



SUPPLEMENT
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CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE HONOURABLE F. W. A. BRUCE, C.B., HER MAJESTY'S ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY IN CHINA.

No. 1.

The Earl of Malmesbury to Mr. Bruce.

(Extract.) *Foreign-Office, March 1, 1859.*

THE Queen having been pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in China, and in that capacity to exchange, at Peking, Her Majesty's ratification of the Treaty of Tien-tsin with the ratification of that compact by the Emperor of China, I have now to furnish you with such general instructions as may serve for your guidance in the important mission entrusted to you by Her Majesty.

Her Majesty's Government had hoped that the Earl of Elgin would have returned to this country previously to your departure, that so your instructions might have been framed after personal communication with his Excellency. But it would seem that the interesting excursion up the Yangtze-keang river, which he so judiciously determined to undertake, has occupied more time than he anticipated, and any further delay in your departure might possibly prevent you from exchanging the ratifications within the period specified in the Treaty, namely, before the 26th of June.

Arrangements have been made for providing passage for yourself and the members of your Mission in the contract steam-vessels which convey the British mails of the 10th of March from Marseilles to Alexandria, and from Suez to Singapore and Hong Kong, in case you should not find at Suez Her Majesty's ship "Furious" waiting to receive you, or at Singapore some other man-of-war appointed to convey you to China.

On your arrival at Hong Kong, you will, in virtue of the Commission as Chief Superintendent of British Trade with which you are provided, relieve Sir John Bowring of his duties in connection with this office, and you will make arrange-

ments for transferring the general direction of British affairs in China to Shanghai, at which port it is to be carried on until such time as circumstances shall admit of its being permanently established at Peking.

You will not remain at Hong Kong longer than is absolutely necessary, but proceed to Shanghai on your way to the Peiho.

Her Majesty's Government were fully prepared at once to carry out the provision of the Treaty of Tien-tsin, which admits of the permanent residence of a British Ambassador at Peking; but the observations on this point, which Lord Elgin has so ably laid before them, coupled with the fact that the French Government, on considering Baron Gros's reports, have arrived at the same conclusion, have determined Her Majesty's Government, for the present at least, to fix at Shanghai the residence of the British Mission, and only to require that it should be received occasionally at Peking. But you will be careful to make the Chinese authorities at the capital and at Shanghai distinctly understand that Her Majesty's Government do not renounce the right of permanent residence, and, on the contrary, will instantly exercise it, if at any time difficulties are thrown in the way of communications between Her Majesty's Minister and the Central Government at Peking, or any disposition shown to evade or defeat the objects of the Treaty.

Her Majesty's Government are prepared to expect that all the arts at which the Chinese are such adepts, will be put in practice to dissuade you from repairing to the capital, even for the purpose of exchanging the ratifications of the Treaty; but it will be your duty firmly, but temperately, to resist any propositions to that effect, and to admit of no excuses; and you will say that the effect of any persistence on the part of the Chinese Government in throwing obstacles in the way of your arrival at Peking, and of the presentation of your credentials to the Emperor in person, will be that Her Majesty's Government will insist on the literal fulfilment of the Treaty, and establish the Mission permanently at Peking.