

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE OF
KING MONGKUT.

(Continued).

F. O., Siam,
vol. 4.

Grand Palace

17th July 1856.

To C. B. Hillier Esq.
the British Consul in Siam.
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I am indeed doing my attention to let you have proper place for the British Consulate.

The greater part of the piece of land in neighbouring place of the Portuguese Consulate is belonged to many Malayan and Burman people who are very common native inhabitants here. I will compel them all the owners of that part of land to sell their land to you in customary price of every one Tical for every one square fathom, according to the modern Siamese law and Royal custom, or little lessening for the part thereof, which were or are useless to the possessors before. But I am in a difficulty for a part of that land wished and pleased by you, in which the limekiln is included or enclosed, as the said part of that land belonged to His Excellency Phya Bhrabal Sombatta, who is noble Minister of His Majesty the Second King, and not of mine, so his land is in right to be dependant to the Second King. I have no right to compel the owner or possessor thereof to sell to you in the foresaid price.

My promise also to Mr. Parkes was, I will compel but the common people who were the possessors of any piece of lands in two banks of this river below the fortification of Pom Pong prachamitre to Pom Pit pacha-mûk and above the Dow Khanong where the course of this river bending to the Eastern Point, to sell their land to the British Consul by one Tical for a square fathom according to Siamese law for the purpose of Royalty. But I have no right to compel the members of Siamese Government to sell their possessed land by this law without counsel of them. It is occurred to me now, that it would be rightful and best if you may write your petition or request for whole or part of the land belonged to Minister or servant of His Majesty the Second King, and send to the Second King himself for his consideration and assistance, as the land and its possessor belonged to him, not mine indeed.

And the Second King had signed the appointment of Siamese plenipotentiaries on the time of negotiation of the Treaty, and the Treaty's royal acts in exchange and appointment of Royal Commissioners in making the commentary agreement with Mr. Parkes finally; and he has received the Royal letter and presents and recommendation from Her Britannic Majesty in equal respect with myself, so I think it is right that he ought to assist Her Britannic Majesty's Government in any rates where the necessity occurred directly to his part. The royal presents to him from England reached his hand from hand of Her B. Majesty's servants (Sir John Bowring and Mr. Parkes) personally, not through my care and introduction; wherefore it is I think right that you shall write your request to him yourself. Merely I will suggest or let him be aware that you will write him for that purpose of that part. This piece of land I think good for being British Consulate as it is below the fortification above which it is stipulated in the Treaty that the vessel of men of war conveying a functionary Mission from Her Majesty's Governments shall not cross without permission of the Siamese Governments; and near of the place in which the Custom House will be

built or constructed and the residence of the officers who will have right to consult with British Consul &c. &c.

What I have written in the preceding pages, if you dislike, you shall send this my communication to His Excellency Sir John Bowring L. L. D. for his consideration. I please indeed that place to be the British Consulate. In the part belonged to the people commonly, I will compel the owners of land to receipt their lands' price from you according to Siamese royal law or decision and determination of the principal officers of State, if you might say the ticals per the square fathoms are dear of heavy, but I beg to excuse for the piece of land belonged to His Majesty the Second King's servant, and as he also is the King of Siam and has right to hear from foreigners, and he is clever and has more facility of the English language, custom, usage &c. than myself.

I wish to write you so long yesterday, in which day your letter was received, but owing to that I had no leisure hour to do so I had sent you but a little note and small credentials in hand of His Excellency Phya Paymephrathand, and Mr. S. R. House who might give you this my opinion verbally or orally, but in fearing of your disbelieve or misunderstanding, I have now liberty to write you so long communication as this leisure time allow to do.

I beg to remain

Your good friend

S. P. P. M. Mongkut

Major King of Siam.

F. O. China,
vol. 267.

Extracts from Letter dated Royal Residence,
Grand Palace, Bangkok, 19 March 1857, from
His Majesty the First King of Siam to the
address of His Excellency Sir John Bowring &c.

I beg to offer my great many heartfelt sincere thanks to Your Excellency for their gracious merciful favourable kind contents in very sincerity and friendly feeling. I beg to assure Your Excellency, that I am alway trusting with great confidence in Your Excellency, that Your Excellency will favour me with best opinion for my happiness and advantages.

Regarding the piece of ground needed by Mr. C. B. Hillier the late Consul, which I have purchased myself and now offered to Her Britannic Majesty's Government, I shall declare to Your Excellency in what cause I have opinion to do so, but such declaration will take several lines in my handwriting, and the bearer hereof hurried me much to finish my Letter as he will proceed tomorrow morning, so I beg [to] leave those intended lines and to promise to Your Excellency that I will write Your Excellency fully on another opportunity.

I have learnt from Your Excellency's information and other searches, and many newspapers of Hongkong and Singapore the news of disturbance occurred at Canton, for very great ignorance in Western Power which prevailing in mind of Chinese Governments and people, who I think merely practised in only cosmology (false Chinese Geography) called "Bun po Chuan sec" &c., and false atlas or maps of world made by Chinese, which prove but the Chinese Empire to be greatest than Europe and America, which they did inserted therein as small islands. I am very sorry for so mistaken and misknowledges of Maderins in the matter occurred. The Governor General or Tongtock yet must be newly come from Pakin, being appointed by the new young Emperor of China, who must have less knowledge of marine power and foreign custom and right of international laws &c.

I am now sustaining the lost of my fund in hand of Mr. Nai Kham whom I have delivered to take refuge under Your Excellency's clemency on last year. My fund for construction of

several needed articles in Canton more than two thousand dollars were lost, for the Chinese agent and makers of articles were disturbed. Yet I hope the Emperor of China, in reminding of the foreign western force (he received now and will receive more after a few months), will bring to his senses and may appoint his good mission to settle the matter with Your Excellency and Admiral, so as for restoration of the trade in Canton and for payment of the all foreign interests that have been lost in that disturbance, then what parts or whole interest of the foreigners will be paid, how much all foreigners will have recovered, I will perhaps recover my fund or interest that has been lost, but I beg to place this my interest desire to Your Excellency's kind attention; for this purpose of recovering my fund my man Mr. Nai Kham did not yet return from Hong-kong by the Siamese Crown, on the arrival of which vessel I have received from hand of Honorable Mr. Gingell, the new British Consul for Siam (appointed by Your Excellency), the letter under the date of 30th January instant on 26th February inst.

On first arrival of Mr. Gingell, I have heard several English traders here who are saying that they have no greater respect in Mr. Gingell, as he was only appointed from Your Excellency, than in Mr. Charles Bell, who has received Consular power from His Lordship the Earl of Clarendon, but after a few days they say that they please muchly with Mr. Gingell, as they know that he will have appointment from the British Government at home, as soon as when the information and request from Your Excellency would reach England, in like manner of Mr. C. B. Hillier's Consular appointment received here.

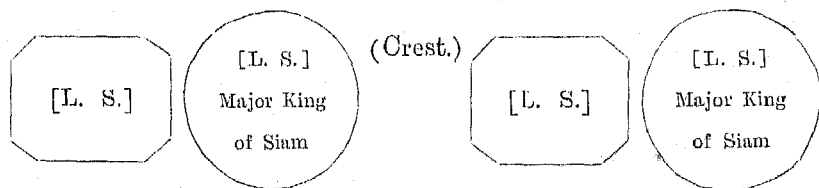
Mr. Gingell and Mr. [Ala] baster who accompanied [him] has paid visit [to] me on third day of their arrival here, and were treated by me and our officers of state with due respect. Mr. Gingell seems to be a good man, is not very proud and is very intelligeable person. He has held good conversation with me very pleasantly.

