

TH 1/1/49
Hon Sir

You are my best correspondent; & yet that you are, in every respect (if I meant the best man, I should be well warranted in saying so.) You write me long letters; & you tell me what letters you have received from me; which, tho' it is not necessary, while one is in England, yet, at this long long distance, is indispensable. Besides you write an excellent hand; not handsome indeed, but easy to read; tis a good deal like mine - I mean mine is a good deal like yours; only that I sprawl my heads & tails about in an unseemly manner. - I had a letter from Mr Joseph last year, that I have not been able to read thro yet. - I wrote to you on my return from Cochin China in July last, by the Surat Castle, & I noticed the receipt of your last (~~the~~ dated Dec 31, 1807) in a letter, which I sent by Bengal last December, by favor of George Baring Esq. - I have since that time had a letter from Edward (dated June 3, 1807) & I write to him by this fleet. I also write to Tanny, whose letter I received on my return from Cochin China.

I am surprised I have not heard from William this year? Surely he has put a letter into the wrong box! I am very sorry to hear he has been overreached, but am not at all surprised - Thank God, we are all subject to that misfortune; but you must not let this observation go out of the Family. Certain it is, we do not make so much money as we might. I for example, have had my offers here. For to let you into a secret, I have been of some use lately in translating Chinese Edicts, relative to the Company's business - they would be glad to fix me, & pay a handsome salary; but I do not chuse to belong to the Hon. Company. tis not consistent with my way of thinking - I. of their money! Not, but I am very willing to be assisted by them in my

pursuits, but I must be unfettered. I might perhaps
have managed so as not to be enrolled nor even expected
to stay ~~or~~ a moment longer here than I like - not
even ^{to} stay here at all - for I can be useful elsewhere
than Canton; but I was afraid of getting into some
entanglement; of having some business proposed, that would
not suit my Conscience, & yet of such a nature, that to
call back upon it would seem, to many, to proceed
from piousness, or absurd whims of Conscience.

If I can promote the views of the Hon. Company any
way without acting hostilely to the real interests of other
nations, I shall be happy to do it; & opportunities may
occur. but too many Gentlemen in Trade, & too many Gentle-
men in the King's Council, think it sufficient if England
gains. That idea, I'm afraid, will not be shaken off in
our new dealings with Spain. Perhaps while I'm
writing this, we may be trying to prevent the ^{fair} healing of
the war between Spain & France, rather than lose an
opportunity of plaguing & blustering Bonaparte. How
happy should I be to believe that the Council of Great Britain
had more at heart the Independence, peace & prosperity
of Spain, (whose relation to France is very different from ours)
than the glutting their ~~own~~ hatred against Bonaparte!
— We are all of opinion here that the noble blood of
Spain will shew itself; & that the abominable & damnable
machinations of the French will be defeated.
One word more of Politics - I think the sailing of the
Danish fleet was a bold & manly measure, & I
think a great deal of the opposition to it in England, is
very pitiful.

In my last I told you that English troops had

Conceded to protect Macao! The Chinese did not
choose they should stay; so after bullying a while (about
2 months & $\frac{1}{2}$) they were shipped back again. It has
been a scurvy business! There have been menaces,
& stopping of provisions, & firing upon boats, & firing
from the forts on the men of war, & firing of the men
of war back again, & keeping us down at Macao
till the 9th of January, & great sky rockets, & new
regulations against us, & nothing good for me (except
translating papers) & great uneasiness, & capturing of
Mandarin, &c. &c. I reduce the matter to this

- 1 all of us English here — indiscreet talkers
- 2 The Admiral — Cray
- 3 The Ship Captains — no good will towards, risking the
ready sale of their betel nut & rattans (wonderful!)
- 4 The Portuguese — bitter Enemies
- 5 The Chinese — crafty & well informed of all that every
body else thought & intended
- 6 The Committee — no power ~~in~~ except that of bullying

From this it followed that the whole business
failed.

But I might perhaps as well talk to you of what happens
in Japan! Yet I assure you this business has harassed me
amazingly; I mean by various emotions. Shame, hope, expec-
tation, indignation, & particularly the feeling that bystanders have
when seeing the faults of the players.

I am dressed in the Cochinchina fashion; robe turban &
drawers. My beard is about a foot long & very handsome,
yet I don't find it much admired among the English!
There is no accounting for some people's want of taste.
We have had a great many visitors at Macao this year,
besides the Military. Dr Scott & family; the Youngs, the
Oaks, sea from Bombay to England by way of Macao; but
they have not been very sociable. They have been cruelly
disappointed in their hopes of a speedy passage. For these



17 March 1809
The Revd Mr Manning
Newfolk
Mr Hon. C. J. G.
Greenville

military operations have detained the fleet full
2 months!! The dispatches will be closed tonight
or tomorrow morning early. Yr Obedt Servt
Thomas Manning

Canton March 1. 1809.

kindest love to all at home.