

posed in English by King Mongkut, unworthy of being printed in his famous work "The Kingdom and People of Siam," and he says: when King Mongkut "thought of writing to Her Majesty (Queen Victoria) and asked me about the style of the letter, I answered, that as his Majesty's English was *perfectly intelligible*, an autograph in his own manner, uncorrected, would be more acceptable than any letter in whose composition an Englishman should be called in to assist" (Vol. II p. 321).

The readers of this *Journal* should not be more particular about English style and idiom than Her Majesty Queen Victoria and Sir John Bowring, and the peculiarities of King Mongkut's English should not prevent them from taking interest and pleasure in the reading of the documents which have been selected for publication.

G. C.

India Pol. and Foreign

Cons., Range

199, vol. 43.

No. 38.(1)

Subharatie House at

East Royal Palace

Bangkok, Siam.

21st April 1851.

To His Honor Lieutenant Colonel

W. J. Butterworth, C. B.,

the Governor of Prince of Wales Island.

My dear Sir,

Having stated on my foregone last address to your Honor that the heart of Siamese kingdom was confined in the Royal Chamber by the painful inevitable disease, and the change of the Government of Siam expected to be very near &ca., now I am due to inform you in this my letter the particulars which were occurred herein after my foresaid letter was forwarded, but I have no time to write, for most business prevent me to do so on this occasion.

I doubt not you will learn from many letters of the Eastern Indian merchants and American missionaries who may write to their friends of Singapore, even to the editors of Free Press and Straits Times, or from the oral word of my man Mr. Nai Bhoom(2), whoever have been at your presence with Mr. Pheng Napoleon(3) once and ever paid his visit to the Singapore for many times and from the statement of Mr. Robert Hunter(4), the son of your countryman, who (Mr. R. Hunter) proceeded to Singapore for his business of trade and will perhaps pay visit to your Honor with my compliment.

Whereas His Majesty the late King was expired and demised on the 2nd instant, on next of which day I was elected and entered to this place where I am living happily with great business or affair

(1) These indications refer to the collection of Public Records kept in the India Office, London.

(2) Later on Chao Phya Ratanadhibesr.

(3) Later on Chao Phya Mahindr.

(4) Cf. R. A. Moore, An early British merchant in Bangkok, J. Siam Soc., XI, 2, p, 21.

of presiding of whole kingdom, but my enthronement or exaltation will be on 15th May for waiting of the greatest preparation the ceremony of my crowning as more pleasant than those of my predecessors, as they thought that I and my brother T. N. Issorosrunsum(1) are purer by birth both sides, paternal and maternal. Our people, both of capital and dependent districts and tributary countries around Siam, with their principal heads of Governors, were seemed to be unanimously glad to us both for being successors to the throne. Whole Siamese country is now quite well with[out] any suspect of disturbance distress at any where.

I hope on my [part] the affairs of trade &ca. will be well regulated with the foreign and native people, betterly than upon the time of my predecessors, but I hope you will allow me the time for reformation of custom of country and great ceremony of the funeral service to the dead body of my esteemed brother the late King.

I trust you will be most rejoiced on hearing of my news of succession on the throne as you were longly my dear friend, and that you will write the information to my friend Sir James Brooke, K. C. B., who proceeded to England and let him be glad to me for fulfilling of my late statement I had done to him. I have no time to write him now.

I intend to send my other messengers to visit you with some golden and silver flowers which, by custom of Siam, are presents for information of new enthronement or recent crown of country, when I already was crowned.(2)

Please give my sincere regard to my friend Mr. H. C. Caldwell, the Committee of Singapore's museum, and let him allow my man Mr. Nai Bhoon to see the whole museum, as well as my former messengers. Please give my sincere regards to my friends of your post, Messrs. Hamilton, Grey and Co.,(3) and Messrs. George

(1) Thun-kramoin Noi Isares Rangsan (ทิศเทววิมล), i.e. H. M. Phm Pin Klao, the Second King.

(2) On this custom, see The coronation of H.M. King Prajadhipok, p. 17.

(3) On this firm, see One hundred years of Singapore, vol. II, p. 200.

Armstrong and Co., and Mr. McKraal and Mr. John Jarvies &ca, whom I could not write to on this occasion, though I wish to write to them.

The communication of you and me in future will be in two manner viz., by the usual official intercourse with the Supreme Officer of State, Chou Phya Phra Khleng here, when the affairs of countries are to be concerned, and by the clandestine or private intercourse when your business of friendship with me are to be concerned.

On this occasion please deliver your letters which were due to be written to answer me for my preceded letters and articles of presents per Haize Allum &ca., there is now no danger to me here, to Mr. Nai Bhoom or Mr. Robert Hunter for communication with you, but the former custom of Siam forbids the address from foreigners who are not independent sovereign or King of any country to the King of Siam. If you were to address me directly by name of the King in public manner, I fear our officers may send back or put off without informing to me, therefore you shall put your letter in first envelope which you shall direct thus "To be informed to His Gracious &c. Majesty Sordetch Phra Paramende Maha Mongkut" the King of Siam &ca. Sovereign of Laws &ca.

Then you shall put it in another envelope and direct to Mr. Pheng Napoleon thus—

To Pheng Napoleon Esquire

the Private Minister of His Majesty

the King of Siam and Sovereign of Laws &ca.

I am unwilling to cut off the friendship between you and me at all, though I would be in highest seat of this Kingdom. Please remember me whenever and wherever you may be in future. Whereas I was changed from priesthood to the seat of President of country now, I have neglected all my tools and intentions of my own use or left the sacred place for the use of priests. I ought to obtain many things newly for use in my own family out of those

that for the royal place or regal residence. I have therefore placed \$1000 in the hands of my man Mr. Nai Bhoom who I have ordered to purchase for me many articles of various curious weapons or articles of gold and silver clothes &ca. and some wooden tools of best woods, mahogany &ca. I hope your Honor will aid him by directing him to obtain best articles for me, what you would think proper for my use when I am on the throne and where such best thing can be obtained.