Your Excellency's Letter addressed to my younger Royal Brother, the Second King, by Mr. Gingell was delivered to my hand, as the second King was absent from hence three months more from December to the early part of the current month:— he took his journey at the province of Gorath about 150 miles distance from hence,

for the purpose of clearing the road route inland to be easily employed by travellers, who will and may bring products of that province for commercial disposal here, where now the trade with foreigners is increased.— So I have forwarded Your Excellency's Letter to him by land.

Mr. Gingell and his wife wished to accompany me to Ayudia, the old Capital of Siam, for witnessing the official apprehension of wild elephants brought in locked castle therein. I have given my boat to them by which they both have accompanied me in like manner of the other my foreign friends here, one of whom the bearer hereof is. Your Excellency can do inquiry for what he has seen at Ayudia in this my journey with Mr. Gingell and his wife, who both have also personal interview with my beloved Princess Consort R. Bh. at the Elephant's Castle at Ayudia. They seemed to be great deal pleased with us, but they have returned here on the 12th inst. before me two days, saying that they were unhappy for feeling of very warm air there in that climate.

F. O. Siam,
vol. 9.



Somdetch Phra: Paramendr Maha Mongkut, By divine blessing of the Superagency of the universe, the Major King of the Siamese Kingdom & its adjacent tributary regions, Laos, Cambodia, several provinces of Malay peninsula &c. &c.

To our worthy noble friend

Right Honorable the Earl of Clarendon, Her Britannic Majesty's Minister Secretary of the State of foreign & colonial affairs in London &c. &c.

Respectfully sendeth Greeting.

Respected Sir

I have great honor in acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's letter under the date of 9th October ultimate year which reached my hand on 15 December ult., & after perusal of which my heart was full indeed with great thanks [to] you for its purport you have given me, for the information of the Siamese government's conducts in ceremony of receiving the royal letter & presents from Her Britannic Majesty to us & in exchanging the ratifications of the Anglo Siamese Treaty were reported to Her Britannic Majesty & Government & satisfied by her & them, and until that the copies of the Treaty and its commentary agreement were published in official Gazette to be laid before Parliament at its next meeting, and that Her Britannic Majesty given her direction to prepare some other articles to replace those parts of Her Majesty's last presents designed for my acceptance. For the said information contained in your Lordship letter, I beg to offer your Lordship my heartfelt thanks sincerely.

I have translated the content of your Lordship's letter in

Siamese style & read before our council, in which a member there of, who is "Chauphya Phra-Khlang" the high minister of the foreign affairs here, has also stated that he has received an official letter from your Lordship in similar purport, which he handed me to peruse & translate orally in our court. All who were present to our audience upon that day were glad to observe with admiration, that our government become having opportunity to have intercourse of mutual friendship and correspondences with the main Government of British nation, whose colonies are now very near of our country & whose subjects are trading & residing here continually several years ago, but such the honor to our government from the British Government at home was just received by the ruler & principal members of our Government recently. They conceived that this effects occurred to promote the friendship between British & Siamese Dominions and confirm it betterly than that ever existed before, for causes that we both (myself & my younger brother the Second King) & a few officers of State here ever pleased with knowledges of English language &c., which has been studied by us previously before our ascension to the throne in some degrees of our facilities.

I think it was my duty to write for offering our thanks your Lordship immediately in the month of December ult. or January inst. without delay, but I considered that, whereas We have had cause our Minister officer of the foreign affair here to write your Lordship in announcing our unanimous desire to send our Ambassy to the court of Her Britannic Majesty, to whom we wish to pay our respectful homage by personal interview of Siamese Ambassy, the answer to that announcement is not yet received by our Minister from your Lordship for decision, also that the correspondence with your Lordship is considered here as a great important for our nation. I have therefore hesitated to give my answer to your Lordship upon that due time, as I am expecting to have the best opportunity to write your Lordship through our Ambassy, one or two members of which may be the bearer of my letter & sincere respects & regard expressible by verbal statement to be handed to your Lordship, separately.

from the Royal letter to Her B. Majesty from us & the official letter from the minister officer of State of foreign affair here to your Lordship, it might be perhaps better than to write your Lordship immediately.

Now We have greatest honor in having received the indulgence from Her Gracious Majesty ascertained on last month, in which Your Lordship's answer to the said announcement through our minister informed us as your Lordship's letter in reply to the announcement of our last desire was reached our officers' hand on the early part of June inst.

How extremely We were very glad when We have learnt the news of being courtesy & gracious of Her B. Majesty toward us in directing this best & easiest opportunity to send our Embassy to England, & when the Steam Frigate *Encounter*, Captain O'Callaghan, arrived from China for that purpose to express our gladness exactly is due here now, but I beg leave as I have fully mentioned & expressed in my royal letter to your Gracious Sovereign in this occasion, from whom I doubt not your Lordship will have learnt wholly my royal letters' purports.

Merely allow me to officer (*sic*) your Lordship my very sincere friendly feeling through the proof from me being a few articles of presents enumerated in the superscriptions aft part. I shall be very glad if your Lordship accept those from hand of the first & second Ambassador, to whose care I have entrusted designing for your Lordship's kind acceptance, desiring that they will be mark or proof of the true amity and sincere friendship between your Lordship & myself, & to be a token of my remembrance in hand of your Lordship in future.

Whatever I would desire too to send to your Lordship's notice for information of all, I have ordered our minister officer of State Chauphya Phra-Khlang to write your Lordship fully in his official letter accompanied the Embassy, hoping your Lordship will enter in consideration & give instruction to us & our government for promotion to best state of international friendship of this inferior nation,

which now become relating with greater or superior nations of Three Treaty powers.

There are many things which were not well understood by us regarding several clauses in the Treaty & its explanatory or commentary agreement & more over in code of International laws, which we have just tested by partly audience from conversation of certain bodies came from enlightened nations. We have therefore ordered the first & second Ambassadors to do their enquiries for some explanation and some instruction from Her Majesty's Government, even by verbal conversation, to be informed to us on their being returned here, though they were not invested with power to settle any agreement for this country, beyond only deliverance of our letters & presents to Her Britannic Majesty with our respectful homage, & to hand letters & presents from me & our officers ministers to your Lordship & others, as they are very young, not yet appointed in rank of principal members of our Government. I would beg your Lordship kind courteous attention & protection upon them during their being in boards Her B. Majesty's men of war in their ways of going & coming & their stay in England, how they would obtain favourable audience of Her Majesty in council for high & great honor to us, & some audiences of principal princes or princesses in royal family, if it can be permitted in any manner.

And I wish them to have favourable audience from principal Ministers officers of State in Her Majesty Service, how will be proper & permitable, I beg to place this purpose under your Lordship's consideration. I would say so longer but I beg leave.

After the date (death?) of Mr. Consul C. B. Hillier, Sir John Bowring L. L. D. my old friend has sent Mr. *Remound Gingell* from China to officiate the consular affairs here in service to Her Britannic Majesty. Mr. R. Gingell has arrived here on late of March inst. & is dutiful in officiating the consular affair in service to Her Britannic Majesty with his uttermost endeavour in great honesty, he is praiseworthy person indeed. Our officers of State pleased mostly with him than other consuls of various nation who have been and are now

in this port. We & almost everyone of the principal members of our government are saying that, if this praiseworthy gentleman or other alike is in office of consul here for the faithful service to British Government and favour to our nation, this country will be happy in best condition for better and more better advantage to both native and foreign. All persons of both native and foreigners, who are resident and trading here and who honestly or sincerely please with righteousness and honesty &c., cannot hint Mr. Consul Gingell in lower state, whatever he did in affairs of consul here since his arrival until the present days. I have ordered Chauphya Phra-Khlang to inform your Lordship in his letter officially sent with our embassy. I would beg your Lordship only to recommend it whole to be true and believable.

