

Call 9 Aug. 47
No 70

Recd of
D.O.S.

Consulate of the U. States
Singapore 5th April 1847

Sir.

I have the honor to make known
to you for the information of those concerned in
the ship "Mary Ellen" of Boston Captⁿ J. H. Darton
that the said ship was wrecked and totally lost
with her cargo of Teas on the Island of Subi South
Marianas on the 9th Feby. last on her passage
from N. hampow in China to New York

Captⁿ Darton and 18 of the crew whose
names, stations and places of residence are here
annexed succeeded in reaching Subi but not with-
out losing two of the crew whose strength failed
them and they were drowned among the reefs
and breakers & their names are also here annexed

The whole surviving party arrived here on
the 16th March with the clothing only they stood
in when they effected a landing in Subi and
they have been taken charge of and supplied with
board & necessaries by me until an opportunity
presents to send them to the United States

I am happy to bring to the notice of the
President through you the humane & kind
treatment of the (Ruler) of Pulo Subi who from
the

The late Captain Deartorn has crew present in many
- issues before him in their distressed state until he
provided in consequence for them to this point in one
of his own farms and notwithstanding the circum-
- stance he was put in supplying with Proper food so
large a company for a month never for a moment
abated in his attentions and parental care

The Island of Tabi lays close to that part
of Porneo recently ceded to the British Government
and has a population of about five hundred persons
whose chief subsistence consists of Sago, Coconuts
Fish, They are poor and not given to trade a
present of a few pieces Red Cloth, a few yards of
Gold Lace fifty Muskets, Balls & powder would
be a very acceptable reward for the Rajahs hand-
- some conduct towards the crew of the Mary Ellen
at the hands of any of our naval commanders
visiting these seas.

Such a mark of public acknowledgment
from the United States is very desirable at
this time when impressions extremely unfavor-
- able to us arising from certain acts committed
two years ago in Cochin China by the comman-
- der of the U.S. Ship "Constitution" prevail in these
parts and until an investigation is gone into
as to see to the mistakes which could have com-
- pelled a resort in our part to such extreme measures
as the taking away the lives of many unoffend-
- ing Cochin Chinese & a satisfactory explanation
of the same it is to be apprehended that the
presence of our country-men will be looked
upon

upon with much great than pleasure whenever
the report of the transactions has reached

A year ago some Mandarins of the King
of Cochin China who came here as usual in his
ships applied to me for redress for ill treatment
received at the hands of the commander of the
"Constitution". They represented that they
were ashore on the King's business when the
"Constitution" anchored at the Port of Surong;

that on the commander's making known his wants
of Provisions & Water they willingly supplied him &
held friendly communications with him - But on
another day he came ashore with a party from
his ship and ordered them to deliver some French
Priests who he represented were prisoners in the
country to which they replied they knew nothing
and that it would be better for him to go to
~~the~~^{the} the Capital, a sea port, and apply to the
King. Upon this they were handcuffed and
degraded in the presence of their dependants
& servants & finally taken to the "Constitution"
where they were kept prisoners for many days
and daily threatened with execution if the French
Roman Catholic Priests were not delivered to
him - Other Mandarins confirmed
to the above and stated that as they know
nothing of the detention of the foreigners and as
moreover they had no power to release them
it was so stated to him daily - That

That on a certain day they saw many vessels
leaving the ship full of armed men but as they
saw the people of the town apprehended no danger a
crowd was gathered to see them land, after affect-
ing which the strangers were formed in a line
& fired on the crowd and as it fled toward the
town they saw after them, several persons, men,
women, & children were killed, In the mean-
time the "Constitution" had taken a position
near the Port which it soon destroyed and
fired on the Rees Sunk in the River which
caused many to be killed and wounded by
the shots & others to drown in the Sunk as
they sunk. I represented to them
that I had no power to act in such a grave
matter & requested them to say so to the King
at the same time telling ^{them} to assure their Sov-
-reign that any communication he might be
pleased to make to the President on the sub-
-ject if sent to me would be transmitted
with care and that such a communication
would meet all the attention the importance
of it merited. The King's ships returned
a month since & the Mandarins have called
on me to say that the King according to usage
declines to enter into foreign correspondence
and they at the same time intimated that
he abides the opportunity of signal vengeance
doubtless on some of our defenceless or ship-
-wrecked

unwarranted Contempt.

I wish not to constitute myself the
accuser of Captain Percival, or to bring ^{before} to the
Government any thing that has not already
appeared in the news papers of India & Europe
but I have considered it my duty in bringing
to your notice the hospitable conduct of the
Rajah of Sibi and to recommend a proper
national acknowledgment of it and at the
same time consider it in my line of official
duty, to apprise you of the unfavorable impres-
sions that prevail against our national
character in that quarter and which if not
removed will certainly lead to the sacrifice
of innocent lives under the most horrible
torture as practiced on his enemies by the
King of Cochin China.

The French Bishop & the priests
above alluded to were a short time after the
visit of the "Constitution" in Cochin China
delivered over on application, to the Commander
of the French Ship of war "Aermene"

I have the honor to be

Sr

Sir

The Honble the
Secretary of State

Your Most Obedt Servt

Washington

J. B. Chester

USA