Please give my and my sister's regards to your lady also.

I shall be very glad if my man can obtain and purchase some curious and best things for me for your attention's sake.

I beg to remain your sincere

Kind friend

(Signed) T. Y. (1)Chaufa Mongkut
newly elect President or
Acting King of Siam.

P. S. The red printed character on first page is Chinese stamp for the King of Siam in small letter.

(Signed) T. Y. C. M.

K. of S.

(1) Thun-kramom Yai.

India Pol. and Foreign

Cons., Range

199, vol. 43.

No. 38 contd.

Dated Royal Chamber at West or

Senior Palace "Ratne Kosind"

Bangkok, Siam.

22nd May 1851.

To His Honor Lieutt. Coll. W. J. Butterworth, C. B.,

The Governor of Prince of Wales Island,

Malacca and Singapore.

My dear friend,

I have just acknowledged the receipt of your address of 7th March inst., together [with] the purse of eight silver and nine copper coins, and the case of mathematical instruments on the 12th May, per the junk of our port by charge of her choonchoo or Chinese Supercargo, to whom you had delivered it with your hard charge. It was the day of the commencement of the ceremony of my exaltation before crowning three days. I have put your coins on one side and other eight Siamese coins stamped with new stamp of my reign on the other side of your purse and kept in the blessing table in my royal bed. I beg to return my many sincere thanks to you with a golden thread purse, contents of which are eight new Siamese coins of my reign⁽¹⁾, the first of which is golden cost four ticals, the second of two ticals, the third of one tical, the fourth of half tical, the fifth of slung or quarter of tical, the sixth of founng or half slung, the seventh of sixth half founng or fourth of slung, the eighth is of one phai or quarter of founng, and together two pairs of golden and silver artificial flowers, the same kind of which were used in falling off from the hand of the Siamese King who was just seated upon the golden throne on first meeting of crowning. I trust you will be glad to accept the same for witnessing of my stamp.

I had written you in April once informing the demise of my

(1) On King Mongkut's coinage, see: 1e May, The coinage of Siam, J. Siam, Soc., xviii, 3, (p. 153).

respected and esteemed brother the late Siamese Majesty "Chestadhepadende"(1) King, and my election and determination of my crowning and enthronement, for the "Arrow," but I am sorry to say that the same vessel could not get out beyond the "Cui point" for being prevented by strong southern wind and on account of the bad Siamese commander, so that the Arrow returned to our country and my messengers have met with the pleasant ceremony of my enthronement and exaltation, which commenced on 12th and concluded on 21st inst.

I need not say regarding the same ceremony at all, as the bearer of this box of rejoicing presents for you and other my English friends here have been witness and did see and hear almost everything [that] took place here in this interval, and in fact rather to say that I have no long leisure hours to write you more than this on the present occasion, for being confined by many affairs of preparation of this new Government during these days.

The preparation of the ceremony in dignifying of my dearest full brother Prince "T. N. Chaufa Krom Khun Isresrungsun" to be my second monarch or vice King is not concluded. It will be taking place, commencing on 25th instant and concluded on 3rd of next month. I trust you will learn from oral word of my messenger and Mr. Robert Hunter, who came to Singapore on board the Arrow, on return of which mostly desire to hear from you what you will please to do with my reign. I beg to assure you I shall be very glad to accept them if some parties of English men come to my country to visit me, but please stay or stop the affair of negotiation of new treaty but one year more, until the ceremony of funeral service of my esteemed brother the late King was concluded, on about March or April of the proximate year.

The ceremony of the burning of the Royal King's corpse ought to be done with the greatest pomp, which cannot be finished quickly. If therefore in this interval before conclusion of the King's funeral ceremony, the Mission of British Government may come to

(1) เจ้าญาติบริพัตร, i.e. King Phra Nang Klao.

our country, it might be great troublesome to us, wherefore I beg to solicit your Grace to delay or expect until May or June of next year, when the proper opportunity allow or was made to us. We shall be very glad to send [a] Siamese Mission of Embassy to visit Her Majesty the Most Exalted Queen of England and Ireland and Sovereign of Hindostan, with highest and greatest respect.

I did not the sent on in(1) the case of your mathematical instruments which you have so gratefully sent me, yet I am glad to accept it with great respect and beg to return many thanks for the same.

The canary bird is yet well living brought to keep with me in this Royal Chamber.

I shall be very glad to hear from you all newspapers of Free Press and Straits Times in which the news of the change of Siamese Government and my exaltation were printed and published and read to know what the editors of them have rights to arrange them by learning from hence.

Please accept my rejoicful presents of my reign, contained in one packet for yourself and another for your lady, and 20 light wooden balls containing every one slung or quarter of tical, which balls werè used in falling from my royal boat when I was going around this city by river canal, every one of which 20 balls shall be distributed among them whom you please.

Please give my sincere regard to my English friends of Singapore namely Messrs. Hamilton, Grey, McKraal, John Jarvies, at Messrs. Hamilton, Grey and Co.'s shop, and Mr. C. Caldwell, the Committee of Singapore Museum and Mr. George Armstrong, to every one of whom you shall hand each a pair of Golden and Silver artificial flowers and every one red bag or purse of Siamese coins of my reign, cost near of one English pound, explanation of which they shall have from Mr. Nai Bhoom and Mr. Robert Hunter, who are my messengers now.

I have ordered Mr. Nai Bhoom to purchase for me many things, curious useful weapons, &ca. from Singapore. I wish your

(1) Sic.

graceful assistance to him how they shall be obtained easily by him.

Please let him see the museum of Singapore &ca.

I beg to remain your friend

with most respect

(Signed) Somdet Phra Paramend Maha Mongkut

newly enthroned King of Siam.

The King's Seal.

My card form, the two
seals in the former page
are Kings and my card form
or name in Chinese Characters—
King of Siam.

F. O., Siam,
vol. 3,

Dated Blessing Royal Chamber
Major palace Bangkok
24th May 1851.