He (Mr. Consul Gingell) has requested our government to lend him some amount for the fund of building the public buildings in place which I have offered to Her Britannic Majesty for being place of consulate here. We have lent him the sum of 4 piculs of silver coins or Tcs. 16000, that is to say sixteen thousand ticals, trusting he will pay us faithfully when remittance from your Lordship or Her Majesty's Government will arrive here.

I beg to assure your Lordship we will give some assistance to the building of the British consulate here, according to our custom of royal power's allowances and ability when requisite, if the British consul be this person or other alike.

I would solicit your Lordship to assure Her Britannic Majesty for my characters of being gratitude to her esteemed royal favour upon me by honoring me highly with royal letter and presents on last occasion, and great indulgence in this best opportunity and comfort and accomodation, which I doubt not will be received from her government upon by our Embassy when they in London and their way.

In conclusion I beg to pray to the Superagency of the Univers for divine blessing upon your Lordship, as I wish your Lordship to be happy, healthy and increasing in what your Lordship would

desire for prosperity &c., as I have the honor to be your Lordship's faithful worthy noble friend and obedient



[L. S.]

S. P. P. M. Mongkut Rex Siamensium
reigning 2263 days ago.

Given at our court of *Tusita bhiromy* house Grand palace Ratne Kosindr Mahendr Ayudia Bangkok in Siam, on the Friday, being the third night of the waxing moon in Lunar month of Sawan, being the ninth month from the commencement of cold season here in the year of Snake of the ninth decade of Siamese astronomical Era 1219—corresponding to the Solar chronological time in Europe being the 24th of July in the year of Christian Era 1857, which is the seventh year of our reign.



[L. S.]

P. S.

I have forget to insert what I ought to say: on last year there was an English merchant here has received a small elephant from me, stating that he will carry to England and offer to Her Britannic Majesty in my name. One of his friends here wrote me its receipt and backed by the late British consul. I beg to enclose it herewith.

S P P M M. R S—



[L. S.]



[Crest]

F. O., Siam,
vol. 9.

The list of Royal presents alluded to in the accompanying Royal letter and designed for the acceptance of Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland &c. &c., Defender of the Faith &c. &c., from Her Majesty's distinguished friend and, by regal race, an humble and affectionate Royal Brother.

The Major King of Siam and its Dependencies,
&c. &c. &c.

Entrusted to the hands of the Siamese Embassy.

1. The Royal official customary letter slightly written in Siamese characters upon a solid golden plate and wrapped in the Royal solid golden envelope and sealed with Royal peculiar seal and enclosed in a golden case richly enamelled.

The translation of this Royal letter in English annexed or appended herewith.

This is made according to the Siamese Royal custom for very respectful compliment to the Sovereign of superior Kingdom, not to the equal or inferior always — when the superior Sovereign does not allow to be omitted.

2. Two Royal Daguerreotype portraits, one of which is a likeness of His Majesty the First King of Siam dressed in full royal robes and decorations sealed on his throne of state.

The other is the Daguerreotype of His Majesty with the Royal consort and two Royal children seated in Their Majesties knees.

3. A Royal Crown beautifully enamelled and set with diamonds and rubies.

4. A Royal Ribbon with circular gold brooches richly set with rubies locked together and fixed all round with blue satin.

5. A Royal golden Ring set with nine kinds of precious stones.

6. A Royal gold tissue cloth jacket with seven gold buttons set with diamonds.

7. A Royal gold tissue net work robe.

8. A Royal Girdle or band made of gold wire finely wrought with nine massive gold ornaments richly set with precious stones, and buckle of open gold work set with diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

9. A Royal gold tissue cloth scarf for the waist as worn by Siamese usage.

10. A Royal gold tissue of net worked sash worn over the former.

11. A pair of Royal Pantaloons of varied colors of tissue cloth richly ornamented with gold enamelled devices.

12. A gold tissue wove red silk sarong worn on state occasions.

13. A piece of Indian cloth stamped with gold tissue devices, worn on state occasions.

14. A red silk cloth figured worn daily.

15. A conch shell with golden stand richly enamelled. The shell being ornamented with gold and enamel and precious stones.

16. A golden water vessel with its golden stand,—both richly enamelled.

17. A tea-pot with golden handle and ornamented, and gold-enamelled stand,—also jasper cup with gold saucer and gold enamelled tray for whole.

18. Two tea cups with covers, one of gold richly enamelled with various devices, the other of silver gilt inlaid with black metal elaborately worked.

19. A golden cigar case beautifully enamelled.

20. Two pairs of hair-cutting scissors inlaid with gold, one set in diamonds, the other in rubies together with a pair of combs in gold and enamelled and ornamented with emeralds.

21. A gold knife, fork and spoon of rich pattern and set with diamonds.

22. Two large silver stands or dishes with gilt edges and gilt tissue covers.

23. A state sword of twisted steel with gold enamelled scabbard, richly mounted with precious stones, and having a small knife of twisted steel to fit in scabbard.

24. A state gold sword of twisted steel with rich gold scabbard.

25 and 26. A pair of different shaped state spears with silver gilt sheaths.

27. A pair of state spears with hair of Thibet goats streamers.

28. A Malay creese with gold handle and pinchbeck scabbard.

29. Different kinds of state paraphernalia consisting of one sun screen, one large state umbrella, four pairs of different shaped umbrellas all made of silk and figured.

30. A Royal Sedan Chair richly gilt and ornamented.

31. A Royal metal Drum and ivory tife which precede the Royal Chair.

32. A Royal Saddle and Bridle with their attendant trappings and ornaments of gold.

33. Three drawings of Budh's image within the Royal Temple of the Palace of the First King at Bangkok.

34. Four painted plates shewing different views of the Coronation of the First King of Siam which took place on 15th May 1851.

Sixty seven of the different articles of merchandize mentioned in the tariff annexed to the Treaty and eight other articles produced in Siam. His Majesty the King of Siam has ordered a sample to be collected by the proper officers and given them to His Lordship Chau Phaya Phraklang, Siamese Minister for Foreign Affairs, to

forward to Her Majesty's Government as specimens of the various kinds of merchandize produced in Siam.

The names and particulars of all these will appear in the letter of His Lordship Chau Phaya Phraklang to the Right Honorable the Earl of Clarendon on the occasion of the Siamese Embassy.

F. O., Siam,
vol. 9.

Most Excellent Madam,

We pray permit me to state very truly that we have greatest sincere heartfelt thanks to Your Majesty exceedingly beyond any measure or number in certain degree for our observation in benefit or advantages caused to occurred and increased here by Your Majesty's good opinion being the and for the greatest honor we have received from Your Majesty by treatment in true Royal friendship and correspondence and indulgence for best opportunity of this Embassy &c. We cannot express more with our language of writing longer, have greatest thanks to your Majesty fulfilled heaviest in our heart, though we wish to say more and more desire to have more and better royal presents to be accompanied herewith, but narrow time and way does not allow us to do in gratifying to Your Majesty than our power can allow now, we pray whatever improper Your Majesty will be merciful to pardon us always.

Above lines are genuine our manuscript, from Your Majesty's distinguished Friend, by race of the royalty affectionate Brother, and by humble respect most obedient Servant.

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

Major King of Siam and its dependencies.

F. O., Siam,
vol. 9.

Somdetch Phra: Paramendr Maha Mongkut and Somdetch Phra: Pawarendr Ramis Mahiswarisr, by the blessing of the Supremacy of the Universe, the First and the Second Kings of the Siamese Kingdom and its adjacent dependencies, Laos, Cambodia, most of the Malay Peninsula &c. &c. &c.

To —

All and singular both native and foreign to whom these presents shall come.

