

You will probably find it advisable, before your departure from Shanghai, to send an intimation to Peking of your approach, and to request that suitable arrangements may be made for your honourable reception at the mouth of the Peiho, and at Tien-tsin, and for your journey from that place to Peking. The Admiral in command of Her Majesty's naval forces in China has been directed to send up with you to the mouth of the Peiho a sufficient naval force, and unless any unforeseen circumstances should appear to make another arrangement more advisable, it would seem desirable that you should reach Tien-tsin in a British ship of war.

It is impossible for Her Majesty's Government, and, indeed, it would not be wise to lay down any definite rules to be rigidly adhered to, in regard to your approach to, and your communication with, the Chinese Court. The acquaintance which you possess with the Chinese character, will enable you to judge when you may give way and when you must stand firm, bearing in mind that your treatment on your first visit to Peking will always be appealed to on the occasion of future visits, as establishing a precedent not to be departed from.

You will, of course, refuse compliance with any ceremony, or form of reception, which can in any way be construed into an admission of inferiority on the part of Her Majesty in regard to the Emperor of China, and perhaps the best method of putting a stop to any attempt to impose upon you in this respect, will be that you should distinctly declare that you will withdraw at once, even from the Presence Chamber of the Sovereign, on the slightest appearance of a disposition to treat you, and the office that you hold, with disrespect.

If any objection should be raised on the score of your credentials being those of Envoy and not of an Ambassador, you will say that the reason of their being so, is to admit of the wish of the Chinese Government, that for the present the British Mission should not be permanently resident at the capital being complied with; but that if, on that ground, the Chinese Government seek to make any distinction in your reception and treatment, new credentials as Ambassador will immediately be sent to you, and, in that case, the Mission will be forthwith and permanently established at Peking.

You will, moreover, take care that the treatment awarded to you is in no degree less honourable than that awarded to the Representative of any other Power whatever. That it should be consistent with European usages, it must doubtless be more honourable than that by which Embassies from countries over whose Chiefs the Emperor assumes superiority are received; but it must be in no degree inferior to that accorded to the Representatives of other Christian nations.

Although you will insist upon your being received at Peking, and will refuse to exchange ratifications at any other place, and will further decline to make any compromise in regard to the time of your stay in the Chinese capital, or the frequency of your visits to it; Her Majesty's Government are willing to leave to your discretion the duration of your stay on the first occasion. Your primary object, after the exchange of the ratifications, will be to come to such an understanding with the Government as may ensure prompt attention being paid by proper authorities in the capital to any representations that you may see occasion to address to it; and you will particularly insist upon your right to employ messengers of your own, whether European or Chinese, for the conveyance of your communications, and

upon due facilities for the performance of their journeys being secured for such messengers.

Your general language will be that Her Majesty's Government are most anxious that the increased intercourse with the Chinese Empire, under the Treaty of Tien-tsin, may contribute to the mutual advantage of both countries; that it is Her Majesty's firm intention, while scrupulously observing the engagements which she has herself contracted, to require on the part of the Emperor of China a corresponding observance of his own; that Her Majesty's officers in the different ports of China will be directed to prevent, as far as in them lies, any disturbance of the public peace, and any disorderly conduct on the part of British subjects; and that, on the other hand, Her Majesty expects that the Chinese authorities, both at the ports and in the interior of the country, will be required to act up to the Treaty obligations contracted by their Sovereign, and to treat with kindness and consideration the subjects of Her Majesty who may be brought in contact with them.

Without waiving or compromising, in any degree, the right of Her Majesty's Mission to reside at the capital, you may let it be understood that the frequency of its visits to Peking, if not its permanent residence there, must in a great degree depend on the manner in which the provisions of the Treaty are carried out. If no occasion is given for controversy by attempts on the part of the Chinese local authorities to evade the terms of the Treaty, and more particularly if no disposition is shown by the Government at the capital to treat with disrespect any representations Her Majesty's Minister may address to it from Shanghai, the necessity for such visits to the capital will be rare; and when they are made they will be rather complimentary than for the transaction of business. But you will say that as between the Powers of Europe direct diplomatic intercourse, and the permanent residence of Ministers at the residence of the Sovereigns to whom they are accredited, are always looked upon as an indication of friendship between States, so Her Majesty's Government hope that the day is not far distant when not only will the presence of a British Minister at Peking be viewed with satisfaction, but a Representative of the Emperor of China be accredited to Her Majesty's Court, where you will say he will be welcomed both by Her Majesty and her Government, and treated with the same distinction and consideration as the Representatives of Her Majesty's nearest allies.

No. 2.

*Mr. Bruce to the Earl of Malmesbury.—(Received July 5.)*

*Victoria, Hong Kong, May 4, 1859.*

MY LORD,

THERE is little reliable information to be obtained here as to the reception Her Majesty's Mission is likely to meet with at Peking, and the fact of the Commissioners Kweiliang and Hwas-hana remaining at Soochow, near Shanghai, though Mr. Lay has urged them to return to Peking, to be on the spot when the foreign Missions arrive there, would seem to indicate a hope on their part that some incident may enable them to avert the visit to Peking; and this view is strengthened by the rumours, more or less true, of the repair of the old forts at the mouth of the Peiho, and the construction of fresh defences along its course.