To

Hamilton and Grey and

John Jarvies and W^m Kraal Esquires.

Sirs,

Your two letters of 20th and 21st April date were in my acknowledgement on 13th inst. when I was in most pleasant ceremony of my exaltation, before the enthronement in this royal seat two days.

Your present of the curious looking thing called "Othogronograph" together [with] a golden pen of John Jarvies Esq. was lately reached my hand and respectfully received of which I have written you longly my thanks for perhaps per "Prince of Wales" or the schooner of Mr. James Hayes. I can't recollect now.

I am grateful to you always but now excuse me to write you but little because I am in most affairs of the preparation and reformation of new Siamese Government since I have entered to this seat after the demise of my esteemed brother His Siamese Majesty which took place on the 2nd April inst.

It seemed to me by perusal of your letter of 21st April date that you are seeming to be have known of this change of Siamese Government from Opium traders Puket or any whence, but must be uncertain, yet I trust you will learn whole occurrence here on changing of the Siamese Government from the oral words of my messenger or letters of English and American friends here as well exactly as I need not write you relating all.

Four of you who were named on first address shall accept some glad or rejoiceful present of my enthronement from the hand of my dear friend Colonel J. W. Butterworth C. B. as well as it is custom of Siamese Kings to share such present among their visitors on their first enthronement.

The coins are stamped by new stamp of my reign.

You shall learn the custom of address and direction your letters to me on future from my messenger Nai Bhoom who was sent to your port to purchase some things for my use of which I wish your assistance.

I beg to remain
your kind friend
Somdetch Phra Paramend
Maha Mongkut
newly exalted
King of Siam.

[The above letter is enclosed in a yellow envelope, speckled with gold, measuring $2\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ inches, addressed :—]

To

Messrs. Hamilton Grey & Co.
and W^m Kraal Esquire and
John Jarvies Esquire
Singapore.

F. O., China,
vol. 216.

From

The most lawful and exalted Sovereign of the Kingdom of Siam and its adjacent tributary Countries, viz : of the Laossiangs on the North Western, Laos Khaos on the Northern and North Eastern, Khars Chhongs on the Eastern, Cambodia or Camboja on the South Eastern, and most parts of the Malay Pensinsula on the South-Western, and Karriangs on the Western direction,

To

His Excellency

Sir John Bowring K. C. B.,

Her Britannic Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Superintendent of Trade and Commerce in China, and Supreme Governor of Hongkong and its dependencies —

&c.

&c.

&c.

Dated Rajruty House, Grand Palace,
Bangkok, Siam, 18th July 1854.

My much respected Friend,

I have great honor in acknowledging receipt of Your Excellency's two letters under date the 5th of April last, written from Singapore, one of which letters was enclosed in that of my intimate friend Colonel Butterworth, K. C. B., the other came separately.

After receipt of Your Excellency's letter, on the 24th May, I wished to write you an immediate answer, but was prevented from doing so on account of my manifold affairs, and also from being indisposed in body, and thereby several opportunities were lost, but I trust Your Excellency will pardon this delay.

I am also happy to learn that Your Excellency, being my correspondent and respected friend, has been just knighted and appointed to be Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of Trade in China, and Governor of Hongkong and its dependencies; and that Your Excellency is also accredited to me with full powers from Her

Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, to enter into Treaties, and to discuss all subjects of interest between the Kingdom of Great Britain and its dependencies, and the Kingdom of Siam and its adjacent tributary countries, and that it is also Your Excellency's intention to visit Siam for that purpose: I shall therefore have the honor of meeting Your Excellency personally, and have an opportunity of making the friendship that exists between the Kingdom of Great Britain and our Country more firm and greater than it ever has been before.

To forward Your Excellency's purpose I would beg to suggest that proper and suitable arrangements must be made before Your Excellency's arrival here.

It is the custom in Siam that all official letters from other Countries should be received first by the Great Officer of the Foreign Department, entitled His Excellency Chau Phya Phraklang or Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, before the King or Sovereign of this Kingdom, who has a right to learn the contents afterwards from the aforesaid Officer, so that the contents or subject of the foreign letter should be believed and respected by the Council of our Government.

Your Excellency's former correspondences with me were considered as private, and the contents were not made known to our Council, as it is not customary. I am desirous therefore that Your Excellency should write and announce your intention of visiting Siam, and determine a time for your arrival here, say at least about two or three months after the date of Your Excellency's letter, and also express the manner of, and the number of vessels and people that will accompany your visit. Please let our officers of State be aware of the time of Your Excellency's arrival here, in order that they will know without doubt, and make proper preparations to receive Your Excellency and retinue with all suitable honors and respect, and also our officers of state knowing of Your Excellency's intention will be enabled to quell the fears of the people, who are of various races, and prevent exaggerated reports, because it is very seldom foreign vessels of war or steamers visit Siam.

His Excellency, Sir James Brooke, K. C. B., announced his visit three months previous to his arrival, so it has become a custom

which I would be desirous of Your Excellency's following.

At the same time I would be glad if Your Excellency would write also to me privately, and inform me of the nature of your visit, and give the substance of the Treaty you would be desirous of entering into, so that I might consult with my Council, and know what clauses in the proposed Treaty they would be willing to agree to, and what they would not. I would therefore inform you of the same for your consideration, and thereby will save a good deal of time and discussions after Your Excellency's arrival here.

Trusting Your Excellency is most Philanthropist whose all people of all nations may be amiable or beloved and will do mercy and indulgence to Siam for being well not less or lower than adjacent Kingdoms of Siam, namely Cochin China and Burmah.

I beg to remain Your Excellency's

good and faithful sincere friend

(Signed) S. P. P. M. Mongkut

the King of Siam and Sovereign

of Laos &c.

P. S.—I beg to enclose a Lithographed Paper containing the news of our war with Laos Khoms of Chiangtong during ult. and the present year. I trust you will be pleased to peruse and know that our war with frontier part of Burmah are yet in opposition of each other.(1)

(Signed). S. P. P. M. Mongkut

the King of Siam.