Greeting!—That when we in Council have unanimously announced our friendly feeling and desire to send our Embassy to pay our respectful homage to our Royal affectionate Sister and distinguished Friend, Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland &c. &c., through our official letter from our Minister of State for Foreign Affairs here, addressed to the same officer in London on ultimate year. Now Her Britannic Majesty in Council has agreeably to our ardent desire graciously sent her steam frigate of war *Encounter* with naval officers, to receive Embassy and with suite from hence, for indulgence to us.

We both have prepared our Royal letters and pleasant Royal presents for Her Britannic Majesty, now have, joined with unanimous pleasure of our Council, appointed our Royal Cousin His Excellency Phya Montri Surivongse, the Superintendent of all our private ministers in part of Grand Palace, to be first Ambassador, our beloved adopted son and old servant, His Honor Chau Mu'n Sarbbedh Bhac-ty, the first head of a fourth of our private ministers called Wenn Sackdi, to be the second Ambassador, Honourable Chamun Mondir Bidacks, the second head of the seventh part of the Second King's foreguards, to be the third Ambassador, Honourable Chamun Rayh Matte, the second head of the first part of the Royal foreguards in our service at Grand Palace, and Honourable Nai Bichar Sarbkitch, the master of fifth class in fourth party of our private ministers, to be the officers in charge of all Royal presents to be conveyed with

the Embassy, and our beloved maternal Kindred the Honorable Mom Rajoday, to be the official interpreter for communication in English language in this Embassy.

Let the forenamed six noble individuals be invested with the power to take care of, convey and deliver our Royal letters and pleasant presents for paying of our respectful homage, and confirm our Royal friendship to Her Most Gracious and Excellent Majesty Victoria, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland &c. &c., and to hand the letters from our high minister of state for foreign affairs here, His Excellency Chau Phya Phra Klang, to the high minister of state for foreign affairs in capital London too. And let these six noble individuals be invested with a certain degree of power for some enquiries, to have gracious and favourable audience from the ministers of state of various affairs in London for information to us in Council too, though they are not vested with full power to do further more than the foresaid purposes.

Also if Her Britannic Majesty would please to send us in return some Royal letters in address to our names for answer, or give some Royal verbal command or mandate for whatever to be informed to us, or if Her Majesty's ministers of state in London would send their letter or certain noble commands or orders in words for the information of our officers of state here, let this Embassy have a power to receive letters and convey the meaning of all commands or orders for us and our officers of state here on their return to Siam.

All individual[s] in this Embassy shall follow our charge in their good conduct that every one or party of members of the Embassy shall be unanimous in a single purpose, opinion and proposal to one another in every respect of their legal business and affairs, both in their ways of going and returning and during their stay at London or any where, and they shall not take contrary to one another and do or say anything whatever ought not or improper to do and say, for which dishonor may be occurred to our country.

If anyone or party of this Embassy befall with any unfortunate unforeseen hazard or unpleasant causes on their way or in Lon-

don or anywhere, for whatever causes or hazards he or they may not be able to serve as in his or their duty in accordance with our commands, let the remainder of them cover his or their duties as well as in his or their place in every respect as every where until this Embassy was returned to Siam.

This appointment was given at the internal Military Port in this Grand Palace of the City Ratne Kosin Mahindr Ayudia Bangkok on Wednesday, the first night of the waxing moon in Lunar month of Suwan in the year of the snake, ninth decade of the Siamese astronomical Era 1219, corresponding to the solar time, being 22nd in July in Christian Era 1857, which is the seventh year of our reign.

(Signed) S. P. P. M. Mongkut
Major King of Siam
reigning 2261 days ago.

[Endorsed:]

Translation
Edict or Decree of the
Kings of Siam
nominating the Embassy
to proceed to England.

F. O., Siam,
vol. 8.

Royal residence
Grand palace Bangkok
9th December 1857
night 11 P. M.

[L. S.]

Honored Sir,

I have the great honor of acknowledging the receipt of your first address directly to me under the date of this day.

In reply I beg to say that it is occurred to me that the royal letters and valued presents designed for me from Her Gracious Britannic Majesty, and of which you are the appointed bearer, shall be conveyed to this palace and to deliver to me in estate or public ceremony as great as upon last occasion, when Mr. Harry S. Parkes came here on exchange of the ratification of the new Anglo Siamese Treaty on April 1856.

For good preparation of the needable ceremony, four days between today and next Monday 14th inst. shall be allowed to us by you, and in the said Monday the royal letter and present will be brought here in procession upon the surface of river until the landing place at northern front of this palace and upon the royal seditule inland, with salutary respects, until the royal Piramidical house "Tusit Maha Prasad," where you will deliver the royal letter of Her Britannic Majesty upon my hand, after which I will read and translate orally before our council who will be dressed with their dignifi- cial dress for respect to Her Britannic Majesty.

If you desire to have private interviews with me before the day of ceremony, please let me know, I will appoint any leisure hours of one of the foresaid four days to you, and you will have please of personal interview with me in good intertainment, accor-

ding to the English custom, as well as Sir John Bowring and Mr. H. S. Parkes ever did on the occasions of their visit [to] Siam.



I have the honor
to be your faithful
S. P. P. M. Mongkut
Major Rex Siamensium
reigning 2400 days ago

To His Honor

Sir Robert H. Schomburgk

the British Consul

&c. &c. &c.

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vol. 8.

[L. S.]

Major King
of Siam.

Received from hand of His Honor Sir Robert H. Schomburgk the Royal autographic letter of Her Britannic Majesty which has been entrusted to his care for me, and a portion of the royal gracious presents, namely royal sword double edged and silver mounted Minie rifle, the proof set of coins &c. which have been designed for my respectful acceptance and entrusted to his care for me by Her Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, at the court of Tusit Maha Prasad on the 14th of the Month of December, Anno Christi 1857, by myself being, according to the mutual true royal friendship, Her Britannic Majesty's faithful distinguished beloved friend, according to the only royal race, an affectionate royal brother, and according to the facts of power and Her Majesty's esteemed favours, a dutiful humble and obedient servant.

S. P. P. M. Mongkut [L. S.]
the Major King of Siam
Reigning 2405 days ago.

S. P. P. M.
Mongkut
Rex Siam

[Envelope marked on the outside :—]

[L. S.]

The Testimony in receipt of the royal letter and valued presents from Her Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland &c.

F. O., Siam,
vol. 11.

Royal residence
Grand Palace
• 25th February 1858.

Sir,

I have just acknowledged the receipt of your letter under the date of 20th inst., with the enclosed letter under the date of 22nd inst., on the night of 23rd inst.

I wish to let you have a required answer of the former without hesitation and have tried to write you fully as on reply, as my consideration occurred to declare the nature of our country men in the usual employment of money and variety of the quantities of silver in China and Burmah and usual weight of price of coin in this and those countries, and being less of the ability to coin Siamese ticals more than 8000 ticals per a day, and our various opinion for prevent such the difficulty of foreign merchants who are trading here etc. etc., but I am sorry to state I cannot fulfill the style in pure English language or such terms in employment of money etc. I ought to write very long and slowly, selecting every one word of those which are not familiar to me from English dictionary, I have none of English proper interpreter to assist me for such important style. I beg therefore to omit my written answer in which myself alone can not fulfill according to my opinion or plans.

I beg therefore to appoint my younger Royal brother Krom Hluang Wongsa Dhiraj snidh and His Lordship Chau Phya Sri Suriy wongse S. P. K., both to be my Royal Commissioners who I have instructed with whole my opinion, to declare my consideration on those objects, to hold conversation with you for future welfare business of both native and foreign merchant and traders here.

Please converse verbally with them both on that subject. How will be stipulated by you and them both to be finished in my power, I will do with utmost endeavour, after stipulations.

