen copy of the same, which we request you to communicate to your government. We have further to say that such passports, when issued at Kanagawa, Nagasaki, or Hakodate, shall be partly stamped with a seal of the local governments, the counterpart of the seal to remain on record at the port of issue.

Stated with respect and esteem, the 29th day of the ninth month of the second year of Ke W., (November 6, 1866.)

INOWEYE KAWATSI NO KAMI.
MATSU DAIRA SUWO NO KAMI.
MATSU DAIRA NIU NO KAMI.

His Excellency R. B. VAN VALKENBURGH,
*Minister Resident of the United States of America.*

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No. —.

Limited years; birthplace; name of the person; &c.; &c.; &c.

Age, ; stature, ; eyes, ; nose, ; mouth, ; face, ; scar, .

This passport is supplied to the above-mentioned person upon his request to go to ——— country for the purpose of study [trade] of ———.

It is requested to the authorities of every government to permit safely and freely to pass him on any country which he will travel, and in case of need to give him the lawful aid and protection.

FOREIGN OFFICE, JAPAN, — *day of* —— *month of the year* ——.