(1) On this war, see จดหมาย เหตุ เมือง ทวีป เชียงตุง, Bangkok, 2459.

F. O., China,
vol. 228.

Rajruty House
Grand Palace, Bangkok,
27th December 1854
which is the 4th of the
present reign in Siam.

To His Excellency

Sir John Bowring, K.C.B.,
The Britannic Plenipotentiary in
Eastern Seas, Governor of Hongkong
and Vice Admiral, &c., &c., &c.

Most Gracious Sir,

Your Excellency's three letters written at Hongkong, viz. one addressed to us both (two brothers, monarchs of Siam), and the other two to myself under the date of _____ together [with] another official address from Your Excellency himself, and the other from the American Envoy, Mr. _____ to the Supreme Minister of the department of Foreign Affairs in Siam, named His Excellency Chau Phya Phra - Khlang, announcing the subsequent visit of missions from England and United States, were reached my acknowledgment on 15th October inst. in safety.

The former of the aforesaid five letters was opened to my younger Royal brother too, the second and third were in myself perusal, the latter two were handed to the addressed officer, from whom I think Your Excellency must have now official reply in reference to Your Excellency's consideration regarding the change of commercial interest of the people here, and stating that our whole Supreme Council is very glad and already to accept Your Excellency with great respects and honours.

Moreover I have duly acknowledged the receipt of your very kind letter written me from Shianghae under the date of 4th October reached my hand in 9th inst. its contents written in most favorable and graceful to us as well proper as Your Excellency is real philanthropist thinking whole mankind through the world to be in Your Excellency's grace and amity. Your Excellency's styles are most satisfactory, I have informed to my Council orally, they

were very glad to learn and now already for Your Excellency's acceptance and have proclaimed to people to be in uniform peace without any consternation. The people is now following the proclamation of the Governments.

I beg to inform Your Excellency that we have a whitest she Elephant just apprehended at Eastern state of our tributary country. She is said to be in the same manner or kind of that one of my royal grandfather, and those three of my esteemed royal father, of which three the figures were at Your Excellency's hand.

The she Elephant will be brought from hence where it was apprehended on the present month, and will be arrived at old capital "Ayudia" on next month, in which time I will be absent from home for the capital "Ayudia" about half month more to welcome the white animal which we say to be admirable for adorn of our city. The greatest ceremony will be taken place here on her arrival according to the former custom upon the reigns of my royal grandfather and late father, when their whitest Elephants were arrived. I am very glad to wait upon Your Excellency that Your Excellency will witness the white animal personally if Your Excellency would arrive here in March or April.

In regard to the seat our war with Laos Khom of Shiang toong we sent on this season but three parties of our troops of 3,000 men headed by three noble commissioners to defend our realm in assistance to tributary northern Laos territories.

The offensive expedition is now delayed in this year for other new operation and enability of our troops in every one of our tributary countries yet the fighting would be taken place if Burman dependents offend our northern countries in return.

I beg to remain Your Excellency's good friend

(Signed) S. P. P. M. Mongkut,
the King of Siam.

F.O., Siam,
vol. 5.

L. S.
Major Rex
Siamensium.

L. S.
The Chinese Seal for Royal
letters of the King of Si-
amese Kingdom who is the
reigning defender and in-
structor of whole people
thereof.

Somdech Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut the First King of Siamese Kingdom and its dependencies Laos &c., &c., to all and singular to whom these presents shall come greeting :

Whereas Mr. Harry S. Parkes the Bearer to Our Court of Her Britannic Majesty's Ratification of the Treaty of Friendship and Commerce lately concluded with Us and Our Royal brother the Second King has reported to us on his arrival at Bangkok the accident which had befallen the presents in his charge designed for Us by Her Britannic Majesty whereby some had been injured and others entirely lost.

We have accordingly to acknowledge the receipt from Mr. Parkes of the following articles as described and numbered in the List of the Presents subjoined to the letter addressed to Us by Her Britannic Majesty.

1. A silver inkstand richly gilt with figures emblematical of science and art.
2. Two pairs of globes 36 inches in diameter.(1)
3. Two coloured engravings representing the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.
4. A best improved revolver pistol silver mounted in a case.
5. A gold enamelled double eye-glass with watch and gold cable neck chain.
6. A camera and complete photographic apparatus.
11. A collection of ornaments in glass, china &c.

(1) Now kept in the National Museum.

The above articles have been received by Us in good condition, and of the injured articles Mr. Parkes has also delivered to us.

7. Digby Wyatt's industrial Arts 2 volumes highly illuminated.

12. A collection of coloured diagrams illustrative of physiology, machinery, natural history, etc.

13. A complete set of charts of the Indian and China Seas, all of which have been discoloured or greatly damaged by the action of salt water.

We are informed by Mr. Parkes that by far the larger portion of the collection of philosophical apparatus, illustrative of astronomy, electricity and optics, numbered 8 in the List of Her Majesty's presents are irretrievably damaged.

We have received from him in good order a model of a steamer, a model of a Locomotive Engine and carriages⁽¹⁾ and air pump and a solar gun.

Also a polar clock, gyroscope and stereoscope, but the three latter instruments are of no avail in their present injured state.

The arithmometer and dressing case numbered 9 and 10 in the List of Her Majesty's Presents have not been delivered to Us by Mr. Parkes in consequence, as he informs Us, of their having been completely destroyed.

We do not blame Mr. H. Parkes in any term for the portions of the presents designed for Us by Her Gracious Britannic Majesty some being entirely lost some very injurious in being of no use and losing of their fine appearance, for the stated unfortunate accident is believable and heard by Us from many others, and such the unforeseen accident is in difficulty of human power to promptly prevent; merely we are thankful to Mr. Parkes for his great endeavour to reobtain their portion for Us.