Briefly, I beg to express my declaration, that the power or ability of coining ticals continually more and more of Siamese

Government now is less and not enough for purpose, the late promise only by desire to endeavour, only now I wish to have sufficient large coining press or machine to coin ticals, half ticals, salungs and fuangs in shape of dollar, in silver of the same quantity and weight of our money. How the press or machine shall be obtained by assistance of English Government and our expense. I doubt not when such the large and powerful machine or coining press obtained and finished here as about 100,000 dollars of ticals weight can be finished or furnished every day, the difficulty of exchange will be entirely remedied in course of time, when the quantity of silver and weight of pieces of dollars are the same of Siamese money, we can compel our people to accept by Royal mandate without difficulty or delay.

Please hear from the Royal Commissioners for me, I can not write long full enough to let you know more than those proceeded lines.

I regret very much for heavy dysentery prevailing on body of Mr. Forrest, who is good enough for Consular service to Her Britannic Majesty.

The white foreigners here generally lost their valued lives for the dysentery through it is not feared by native people.

I beg to remain

Your faithful and wellwisher

(Signed) S. P. P. Mongkut

M. R. S.

Reigning 2478 days.

P. S.

The declaration of nature of our country men in comparison with Chinese and Burmese nation in use of money, and my opinion in wishing to coin Siamese dollars in the same quantity and weight of Siamese money, was given verbally in Siamese language by myself to Mr. S. Matoon the United States Consul yesterday, when he has

visited me in person, from whom I wish interpretation to you in conversation with my two Royal Commissioners.

(Signed) S. P. P. Mongkut. R.

To

His Honor Sir Robert Schomburgk

The British Consul in Siam.

F. O., Siam,
vol. 13

Wax Seal

L. S.

Somdetch Phra : Paramendr Maha
Mongkut —

Crest

Major King
of Siam

By the Divine blessing of Superagency of the Universe the Major King of the Kingdom, consists of Siam both Northern and Southern and its dependancies, Laos, Cambodia, and several provinces of the Malay peninsula &c. &c.

No. 101
Mann Regia.

To Right Honorable the Earl of Clarendon our
respected favourable noble friend

Senth Greeting!

Sir,

Sir Robert Schomburgk Knight, the British consul for our country Siam, has arrived here on 8th December ultimo. He has forwarded on his first arrival here Your Lordship's letter addressed us under the date of 31st August ultimo in hand of our officers ministers of State here, who have been sent from us for cordial receipt of him, which letter was reached our hand on 10th December ult., in which day we have the honor of acknowledging the receipt and perusal thereof with great pleasure and friendly feeling and consideration of your propitious opinion expressed there in, for which we beg to express our heartfelt thanks to your Lordship firstly. Your Lordship's argumental strong statement in security to the good character and nature of Sir Robert Schomburgk Knight (who was the bearer of Her Britannic Majesty's royal letter with some certain portion of the royal gift present designed for our acceptance from Her and your Lordship's noble letter, and who have been appointed in office of Her Majesty's consul in Siam) was indeed trustworthy

and believable with great confidence on him. We have invited him to have personal interview with us in our private audience, and we observed his cheerful gracious appearance towards us on first interview like an intimate friend. He treated us with very respectful compliment & greeted us with amiable smiling continency, without a least appearance of displeasure or of being proud of his dignity &c., so we were very glad to him and became familiar with him in first interview, which took place before deliverance of Her Britannic Majesty's royal letter and royal gift to us in ceremony and estate, which was made in respect and salutary service to Her Britannic Majesty by us, as well as alike of that has been done on the occasion of arrival of Mr. Harry Smith Parkes, who has been the bearer of Her Majesty royal letter and certain portion royal presents for us upon the time of the exchange of the royal ratification of the new Anglo Siamese Treaty.

We beg leave [?to omit] the mention of everything which were done in receipt of Her B. Majesty's favour to us on this occasion, as such the mention has been done by our minister officer of State of foreign affairs here on last occasion, when Mr. Harry S. Parkes has departed from hence, also we trust your Lordship would have learnt from Sir Robert Schomburgk himself long ere before.

We are very glad also to have great favour from Her Majesty's Governments and felt much obliged for favourable direction and good advice to us, that the communications between British Governments at home and Siamese Governments shall be in passage through Her Britannic Majesty consul here directly, without passing firstly to Her Britannic Majesty's plenipotentiary at China. We beg to return our since[re] thank to your Lordship and other members [of] Her Majesty's Governments for the said opinion and advice.

We should sollicite Her Majesty's clemency or mercy toward us, that the British consul here shall be chosen or selected at England and appointed at London in presence of Her Britannic Majesty herself, and sent to Siam always in this manner, as Sir Robert Schomburgk was on this occasion. We and our governments will feel most

oblige from Her Britannic Majesty's governments, if this our very desire be fulfilled, as there may be some difficulties to have received some treatment from those persons, who having been practiced in usual conducts which ever imitated from and used in treating with Chinese nation and Indian nation in their youth, and who are only selected and sent for being consul and consular agents of powerful foreign nations, to be with us here.

Sir Robert Schomburgk Knight, on his first arrival and at present time, is very far from those persons, in his best character and friendly conducts appeared as Philanthropist, almost every one of Royalty, nobility and gentry, here pleased mostly with him, as he never look upon any one with cruel eyes and never speak to anyone with threa[t]ening idioms.

He is of the same age with ourselves, but he was older than ourselves four months. So he became our intimate friend very soon.

We beg to offer our great sincere thanks, and to express our being gratitude to Her Gracious Britannic Majesty and her Governments, for such the selection of such praiseworthy person suitable for being with us here, and appointment that given to him in higher dignity than that has been given to the other before. The dignity of Sir R. S. Knight who is British consul here, will prove also our honor higher than before among various nations in regions of the State of Chenendia (i. e. *Indo-china*?) until China. We beg therefore to assure your Lordship that we are very glad to have Sir R. Schomburgk the present British consul with us until perhaps the end of his and our lives.

We doubt not your Lordship will convey this our royal statement upon all preceeding lines to presence of Her Britannic Majesty and Her ministry in Government of Her, as we know not any name of any one of the present new noble ministry, and we only ever have been correspondent with your Lordship as a good friend, through several correspondences between your Lordship and ourselves, where fore this present address shall not be considered by any one as only our mistake.

It has been longly due that we should give answer to your Lordship's letter under the date of 31st. August ultimo after its perusal on December ultimo, for two reasonable causes however we have delayed the due answer until the present opportunity four months elapsed.

1. Whereas the royal presents designed for our respectful acceptance from Her Britannic Majesty, enumerated in the list which accompanied the royal letter (of which Sir Robert Schomburgk Knight was the bearer), were partly only accompanied with, reached us on the arrival of the bearer, as there are very many of them stated by Sir R. Schomburgk that they are in conveying on board sailing vessels round the Cape of Good Hope and rather to say, one of those articles of royal presents is a powerful strong press for cotton peculiarly or especially mentioned in the royal letter on that occasion. The said cotton press is not yet arrived [in] Siam until the present days. Ourselves however are unwilling to mention every one name of those articles of royal gift, what came to hand, what are not yet reached our hand, either to Her Britannic Majesty or to your Lordship, trusting those all will be reached our hand gradually in due course of time, and we are waiting to mention those were completely and wholly received and reached our hand in good condition, in both our royal letters in answer to Her Britannic Majesty and your Lordship, when all articles of presents will be arrived here, and reached our hands. We wish only to express our gratifying thanks to Her Majesty with mention of any part of the presents which are not yet reached our hand. For this consequence the answer both to our royal letter and your noble letter upon that occasion is postponed until the present date.

