

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

Yanagiwara

ニウヨーク船代價ノ有岩橋大蔵少佐ヨリジャッパンセメント新聞社、投書ノ文

Yanagiwara, your Excellencies would have been informed of them by the official despatches successively sent by him. But, all his discussions and arguments by truly earnest endeavours, resulted merely in one point, whether the Aboriginal Formosa should belong to the jurisdiction of China or not, and he having no prospect of the solution sooner or later, considered the future measures to be taken and sent me an oral message through Mr. Takasaki during my sojourn at Tientsin, as has been communicated to your Excellencies by my former despatch. Seeing these circumstances I had every reason to fear the refusal of any conference by the Chinese, after my arrival at Peking, but I have been enabled today to open the negotiation with them. As

the point, whether the aboriginal Formosa belongs to China or not, has been fully discussed already by the Minister Yanagiwara, I now expect to get a clear prospect of the future, by overcoming them through the argument supported by the principles of justice, when they would shortly visit us and on every occasion I hope to communicate your Excellencies the circumstances attending my discussions with them.

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

We have been informed by the  
telegrams

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

I have the honor to be,

over

your Excellencies  
 most obedient servant  
 Okubo Toshimichi  
 The Ambassador

To  
 their Excellencies  
 Sanjo Daijo Daijin  
 Shimadzu Sadaijin  
 Iwakura Udaijin  
 and all the honorable  
 members of Langi.

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

Okubo.

Tokio, Sept. 20, 1874.

To The  
 Editor "Japan Gazette"  
 Sir:

A number of paragraphs have appeared in your paper on the subject of a false rumor as to a large sum of money having been appropriated by an officer of the government in connection with the purchase of the ship "New York" which make a notice of them seem called for by me, for which I gather from the first article in your paper of 15<sup>th</sup> September that you reproduce the authority for the paragraph of your issue of 14 inst. which reiterates the former charge and insists on the truth of the slander, yet it appears that while "private and comparatively irresponsible information" seemed sufficient authority to you for giving  
 currency

currency to the original charge and to express a conviction of its truth still a low officer of the Department does not appear the proper person to give it (the denial) weight."

The statement made by an officer of this department to the "Hoeki Shinbun" is quite accurate and is one of facts within his knowledge. Those facts are known to all the officers of this department, and could have been learned by any one justly intrusted in and respectfully applying for such information.

I am, Sir, very respectfully  
your obedient servant  
Iwahashi.

Auditor & Treasurer  
Baneki Jimushiyokan

Yokohama Sept. 20/74.

G. M. Hirai Esq  
Tokio.

Dear Mr. Hirai.

While writing the other letter to you, herewith enclosed, I received your letter of this date.

Every facility will be given to Mr. Krebs for the inspection of the "Charles Albert" at any time he may wish.

In reply to your request that the words "within 2 months" should be inserted in our agreement about the Louzon, I think that it would not be right to bind myself that the work shall be completed in that time. In my letter of the 14 inst. to Mr. Okuma I mention this as about the time it will take, and as the Boiler & Engines are all ready I believe it will not take larger.

ウヲルシホールヨリテヤールスアルベルト船試検ヲ得ヘキ旨花ルーション  
船修後約定期限ノ一月外務ツ迄ヘ書来