Whatever of any kind of Britannic manufactures being the valued presents designed Us from Her Britannic Majesty, We are glad to keep for the mark of Her Majesty's kindness toward us and our highest and greatest honour through our descendants and suc-

(1) Also kept in the National Museum.

cessors that we and they should frequently or always keep in our and their remembrance the very kind favor of Her Gracious Britannic Majesty. We are not sorry for being lost and injurious of the portions of those valued presents.

Given at the Grand Palace in City of Ratnekosindr Mahindr Ayudia in province or district of Bangkok on Wednesday of waxing moon in the month of Visakh of the year of the Major Serpent or Quadruped Serpent bearing the number of Siamese Astronomical Era 1218, corresponding to European solar date of the 7th May in the year of Christian Era one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six which is the sixth of our reign.

L. S.

(manu regiâ)

S. P. P. M. Mong

L. S.

kut R. S^m.

F. O., Siam,
vol. 5.

[Red wax seal.]



[Red ink stamp.]



Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut the Supreme King
of Siam and its dependencies

&c.

&c.

&c.

To All and Singular to whom these presents shall come
Greeting!

Whereas the Honorable Harry Parkes Esquire returned from England and embarked for Siam in the H. C. Steam Frigate "Auckland" which arrived at the anchorage off the Bar of the mouth of the Chaw-Phayah river on the 12th day of March instant 1856. He stated he was the bearer of Her Britannic Majesty, the Queen Victoria's letter and presents designed for us, and the ratification of the new Treaty of friendship and commerce between the British and Siamese dominions which was concluded between the British and our plenipotentiaries who were appointed and empowered for the negotiation thereof by Her Britannic Majesty the Queen Victoria and us respectively, and which had been conveyed to England for approval and ratification of Her Britannic Majesty after the signature of the plenipotentiaries on both sides thereupon took place on the 18th April ultimo for being exchanged with the other Treaty remained herein for our ratification waiting that of Her Britannic Majesty, on the arrival of which accompanied with H.B.M.'s Royal letters to us, we have most rejoiced for this honour to us which has not ever been through several elapsed reigns of many late rulers of Siam, have accepted the Royal letter and ratification accompanied with Mr. Harry Parkes and other officers of the H. C. S. "Auckland" with great salutations and honours. The Auckland came up and anchored at the place limited by the treaty at 3 o'clock P.M. of the 24th April, when the royal salutes were given mutually making the royal

friendship now become very firm, known to all the people of this city and all adjacent villages without any consternation or exaggeration, so our people of various races and different tongues are generally ignorant of foreign usual affairs, and such honorary occurrences. On the 13th of March we prepared the processions both by land and by water in the greatest highest honour, all fully in manner and numbers of honouring articles as royal state gilt boats, sedan, flags, umbrellas, fans being royal insignia, companies of music &c., for highest royalty, with companies of great armed body guards which are only needed for royal letters &c. when the above King does not go himself in the procession, and sent to accept Her Britannic Majesty's letter from on board the H. C. S. "Auckland" and convey by the stream of the Chaw Phaya River until the Tha Phra : landing place, where Her Britannic Majesty's letter was removed from the state royal gilt boat in procession in the river to the royal gilt palanquin surrounded with many gilt umbrellas and fans (for royal insignias) in the land procession by which the British royal letter was conveyed to the Court, where the great ceremony of receipt thereof was already among great honoured assembly consisting of the principal royal princes and nobles dressed with their full dresses of dignity. All our officers directed in both processions &c. have fully done accordingly, have conveyed Her Britannic Majesty's letter and portion of the royal presents with their bearer Mr. Parkes and his accompanied English offices from on board the Steamer to our Court at the royal Pyramidical gilt residence named Tusit Maha Prasad where we have received the royal letter from the hands of Mr. Harry Parkes and have read it in English style for being witnessed of understanding by the English strangers who were in our presence in this ceremony and have translated the contents of the royal letter orally in audience to all the Siamese principal princes and ministers of state in the ceremonial meeting, let all be very glad to learn and congratulate us in this our honour of having received the royal very kind and friendly communication from the great Sovereign of the most powerful dominion. After which we have conversed with H. S. Parkes Esqre., the bearer of the royal letter of which we have

given a note of the receipt written with our royal hand in English character and sealed with our official and particular seals, and have given our cordial notice to other English officers of the steamer, after which the chiming harmoniously of company of music was commenced in honour to Her Britannic Majesty and after the separating of the Court, the bearer of the royal letter with his accompanied English officers of the steamer were conducted to the right central court house where pleasant festivities and entertainment were offered to them.

On the 2nd of April inst., the gratifying receipt of the royal letter and portion of the presents designed by Her Majesty for the second King of Siam took place at the Northern Royal Palace with similar processions and salutation ceremonies. All insignias suitable to the great sovereign were sent from the Grand Palace to convey Her Britannic Majesty's royal letter in the manner as full as on the last march for suitable highest honour to Her Britannic Majesty.

The fifth day of April on next of which day the new treaty was stipulated to be in operation and effect, was appointed by Harry Parkes Esq. and our officers of state that it will be the day of exchanging the copies of the ratified Treaty on both sides.

Whereupon the interval between that day and the day of receipt of Her Majesty's letter and portion of royal presents, we have prepared our royal words expressing our approval and ratification of the new Treaty with the British dominions in both languages, Siamese and English, the fore part which was preliminarily prefaced to the original copy of the treaty under the impressed seal of the Siamese Kingdom named "Phra Maha Eyerabotre"⁽¹⁾, and last part was annexed at the end of the copy of the treaty sealed with our royal official and peculiar impressing seals upon our manual sign both in English and in Siamese, shewing our official and peculiar titles, and the whole copy of the treaty was tied with gilt strings that appended for the royal stamping seals which we have affixed at the middle tie of the appending string being a great seal of Siamese Kingdom, "Phra Grudhbah"⁽²⁾ on one surface and our royal standard,

(1) Representing the three-headed elephant under a pavilion.