2. Although we have believed your Lordship's statement of the goodness &c. of Sir Robert Schomburgk, K., without any doubt, yet we are desirous of mentioning and stating his goodness and praiseworthy character in judgement &c. (in answering letters to Her Majesty and your Lordship from us), which will be seen and witnessed by ourselves and our ministers of State &c., and such the men-

tion and statement of his goodness can not be done after a few days of his arrival, when he did not yet exercise in his consular affair here for some time.

Now we can observe his goodness in some best opinion advantageous to both sides in balance, and true judgement in several matters occurred here, and honest decision given there in by him, so we beg to state that this British consul is most satisfactory to our nation. We presume the pleasant peace and good advantages of both sides will be well continued so long meanwhile, during which this consul or other alike will be with us in such good association.

Given at our royal residence Maha Mandir in Grand Palace, Bangkok, on the Tuesday 4th night of the waning moon in Lunar month of Purbasadh, in the year of Horse zero decade for the Siamese astronomical Era 1220, corresponding to the 29th June in the Solar date in the Christian year 1858, which is the 8th year or 2603rd day of our reign.

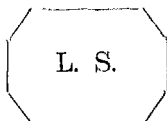
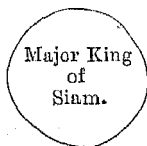
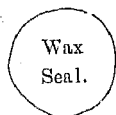
S. P. P. M. Mongkut, R. S.

F. O. Siam,
vol. 13.

No. 108

Manu Regia.

Somdetch Phra-Paramendr Maha Mongkut.



By the divine blessing of Superagency of the Universe the Major King of Siamese Kingdom consists of both Northern and Southern Siam Laos, Cambodia, several provinces of the Malay peninsula &c., &c. &c.

To our respected and distinguished noble friend Right Honorable the Earl of Clarendon &c. &c. &c.

Senth Greeting.

Sir,

Our noble Ambassadors Phya Montri suriywongse the first, Chau mun Sarrbbedh bhacty the second, with their suit consist of 28 persons including themselves (having been sent by us to pay our respectful homage to Her Gracious Excellent Britannic Majesty at London, on our great fortunate opportunity which we have embraced from clemency of Her Majesty and her Government, in doing to them for our sake the best means of accommodation and comfort in every thing needable to them in their ways both going from hence and returning here, passing several colony states in the British Dominion, and crossing several regions being territories of various nations alleged in friendship with British Dominions, and during their stay in and travelling upon the England) have arrived here in safety with Her Britannic Majesty's Steamer "Pylades" or 21st. May inst. On next day of which they have brought in ceremonial procession Her Britannic Majesty's Royal letter addressed us on their return and delivered in our royal hand firstly, after which they have delivered your Lordship's two letters under the date of 23rd.

February inst., accompanied the beautiful presents, being an Aneroid Barometer and a time piece or clock, together with two tracts being their respective treatises designed for our friendly acceptance, entrusted to the care of our first Ambassador. We have acknowledged the receipt of those two letters addressed us from your Lordship and perused throughout with much pleasure, and felt much obliged from your Lordship by acceptance of the foresaid presents designed for us by your Lordship. For the content of your Lordship's two letters and those mark of your Lordship's friendly feeling toward us, we beg to express our grateful and heartfelt thank to your Lordship peculiarly.

Our Ambassadors, since their first arrival here until the present days, are saying of highest favour which have received from most Gracious Excellent Majesty and her Governments, especially of yourself and ever of Mr. Fowl, whom your Lordship has put in office of alway attention in accommodation and comfort to our Embassy during their stay in England, when they were reporting of the most pleasant beautiful Britannic country which they have just visited in their lives. Their mouth seemed to be not sufficient for full statement relating to the welfair, beauty &c. of England and best mode of highest enlightened policy. Several hours of days were elapsed very soon when they have spoken to us relating to what they have enjoyed during their absence from hence 10 months. We are happy in hearing of their statement in various objects which they are yet informing us and did not yet got to the end of their speech.

Since arrival of our Embassy until the present day, where ever every one of Siamese Embassy's member even a servant sat down, very many of our country men of both sexes and ranks of high and low in every race of royalty nobility and gentry here are crowded to hear and do their enquiries, for informing of various things which our Embassy have meet during their absence, whatever our Ambassadors have reported to us we beg leave to mention

all things or subjects which they have stated to us, are all believed by us and learnt with greatest pleasure.

Ourselves and every member of our royalty and nobility here are very thankful to Her Britannic Majesty and her Government, mostly for Her Majesty's indispensable favour in honoring us highly by the favour bestowed upon our Embassy during their stay in England and their ways both going from hence and returning here without a least molestation some time at any where.

We are most happy to learn from Her Majesty's Royal letter to us and your Lordship's statement, the conduct of our Ambassadors during their stay in England has been such as to merit the approbation of Her Britannic Majesty and her government in every respect, so Her Majesty and your Lordship have accordingly recommend them for our favour to them on future day. We fear a little however that on their some admiration, marvel and wonder in various articles which are very curious to them, when they have seen in various streets in London and other places in England, their desire to have purchase such various articles must be stronger than their usual desire here, it might produce some blaming consideration upon them even to ourselves, that the Siamese are very covetious or greedy, perhaps. They confessed themselves to us that upon this occasion they have entered to a most pleasant paradise or city of the Angels upon heaven, they could not help or suffer only in their mind the very interesting admiration &c., as the Siam in fact is only a poor country and they never saw such the pleasant important city before, which city has not been seen by them even by their remote and foremote Ancestors.

We would beg therefore your Lordship's and other's pardon upon them for their suit the blameable appearance committed on your land, as our Embassy are very strangers to England indeed and wishing some improvement and advantage of this country and ourselves who have embraced first opportunity to acquaintance with United Kingdom through this Embassy.

We beg to offer our thank also for very kind advancement of £4000 to our Embassy, from Her Majesty's or Government's treasure, for their expense in procuring various articles for us and our Government namely, (*illegible*), steamer coining mint &c.

The demand has been done here by Sir Robert Schomburgk the British consul before arrival of our Embassy. We have immediately paid to him fully, but he has received from us but £2000 or Tes. 16000 for his expense in building at the British consulate here. The remainder £2000 or Tes. 16000 he has placed for protection (to be received on future) at our treasure.

Our Ambassadors have assured us and our Government with their very strong statement, that the Queen and her Government at home are very honest and sincere in the international law. They have their very sincere desire for our independence, and welfare of our country throughout our kingdom always, and for perpetual friendly connection between British Empire and our Kingdom.

The consternation, which ever prevailed here and Burmah, Cochin China &c. occurred from learning of some disturbances which sometime took place in our neighbourhood or adjacent countries, as in Burmah, China &c., for misunderstanding and very ignorance of the native rulers of those countries, who did not continue maintaining true friendship and provisions of their Treaties with British Government, as well as we are doing now, from some boasting, threatening and alarming treatment with us, which our country men ever received from many English persons of lower rank before our being or becoming well acquainted with their Government at home, and that since this time of our Embassy has paid our respectful homage to Her Britannic Majesty the very gracious sovereign, our Ambassadors doubt not the friendship between Siam and British Empire will be peacefully continued without any unpleasant treatment from any one. We now believe their statement with great confidence and far from any suspect.

We hope your Lordship will announce our intention to address in answer to the Britannic Majesty two royal letters, namely

one by the hand of Sir Robert Schomburgk and the other per our Embassy's hands, when we will have proper time to do free, as we have said in an other letter accompanied here with.

