

Hon^d Sir

Canton. Feby 12th 1808

THAMM

By my short letter of last month
you will learn how cruelly I ~~have~~ ^{had} been disap-
pointed in not hearing from any of my relations
and that the first & only news I have had of
you was in a couple of letters, one from you,
& one from Edward, inclosed in a copying ma-
chine, which I received just before the fleet was
about to sail. — That fleet will very probably not
arrive in England before the one that is now about
to sail — at the same time, most likely; as this is
expected to overtake that at St Helena. —
You mention letters from yourself & from Wm
sent before — I know not when — I have seen nothing
of them. — Ships for China leave England in
January & again in March or April, generally
speaking, but in war time are often delayed. —
I sent Mr Woodward some curious seeds under
the care of P^r G. Staunton & specimens of the same
to Mr Wilkins. I wrote to Edward by two
ships — to you & m^r Crabtree by two others
to Davy by a different one. So that you
cannot fail to hear of me one way or other.
I have written you a great many letters
on different occasions since my arrival in
China, & tho' some perhaps are lost, I am confident
you will hear of me pretty frequently. I promise to
continue the same plan, & ~~rather~~ to give you a

I shall write by other ships to Henry Wm. 21st Feby

I have given letters to my friend Mr Benty for Wm & Edward, he has promised to go down to my house to see me in the store.

21st Feby

short after sometimes, ^{rather} than none at all. I am
exceedingly stupid today having had a great commotion
in my interior. I don't think I write English, perhaps
not sense. It is now 3 o'clock. I have not broken
bread yet. I have just ordered some Congee, which
is a famous kind of rice gruel, of sovereign virtue
in these cases. — I have very good health here, but
it is difficult to keep one's bowels in order (partly owing to
the water which yet I don't drink much of) & still
more to the strange & monstrous leaps that the
thermometer makes here — from 50° to 80° & from
80° to 50° at one jump as it were. When the Ther-
mometer is below 60° it is to me unpleasant; I never
wish to see it below 75° nor above 85°, but any thing
within that range suits me very well.

There I left off, being, as I told you, stupid. Next day
arrived the Alfred, & some India ships, bringing us bad news
from Rosetta, Buenos Aires &c. But the home news
was to me very agreeable indeed; viz. a parcel from the Alfred
containing several letters. one from you dated 28 November
1806 (it is now 1808) one from William — in short
twas the packet I looked for. — The foreign letter was from
my friend Robert Thomson, a Scotchman by birth, but
settled in France. He has translated La Fontaine into English
verse with great skill & spirit; I was of considerable use to
him in critiquing & otherwise; particularly in procuring for
him the place of English teacher at the Prytanée, which is
Bonaparte's favorite & grand College. It was a curious cir-
cumstance. I happened to conduct a French Countess ~~there~~
to that seminary (about 12 miles from Paris, the old St Cyr)
to see her son & hear the declamations, Play acting &c
no, no, now I recollect again, the declamations or was on another day
afterwards, when we met all the world & heard invectives against

England and / but the 1st time we were a snug party. The head
Master & his wife & two or three more. but to cut the matter short
the Master after a little conversation had the sense to find out that
he could not do a wiser thing than to beg of me to recommend him
an English professor. So I a poor English Prisoner nominated
to the 1st College in France.

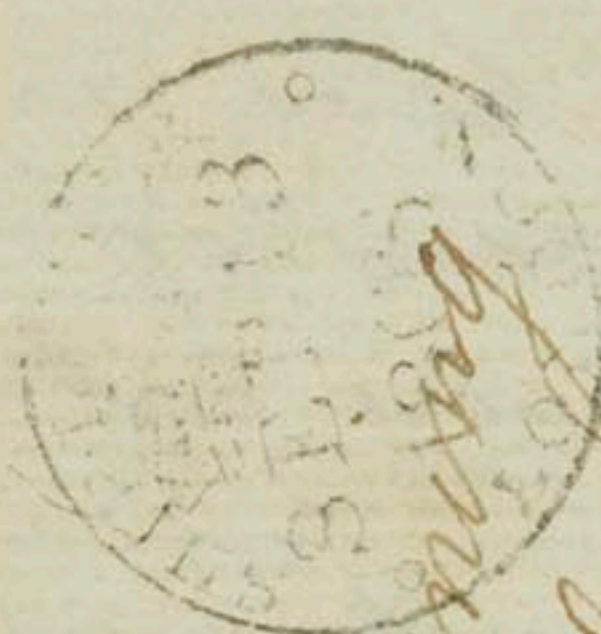
But what do you think I am going to do now? You'll
never guess, so I'll tell you. I am going on a visit to the
King of Cochin China! The Company have vessels here employed
in the surveying business. they are going to botter about the
paracels this season off the Cochin Chinese coast; so they first
set me down at Turon, which is about a 3 days trip from
Macao, & if I am received in a friendly way, I am to amuse
myself on shore for a month or two & then they take me
back to Macao. if the Mandarins, or rather if the Frenchmen
at the Cochin China court, had rather have my room than
my company, I shall keep with the Couriers, & return to Macao
immediately in a Portuguese vessel.