(2) Representing Vishnu riding Garuda.

accompanied [by] our private seal in English characters on the other surface, and the sealed place was covered with a silver gilt box engraved with the figure of our royal standard. When the ratification was already here at our Court in the "Tusit Maha Prasad" on the appointed day, then it was sent to receive royal seals and manual sign from our royal full brother the second King, after whose ratification it was returned here and exchanged before our Great Council at the right court house in this palace at 4 P.M. In which exchange our high officers of state and Mr. Harry Parkes did make their asserted receipt of the exchanged Treaties, copies and assurances of their being alike in every part and clauses by comparing perusal upon that time through their signed and sealed documents, after which the salute of 21 guns was fired at the gate of this Palace. And on the ensuing night when the ratified copy of the treaty which was brought from England was conveyed to our royal audience at the Tusit Maha Prasad and placed in the table before the throne in which Her Britannic Majesty's letter was placed, the Congregation of many English men who accompanied H. S. Parkes Esquire on exchanging of the ratification came in our Palace and took their seats at the frontier spot of the "Tusit Maha Prasad". A pleasant theatrical entertainment was performed in honor to Her Britannic Majesty's royal letter and ratification until the midnight at near of which we were standing before the congregation of all English persons who stood in our presence being attentively listening and have expressed our good wishes through our speech in English language for Her Britannic Majesty who has honored us with manual honor of royal letter and kind indulgent ratification of the new treaty, and after our respect to Her Britannic Majesty in our speech, H. S. Parkes Esqre. has returned his thanks and good wishes towards us through his speeches in behalf of his Gracious Sovereign. This night was very pleasant to English and Siamese who were assembled for the theatrical amusement in the royal honour.

When the deliverance of the royal letters and exchange of the ratifications were finished Harry Smith Parkes Esqre. stated to our high Ministers of state that he had received an order from

Right Honourable the Earl of Clarendon, Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, when he was appointed the bearer of Her Majesty's ratification of the new treaty to Siam and already to return from England that he shall ask our Government for specifying enumeration of the articles of the old treaty between the Honourable the East India Company and the Siamese Government made in the year 1826, what articles or their clauses were abrogated or abolished by the new treaty's articles, and what should be retained in force, and for the explanation of certain articles and clauses of the new treaty which seemed to be gloomy or obscure and so imperfect as may be liable to disputes in future, and that he shall have more discussion for this purpose from Siamese Government. Our Ministers have laid their subject before our consideration. Then our thought occurred that although there was no credentials in hand of Mr. Harry Parkes from Her Britannic Majesty or Her Majesty's Secretary of State for foreign affairs that he has been appointed and invested with the power to ask our government for such important specification of the articles of the old treaty what were abrogated by the new Treaty and what remained in force, and commentary explanations of certain articles of the new treaty more than the original, nor such request for this purpose, particularly and exactly appeared in content of Her Britannic Majesty's royal letter to us, in which there is an expression of Her Majesty's pleasure on a certain clause of the royal letter that Her Majesty's servant Mr. Parkes should have the other audiences of us more than that when he has delivered Her Majesty's royal letter to us, whenever he might have necessity to approach us in person Yet it is may be best and no harm if we permit him to confer with our royal Commissioners on these subjects by holding reasonable and advantageous indulgent Conversation with each other for prevention of controversies and disputes in future and for being easily understood by common people on both sides &c. Whereupon we have appointed four Siamese plenipotentiaries who ever had made the new treaty with Sir John Bowring K. C. B. last year and add the other one individual named His Excellency Chau P'haya Yomraj S. P. N. our secretary in holding the affair of presiding over

the matters concerning lands, limits of provinces and districts &c., in full number of five plenipotentiaries, one of whom namely His Lordship the first regent who lost his life immediately after the signature of the new treaty; that these five individuals headed with our royal half brother His Royal Highness Krom Hluang Wongsa Dhiraj Sanidh in behalf of whole Siamese Royalty, shall be our royal commissioners or deputies to hold consultation with Mr. H. S. Parkes with whom they (our Commissioners) have several meetings and holding of consultations on various subjects and matters for that purpose of specification of the articles of the old and certain explanations of some articles and clauses of the new treaty. The space of time more than 30 days was elapsed, in which period Mr. H. S. Parkes formed an agreement between himself and our Commissioners written in English firstly in three principal parts viz.

The first part contains 12 articles of the Commentary agreements.

The second contains 7 regulations of the custom house, and the third contains the Schedule of the land taxes &c in 5 Sections. On the time that the draft of this agreement was completely written in English, Mr. H. S. Parkes and our royal Commissioner have required an English interpreter here to translate the same in Siamese style to confer with our Commissioners and our approval but the interpreter could not fulfil the proper terms of Siamese language, as usual Siamese idiom as shall be understood exactly and could not place particularly the main and sub divisions of articles of the agreement as exact as to be well understood throughout by our countrymen, wherefore our royal Commissioners did not wish to sign and seal thereupon unless they might have best Siamese translation accompanied therewith, but Mr. H. S. Parkes was in a hurry to return as soon as the early part of May, wherefore our royal Commissioners have indulged to him and have promised to him that if we ourselves have translated the contents of the agreement as soon as orally throughout and if the meaning thereof were correct with the subjects which they have stipulated with Mr. Parkes verbally before or not contrary to our proposal they will believe in ourselves statements in translation of English document and place their signa-

tures upon the only English Copy of which they have no knowledge.

It was resolved therefore to carry the English Copy for perusal and consideration of ourselves by Mr. Parkes and our commissioners finally.

We have perused it throughout and corrected certain words and clauses according to the approval of Mr. Harry Parkes with great and deep consideration and observed that it would be best one for being commentary document of the existing treaty which now became in operation and effect, if the British Government approve it to be established in accompanying of the treaty. We have translated it to our five royal commissioners through our oral statements of its contents, and our five royal commissioners have approved that it was wholly correct and praiseworthy for their confidence in our verbal translation; they have unanimously signed and sealed upon two English Copies written out from the original draft which has been revised and translated by ourselves. And these two copies were read compared by several invited English and American persons here from their written statement that those Copies were found very correct to each other and the original draft.

