

TM/11/41
Canton; May 14th, 1807

Hon Sir

The recall of the Fleet, which was dispatched above a week ago, & had sailed out of the river, gives me an opportunity of giving you tidings of my welfare of near a fortnight later date than the Letter I send you by the Thames E. I.; & tho' the two Letters will reach you at the same time, & a fortnight, at this distance, is nothing, yet I persuade myself that this supplement will be very gratifying both to you & to all my other Friends at Diff.

We expected to have set off for Macao, 3 or 4 days after the date of my Letter by the Thames, but fresh delays arose from the demands that the Mandarins made respecting Edward Sheen, the mock-culprit, of whom & whose affairs you have a long account in that Letter. For when they thought the fleet was sailed & we left defenseless, they retracted & new-modified their conceiving, in such a manner as to render the situation of the Committee here very disagreeable & utterly prevent our proceeding to Macao. By great luck of winds & waters, the fleet was not out of reach of an Express boat! The Lyon was

sent to, & she has dispatched a boat to Canton
which arrived yesterday to the great surprise of
the Chinese Merchants & Governours - & to their
great mortification no doubt. They see that the
Committee is not unprotected, that a King's ship
may still seize & carry him off.

They have consequently altered their tone, & great
hopes, very great hopes are entertained that the
whole will be speedily & amicably adjusted, &
that we shall set off for Amoy in one or two
days. We have been in an unpleasant

situation, for every thing, cloaths, furniture,
knives, forks, kitchen utensils &c &c have been
all packed up & put in the Chop-boats (as
they are called) for above a week - we have
been dining with the different Chinese Merchants

Pon kegnā, the chief of them & the richest (worth
above a Million Sterling) has just retired from
business, & ~~had~~ invited two Mandarins to meet us
at his dinner. one of the two was of the Quorum
that tried the sailors. We were all vastly civil
& complimentary. The party consisted of all
the English, several Chinese Merchants the said
two Mandarins, Mr Chalmer the Swedish chief
with two or three Swedes & Danes & 11 signore Mayo.

the Spanish chief, with 2 other Spaniards.

It is very unusual to meet Mandarins, as they never visit persons in trade. Ponquequã gave us an excellent dinner & excellent Madeira. I tasted so many strange dishes there as to throw my stomach quite out of order, & I have been obliged to subsist upon plain roast beef, mutton & chicken & boiled potatoes ever since. birds-nest soup with soy, deer's screws, & biche de mer were the three principal dishes that undid me, I believe.

It really is a peculiarly fortunate thing to me to have come to China in a season of such troubles & unusual occurrences. I see the Chinese & their affairs in views & positions that I might have long waited for in ordinary times - in short these troubled waters are excellent for me to fish in.

Macao, as you will see by the map, is about 80 or 100 miles to the south of Canton; a very fine air & enjoying the sea breezes; whereas Canton is choking hot in the summer. That, & other reasons, put people quite out of spirits when they think of being obliged to pass the summer here. For my part I have made up my mind to stay here contented, if necessary - in fact I may go down when I please, but I can't see the end of the business. — Y. Sulphur Jan 7. M

My ad. - killed. Off tomorrow

17 Aug 1857
Ship Letters

The Rev. Mr. Manning
D. S. Norfolk