I am not going to Cochin China from any
high idea I have of that country - for
I think them a set of ² civilised
vagabonds; but I have two or three
objects of some importance. 1st the
comparison of the language with that
of China. 2nd by the possibility of being
employed as Physician in a Cochin Chinese
embassy to Peking. The rest I'll not commit
to paper at present, because what said is somewhat
overdone. I shall only say that if it were not for a trick
I have of acting in a manner that some folks would
call quarrelling with my bread & butter I might, I believe
have gone there with a good salary. but you know I am
not particularly fond of attaching myself to institutions. I
always plead I am a Quaker. However I always declare
at the same time that I shall be on all occasions equally
zealous for the interests of my country as if I was engaged.
& certainly if I can perform any honourable services for
the Honorable Company (whether then honourable I shall certainly
not undertake) I shall permit the Hon^{ble} Company to pay
the expenses of my trip. We expect to be off towards the
end of this month. Our squadron consists of two sailing brigs, com-
manded by C^{ms} Raper, & Morgan, and well armed with Theodolites,
quadrants, timekeepers &c. — The fleet that this letter will go
by, is detained on account of the Alfred, & will not arrive in England

so soon as I talked of. So much the pleasanter to my friends, who will have two accounts of me instead of one.

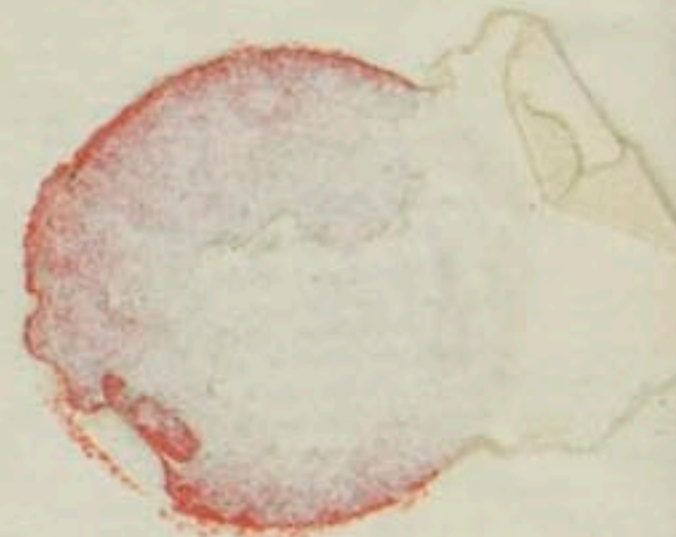
I have given petitions to the Mandarins here begging leave to go up to Peking to feel the Emperor's pulse, & teach him to calculate eclipses. but I believe they had rather not have his pulse felt by any body belonging to the English nation, whose fame spreads in India rather faster than is agreeable to any of the Asiatic potentates. As for the other business, Ray observes that he is in no want of 'Stromony folks' just at present - Well I have done my duty in trying, & the sin now rests upon the heads of the Mandarins of Canton, if the Great Dragon should lay hold of the moon before the kettledrums are ready to frighten him off.

him to
There



The Rev. Mr. Manning
Dids
Norfolk.

By the Hon. Capt. S.
Taurington Castle.



With respect to politics I have one word to say - Could England defend herself against France if she was inhabited by 15 Million Frenchmen, such as Frenchmen now are? Certainly she could. 15 mil. cannot be conquered by any number of their equals. To doubt then the safety of E^d is to doubt whether an Eng^{ish} be as good as a Fr^{ench} in courage, in talents, in independance of spirit in zeal for his Country, in civilization, state of arts, sciences &c. I, for one, have no doubt - I trust that millions of my countrymen would feel the same scorn & indignation at the proposal to submit to a foreign yoke, that now, now at this instant burns in my cheeks. & the same enthusiasm & unquenchable love of independance, that now fills my eyes with tears. ~~It would~~ & I add from the bottom of my heart that if I did not think so, if I did not think that Englishmen were Men, & had the spirit of freedom & independance, not in their mouths, but in their hearts blood, I should not care 6 pence whether E^d was a province of France or not. - independance I mean of the train one should have in seeing ones friends brought into trouble & distress that works upon me very much. I cannot bear the degrading doubt I so often hear thrown out by people who the next minute betray their exclusive high opinion of England & their insufferably supercilious contempt for all other nations. I am sure you think in the same style as I do on this subject, for you are a true Whig, God bless you. I am yr^d Son T. M.

P.S. My love to the Bishop; I like him mightily.