The signature of this agreement took place on the thirteenth day of May 1856.

Harry Smith Parkes Esquire during his stay here became intimate with us by several correspondences in letters and notes; mutually and occasionally had several personal interviews with us and our dear Queen Consort, both publicly and privately; he has learnt from us several particular notices and remarks of the generations of our Royal dynasty from our statement which he wrote in his pamphlet and he has repaired several articles of the Royal presents sent to us from Her Britannic Majesty according to his ability, and the conveniences obtainable here, and has delivered us certain portion thereof in due times, at the last of which times he has a sealed written document from us in their receipt, in which we have stated that he is harmless or blameless indeed, for the articles being lost and injured of the Royal presents entrusted to his care for us, from Her Britannic Majesty, in an unforeseen moment,

an accident which he met off Singapore at the time of transshipment of those articles on board the Steam Frigate "Auckland" &c. We have expressed our sincere thanks to him, by bestowing upon him two bat eye rings, manufactured in Siam, and a few articles of gilt, silver cigar case plates and water pot together with a long pipe of "Ranjwangse" bamboo, which are the same articles for the insignia of our ministers of considerable rank here.

We observe Mr. Harry Parkes is a good person, circumspective and industrious for very advantageous service to his Gracious Sovereign and subsequent happiness of his countrymen, and for a British Consul &c. &c. who might be here in future in operation of the new Treaty. He did not spend a single day idly without any opinion for suit the purpose and being respectful to us and obedient in reasonable way of instruction which he has received from us, and we found him very skillful in literature have best ability in being author of any useful work of manuscript.

We observe the new agreement which he wrote is a good work suitable for being commentary of the new Treaty, we have assured him we shall do our uttermost attention to let our officers of state and people here in its accordance perfectly as long as it would lie in our power. If the Supreme British Government approve it wholly as its original which we have so approved, we have prepared and written a long proclamation to our countrymen in Siamese styles in accordance to the articles of the new Treaty and in important marks explained in that agreement, the copy of which was given to Mr. Parkes himself, but is not yet translated in English style as he was in a great hurry to return from hence. We have required also our Chinese and Cochin Chinese officials interposition to translate the original form of the new Treaty in Chinese Style the copy of which we have given to Mr. Parkes for his observation; he said that it was not a good one, he required us to require His Excellency Sir John Bowring L. L. D. to revise and print in Chinese Style at Hong Kong and to send several copies here for distribution among our Chinese and Cochin Chinese people here.

Shall all and singular to whom these presents shall come, greeting; know through these presents being our recommendation and approval of the agreement which Mr. Harry Parkes has written in stipulation with our Royal Commissioners, appointed and empowered for this purpose.

Given at Rajruty house Grand Palace Ratne Kosindr, Bangkok. First of waxing moon in the lunar month of Wisakh in the year of Quadrupe Serpent bearing the Siamese Astronomical Era 1218, corresponding to the 14th day of May in the Christian year 1856,—which is the sixth of our reign.



[Red ink stamp with pattern in border, & inscription in centre. Written across in black ink as above.]



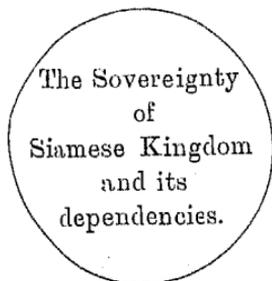
[Red ink stamp with pattern all over. Written across in black ink as above.]

[Endorsed].

F. O., China,
vol. 248.

(King's Seal).

Manu Regi
Siamensium
Anno Siximo.



Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut,

By the blessing of highest and greatest superagency of
Universe.

The King of Siam and Sovereign of all tributary Countries adjacent in every direction namely Laos Sheangs Laockaus Cambodia Kareungs and most of Malay Peninsula and professor of Pali language and Buddhistical literature, &c., &c.

To all and a Singular to whom these presents shall come
Greeting!

We have acknowledged the receipt of the letter of the President of United States of America, whose name is Franklin Pierce, dated City Washington, twelfth of September 1855, handed us by Honble. Townsend Harris Esquire, who is the Envoy appointed to make a new Treaty with Us as amending the old Treaty of the said country with ours for being improved and more advantageous to both sides in similar manner of that with English Governments just done.

We have the said letter perused at our Supreme Court on the first day of May 1856.

Agreeably to request of Government of United States of America, we have Counsel of whole Royalty and our Council and appointed one of our Royal brother, three high Ministers Officers of States who were totally four individuals ever have been appointed Plenipotentiaries on our part and held the Consultation and made the new Treaty with Sir John Bowring English Plenipotentiary on last year, and add the other one in place of our first Regent who

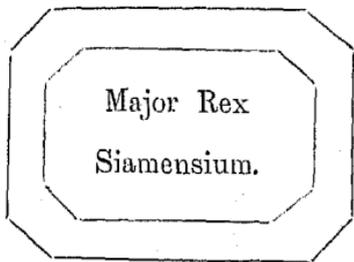
had been one of the five plenipotentiaries in last year and lost his life in the time of the Treaty with English was just sealed and signed on 18th April 1855, so our plenipotentiaries were full five individuals invested with full power to make the new Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between Siam and United States of America on our part and hold consultation with Townsend Harris Esquire the Envoy Plenipotentiary of U. S. of America. Their names and offices were fully mentioned in the form of the Treaty.

Although they were appointed by us on very early part of the current month, but in consequence of their business in being Our Royal Commissioners to make the Agreement (which is a Commentary of the Treaty with English both old and new) with Mr. Harry Smith Parkes who was the bearer of ratifications of the new Treaty from England for exchange here and prepare all its provisions after that Agreement was done on late of the present month, they have held the Consultation with Townsend Harris Esquire on a few occasions,—the American envoy has framed the new Treaty in very similar manner of that of English and wrote in triplicates, which were concluded by signatures of both Siamese and American Plenipotentiaries on the 29th May 1856.

