

Canton China March 21. 1864

Dear Manning

Received your several letters from the Bar, and immediately sent for ** . He said, if I were to give one thousand dollars, he could not obtain Seas; but he would try to get another as good. He brought a vulgar old man who possessed some knowledge of letters, but Ball & I thought him too coarse & too old to answer your purpose & we declined accepting him. ** then brought a man about 29 years of age, very dark & apparently unacquainted with the world. I thought him so unlikely to answer, that I determined not to put him to the pain of a refusal after examination, & desired Ball to look at him. Ball was at dinner and wrote to me not to care for

his looks nor his feelings. I accordingly
tried him in a page of the 禮經 which
he read at sight with ease, and gave
the sense as the commentators have
it. Hall came over & after the first
impression of 李's blackness wore off
began to think that he might do. We
tried him forthwith as to his writing &
next day, I tried him in a page of
the 論語 in the 大學 & in the 中庸. These
he could rehearse & explain memoriter.
I tried his knowledge of the dictionary —
he knew the plan, but was not very
expert, as indeed few Chinese that I have
seen are. I asked him a few questions
about the customs of his country to
which he gave pertinent answers: &
put some questions relating to Chinese
geography on which he acknowledged
his ignorance, which candour I con-
sidered a good qualification. I think

you will find him docile. He will
learn much from you, & some-
times where Chinese applications of
ideas are wanted, he may illu-
minate your Mind: for, (as you
already surmise) after the above ex-
amination Ball thought he would
venture to send him to you. **

receives 300 dol: more,
and guarantees 200, from
the remnants of the
500 before advanced,
& the young man.

I fancy about 200
dollars will be spent

on his passage. I have only to
add, that I sincerely wish he may
answer your purpose, and
that you may long enjoy your
health, and God's blessing

Yours truly

R Morrison

From the
Thomas Manning Esqre