Allow us to request your Lordship's kindness toward us by proclaiming our sincere thanks to all or every member of British Government and noble men and gentlemen in England, whoever have favoured our Embassy in any assistance to them during their stay in London and their journey or tour in various places in England, and to all Commanders officers of Her Majesty's men of War "Encounter", "Caradock" and "Pylades", who have had accomodated and comfort to our Embassy properly and happily during their conveyance on the Ocean. We cannot write our thanks separately to every one of them all.

The written answer your Lordship have given to our Ambassadors in explanation of three points which our Ambassadors have conferred with your Lordship (for permission in favour to us) through our command lately given to them, is very satisfactory to us. We beg to assure your Lordship that we agree with your explanation in every respect without any exception and that we will accord it alway.

We beg to state farther more that if the present consul Sir Robert Schomburgk had been here before departure of our Embassy for England, those three points would not be ordered to be conferr-ed with your Lordship at all indeed, as Sir Robert Schomburgk is now very satisfactory consul for your countrymen.

We beg to wish your Lordship long life and continuance in temporary happiness, and we wish that the friendship between your Lordship and us shall be continued in correspondences in proper mean while, though it is said that your Lordship is now out of the former office.

We know not yet new Ministry at present service of Her Majesty.

Given at our Royal residence Maha Mondir Grand palace

Bangkok, on the Wednesday 5th night of the waning moon in the Lunar month of Purbasabh, in the year of Horse zero decade for the number of Siamese astronomical Era 1220, corresponding to the Solar date of 30th June in Christian Era 1858, which is the 8th year or 2604th day of our reign.

S. P. P. M. Mongkut.

L. S.

Anant Samagome
 Royal Audience Hall
 Grand Palace
 Bangkok
 7th. Dec. 1859.

F. O., Siam,
 vol. 18.
 Copy
 No. 147

Manu Regia.

Honourable Sir,

I have several days ago received your letter under the date of 22nd ult: the content of which was immediately noted, that you have desired to take your happy journey in a part of the interior of our kingdom, that will be the western province of northern proper Siam &c., a country of Laos of Chiang called "Qem-may" under our assistance in comfortable manner &c. And for your being best than all late Consul and vice consul and consular officers, who ever have been with us in consular affair[s] here on service to Her Britannic Majesty, by your having been the bearer of Her Britannic Majesty's autographic letter in address to myself directly, in which she have recommended yourself as one of Her Majesty's most faithful functionary, and by your bestness and kind toward us consisted among us since your first arrival here until the present days, we are very glad to agree with your requests contained in your letter above alluded on every respect.

Whereas the King of Chuang-may called "Zam-may" is present here, I have liberty to inform him your desire of visit his country, and requested him to have interview with you personally and place good arrangement with you for proper receipt and comfort on your arrival there, and have order His Lordship Chau Phya Phra Khlang to confer with you for preparation of boat and boatmen according to your pleasure, and have ordered to the department of the Northern presidency to provide you with official letters to every district and township laying on your way from hence to Chiang May. All things above mentioned

were done for you by myself for you accordingly, but whatever would not complete, please suggest to my royal brother Krum Hluang Wongsadhiraj Suddet or His Lordship Chauphya Phra Khlang who were commanded by me to do attention to comply to you with every thing proper to be needed for your journey on this occasion, and I am very glad that you will take useful observation and survey of a part of our country, on which accurate surveyance has not been done by any one before, because we have none of our country men who were acquired with knowledge of such the Siamese, and possessed such the instruments by which the ability of accurate survey be possible. And myself could not go as far and as freely long while per lumne (?) of observation and surveyance myself. On this occasion I will wait on you to have some truly observed and surveyed map and mention of your way on a part of our kingdom.

There is our necessity of a tract entitled Chronometer Companion, in which there are many tables for the purpose of observation of heavenly bodies in taking latitude &c. Can you obtain one of such the tract newly edited from the Admiralty? Also I have not yet possessed a small chart of [the] Gulf of Siam which was surveyed by Captain John Richard R. N. master commander of Her Britannic Majesty's Surveying Schooner "Saracen," though I have received a small tract from the Hydrographick Office through you lately, it was only the tract without accompanied map or chart. I trust that on hearing of my suggestion and request you will be kind to me to order from Admiralty to let me have the required tract and chart.

I beg to remain

Your good friend

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

Major Rex Siamensun

on 3126th day of reign

To His Honor

Sir Robert Schomburgk Knight

the consul of Her Britannic

Majesty for Siam

&c. &c. &c.

F. O. Siam,

vol. 25.

Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut, by the Divine blessing of the Superagency of the Universe the First king of the Siamese kingdom, consisting of Siamese proper both Northern and Southern and the adjacent tributary dependencies, Laos, Cambodia and several provinces of Malay peninsula

&c. &c. &c.

To Her Gracious Majesty Victoria the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the powerful Sovereign of British Colonies almost around the Globe of Human world,

&c. &c. &c.

Our most respected and distinguished Friend, and by race of the royalty our very affectionate Sister.

Humble and respectfully sendeth Greeting

On the year of the Serpent ninth decade of the Siamese Era 1219, corresponding to the Christian Era 1858, Sir Robert Schomburgk Knight, your Majesty's Consul, being the bearer of the royal letter of your Majesty which accompanied some articles of royal gift which were enumerated among several articles the list of which was enclosed accompanying the royal letter, arrived in this city and made known to the Officer of State for foreign Affairs here, who have prepared the honorary reception of your Majesty's royal letter and of its bearer Sir Robert Schomburgk the Consul in suitable procession according to honoring manner, which has been accustomed to prepare for receipt of the royal letter which came from superior great Sovereign, already in every thing both on river and land, which your Majesty's royal letter with its bearer Sir Robert Schomburgk was arrived at this Grand Palace. We in Council consisting of our royalty and nobility who are our principal Councillors and Officers of States of various affairs, having adorned Ourselves fully with significative dress, seated ourselves at our Court House of Tusit Maha Prasad, have received, perused your Majesty's royal letter

which expressed your Majesty's gracious consideration and regardful friendship toward us for the only a few of your Majesty's royal gift of which the list was accompanied the said royal letter was reached our hands in accompanying the royal letter. The greater part of the royal letter was said by Sir Robert Schomburgk that they are in conveyance per sailing vessels Via Cape of good hope so they were not arrived here upon the same time. We having none therefore in waiting of their arrival did not make immediately answer to your Majesty's royal letter, expecting that when whole articles of sundry presents from your Majesty fully arrived and received correctly according to the list accompanied your royal letter to us, we will send our royal letter in address to your Majesty directly or to your Minister of Foreign Affairs in London, to be informed to your Majesty on mean while. And after receipt of the foresaid your royal letter in space of two weeks or three weeks, your Majesty's Consul Sir Robert Schomburgk has delivered to us certain number of your Majesty's royal gracious gift to us correctly with names and number in the list received before, one or two in number on every succeeding and subsequent occasion, whenever these sundry articles were arrived, until now they were fully received by us.

We are gratified in acknowledging the receipt of all articles of present with much pleasure and great gladness.

And on the Friday 9th night of the Lunar month of Wesaka, being the seventh month from the commencement of the Cold Season in the year of the Horse, Zero decade of the Siamese Era 1220, corresponding to the 21st day of the Solar month of May in the Christian Era 1858, your Majesty's Steam Frigate has our whole Embassy which has been sent to your Majesty's Court on board was arrived here. Our Embassy returned to their native land in safety, then Phraya Montri Suriy Wongse, the First Ambassador and Chaw mun Sarbedh Bhacty, the Second Ambassador have previously informed us that they have brought Your Majesty royal letter in answer to us no[w] their return here. We no[w] having

heard so prepared and sent a royal procession consisting of every dignified royal insignia to receive your Majesty's royal letter and convey to this grand p[al]ace according to Siamese custom in respect to your Majesty who is a superior Sovereign to us, and have opened your Majesty's royal letter and perused it throughout. It was dated Windsor Castle Christian Era 1858. We are very much rejoiced and happy that our noble Embassy, when they were in London, and when they were travelling in post of England have right in their doing every where, without mistaken in proper conducts, pleased to your Majesty and your Government. There is nothing in them for any reproof or blame, so your Majesty recommended our favour on them.