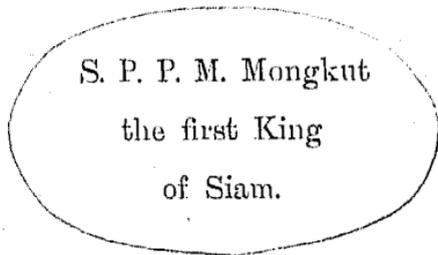
After which date Townsend Harris Esquire was in greatest hurrying for his departure on 31st May. We could not postpone his departure for a few days more in next week. We regret very much we could not furnish proper Royal letter in answer to the letter addressed us by the President of U. S. of America and already in picking and preparing the suitable Royal presents for the President who have goodness enough to offer Us his good friendship remarked by his valued presents designed to us on this occasion, as the time is very narrow between the day of the conclusion of the Treaty and departure of the Envoy. Therefore for declaration our being sincerely gratitude to the President of United States of America indeed and for our further promise that we send our Royal letter and suitable Royal presents to America on other occasion by any rate when good opportunity allow. We wrote these present with our Royal hand and sealed with great Seal of Our Kingdom and our official and particular Seals for our

Royal Standard — to be a credentials from us in hand of Honble. Townsend Harris Esquire the Envoy.

Given at our Court of Amarindr Winechae Ratne Kosindr Bangkok on the Saturday 12th the Waning moon in the Lunar month of Wesakh in the year of Quadruped Serpent bearing the number of Siamese Astronomical Era 1218 — corresponding to the 31st May 1856 of Christian Era which is the sixth of our reign.



(Signed)



[Endorsed :—]

First King's letter to
the President of the
United States.

F. O., China,
vol. 248.

(King's Seal).



Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut by the blessing from highest superagency of the whole Universe the first King of the Siamese Kingdom and Sovereign of its dependent tributary countries lying around in adjacent States viz: Laos, Cambodia, most of Malay Peninsula &c. and Professor of the Pali language and Buddhistical literature &c. &c. &c.

To all and Singular to whom these presents shall come greeting!

We have the great honor of acknowledging the receipt of the letter sealed with the great seal of the United States of America dated 12th September 1855 from the hands of the Honourable Townsend Harris Esquire who was appointed Consul General of the United States for the Empire of Japan and Envoy Plenipotentiary to our Kingdom for negotiations of a new Treaty and the amendment of the Old Treaty of friendship and commerce between the United States of America and Siam for some improvement as more advantageous to both sides, and who has delivered several valued presents to us with the list which was copied and put herein in next page stating these valued presents were entrusted to his care and designed to us by Franklin Pierce, President of the United States of America, at our Court in the Pyramidical Royal residence named Tusit Maha Prasad on the first day of May 1856. We have received them all in good condition completely with great sincere thanks to Franklin Pierce, President of the United States of America, who has great liberty to design for us Hble. Townsend Harris Esquire who has conveyed those to us in very good condition. We were much

pleased with all those presents enumerated as follows — viz :

Two splendid mirrors, very thick plates, measuring 80 inches by 56 inches, with frames finely carved out of solid wood, and richly gilt.

Two superior Solar Chandeliers each 8 lights, ormolu gildings, after the premium models of the World's Exhibition in 1851. Thirty six cut glass globes for the same. Thirty six plain glass chimnies. Seventy two dozen of lamp wicks.

One compound achromatic microscope of the most approved form for the magnifying of minute objects, with 3 eye pieces of different powers. Four sets of achromatic object glasses of different focuses, double mirror moveable stage, diagonal eyepiece, condensor, dissecting instruments, box of objects, and camera lucida, by which an accurate drawing of any object viewed in the microscope may be taken.

One solar microscope by which a magnified image of any object is represented on a white wall or screen, has 3 rack adjustments, 3 inch condensing lens, 3 object glass of different magnifying powers and 3 objects finely prepared.

A small box containing 12 finely prepared objects for the solar microscope.

One small box containing 12 finely prepared objects for the compound achromatic microscope.

A book descriptive of the objects most interesting for the microscope with many plates.

One Sharp's patent primer rifle, octagon barrel, globe sight, No. 32 gauge, and German silver mounted.

Two lbs. of Sharp's primers.

One hundred cartridges.

One rich engraved, extra fine finished, richly gilt, ivory handled Colts' 5 inch pistol, in rich brass bound rosewood case, velvet lined, with fine extra plated flasks, moulds, wrench key &c., best percussion caps, powder, balls, &c. &c. complete.

One portrait, life size, of General Washington.

One portrait, life size, of Genl Pierce.

One republican court or society in the days of General

Washington illustrated and splendidly bound, scarlet Turkey morocco, full gilt.

One Webster's American Dictionary unabridged bound in scarlet Turkey morocco, full gilt and lettered, presented to His Majesty the King of Siam by Franklin Pierce President of the United States of America.

- 1 Coloured View of the City of Washington.
- 1 do. — do. — .. New Orleans.
- 1 do. — do. — .. New York from St. Paul's Church.
- 1 do. — do. — .. New York from the Bay.
- 1 do. — do. — Boston.
- 1 do. — do. — Senate Chamber at Washington.
- 1 do. — do. — Philadelphia.
- 1 do. — do. — West Point.
- 1 do. — do. — Chrystal Palace New York.
- 1 tinted ——— City of New Orleans.
- 1 view of an express railway train.

One map of the United States from Atlantic to Pacific Oceans, on rollers.

We have liberty to give these presents shewing whole enumeration of the above said articles which were received by us from the hand of Townsend Harris Esqre. sealed our Royal seals both official and peculiar Standard seals and signed with our Royal hand to be credential in the hands of the bearer.

Given at our Court of Amarindr Winchae Grand Palace Ratne Rosindr Bangkok on the Saturday which the 12th of waning moon of the Lunar month of Wisakh, in the year of the quadruped Serpent bearing the number of Siamese astronomical era 1218 — corresponding to the 31st May in the year of Christian era 1856 which is the sixth of our reign.



(Signed.)