They themselves also have related to us, mentioning your Majesty's great favour done upon them with great compassion by supplying every thing on them whatever desirable, so they having been under your Majesty's gracious and merciful comfort have been safe and happy every where from the day of their departure from hence to the day of their arrival here. They have informed us every thing in very accurate style, mentioning particulars of appearance and natural fact of various regions of streets, buildings, manufactures &c., which are curious and best according to whatever they have witnessed by sight, and righteous and praiseworthy European usage, custom, jurisdiction &c. According to whatever they have witnessed by learning, all things which were related to us are admirable and interest us to hear mostly, they have spoken relating to whatever they have seen and heard in Europe several days, whenever they are in our presence and before our officers of state and other personages wherever they were seated, there were many hearers surrounding them, inquiring for whatever the Ambassadors and their suit have met and seen and learned in European land. All congregation with the number of the Embassy have admired and were much interested for various things so related and heard, they the Ambassadors with their suit have thought with joy

as much as they have likely gone to a paradise upon heaven and returned here indeed.

We pray therefore to express our heartfelt thanks to your Majesty, for your royal gracious favour in indulgence and comfort to our Embassy, on their being under Your Majesty's dominion.

The receipt of your Majesty's royal letters twice as the aforesaid, and receipt in due course of time of your Majesty's sundry gifts to us, and the statement of our Embassy in praising your Majesty's great favour on them and mentioning of various picturesque superiority of several states of street building, fortifications and manufacture of diversified useful things and civilized and enlightened European usage, custom &c., were mentioned in an information given by ourselves in a letter in address to the Earl of Clarendon, your Majesty's minister of state for Foreign Affairs, upon the time of our Embassy having been upon your Majesty's Capital, to be informed to your Majesty fully. The said information in our letter was forwarded to the Earl of Clarendon by your Majesty's Consul, but after arrival of our Embassy not very long. We trust the Earl of Clarendon must have presented the said information to your Majesty fully. The address in answer to your Majesty's twice royal favours directly therefore was postponed until present days, whereas His Imperial Majesty Napoleon III, the Emperor of France, had his pleasure to send his plenipotentiary Extraordinary to Siam and negotiated and concluded the Gallico Siamese Treaty with us on the Lunar Month of Bhadrapad, being 10th Month from commencement of Cold season in the year of Dragon eight decade of the Siamese Era 1218, corresponding to the Christian Era 1856. Then We have proposed our desire and pleasure to send our Embassy to the French Court for confirming and promoting the friendship between us and His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of France in like the proposal had been sent to London from us after conclusion of new Anglo Siamese treaty. Then H. I. Majesty the Emperor of France has sent his royal letter to us accepting that he will send his Men of

war here to receive and convey Siamese Embassy to France, in like manner of the favorable indulgence given us from your Gracious Majesty.

Afterward, however, H. I. Majesty the Emperor of France was much engaged in affairs of war in several directions, wherefore the receipt of Siamese Embassy was postponed three years and a little more. On the Lunar month of Phagun, being the 4th month reckoning from commencement of Cold Season in the year of Monkey second decade of Siamese Era 1222, corresponding to the solar month of February in Christian Era 1861, there was a French Steam Frigate named "Gironde" arrived the mouth of the Chauphya river. The French Consul here has introduced the Captain of the said steam Frigate to us, stating that the said Captain has received an order from His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of France to receive and convey Siamese Embassy from hence, according to the promise made to us by His Imperial Majesty long before. So we have embraced a good opportunity of sending our noble Embassy to Europe again with much gladness. We have therefore immediately appointed Phraya Sribibaddhn Ratneraj Kosadhipati to be our first Ambassador, Chau Mun Wai wornarth the second, Phra Narongwijit the third, and Nai Sarbwijay with Hluang Indrmontri the officers in charge of the royal presents together with the other Siamese persons being their suite, totally 27 persons in number. So this Siamese Embassy, appointed for conveyance of our royal letter and presents to be placed before His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of France, for cementing and confirming true friendship in like manner of the Siamese Embassy which has been sent from us to Your Majesty's court on the year of Horse zero decade of Siamese Era 1220, corresponding to the Christian Era 1858, three noble Ambassadors and of the officers in charge of royal presents in the present Embassy are from relatives and kindred of Phra Ya Montri Suriy Wongse the First Ambassador, who has been sent to your Majesty's court at London before, and this Embassy has their rank and dignity in our service equal to the former

Embassy, on return and being arrived here of whom, We have learnt from their statement that, when they were about to return from London, they having been desirous of seeing and enjoyment of various places and things in French land have solicited a privilege from your Majesty's Government to send them in return by crossing the French territory, to get on board British Steam Frigate "Pylades" in Mediterranean Sea, instead of going arround by Atlantic Ocean. Then your Majesty's Government have graciously favoured on them having made good arrangements with the French Government, who have true and firm good friendship to your Majesty, to have assistance in receiving and sending the Embassy throughout the French dominions, so they have landed on French territory at Calais and en route over France, and took passage on board your Majestys steam Frigate " " at Marseilles, and that when they were coming by overland in French territory, they have permission from French Government to visit Paris where they staid a few days. Then the French minister have guided them to the presence of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of France and the Empress they have.

On hearing hereof, We and our Governments were most rejoiced that our Embassy which has been sent from us for paying homage to your Majesty, who are one of the great Sovereigns in Europe only, but our Embassy having gained gracious and merciful favour from your Majesty and your Government who have sent them in return to go by overland in French territory, in which the local Governments of France have conducted them to have audience of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, who are the other great Sovereigns in Europe, more than what We have expected it proved greater honor to us.

We were therefore very glad and thankful to your Majesty and your Government mostly for that favour to our Embassy, for the said consequence on this occasion we have opinion that London and Paris are situated near each other, the way from the latter to

the former is safe. If the present Embassy in their arrival at Paris would have solicited the French Government to make arrangements with your Majesty's Government, and send them to London to pay homage to your Majesty, We hope that the French Government will follow of the favour, which has been given to the former Siamese Embassy by British Government, who on this occasion also may please to receive for sake of true friendship existing between them and French Governments and for sake of ourselves too. It was occurred to us therefore that, when our present Embassy would have the honor of paying personal homage to your Majesty, in this case, if they have no royal letter from us to testimony of our respects to your Majesty in their hand, it looks improper, for we are your Majesty's distinguished friend by firm and intimate friendship longly existed, and we have such the facility to read and write in your Majesty's vernacular language, so as we need not have assistance from any interpreter, when we have no such facility in French language. We have liberty therefore to avail ourselves in preparing this our royal letter in slate, and have a proper scribe to copy from our slate and place these lines in papers which were sealed with our seals and signed with our royal hand, and entrusted to the care of this Embassy, trusting your Majesty will please to received, for being mark and proof of royal friendship and our sincere regard towards your Majesty and for honor to us too. Amongst the royal gifts bestowed on us from your Majesty twice transmitted to us by Mr. Harry S. Parkes once, and Sir Robert Schomburgk the British Consul once, for confirming of the true friendship to us, twice certain part of them is instrument for needable useful works as the coining mint, Hydro press for cotton, photograph cammera &c. Certain part is for service to mystercit (*sic*) knowledge and promotion of science, as Asmouth and optic instruments, sample of astronomical position &c. In certain number of those instruments, ourselves and our native servants can examine and understand the design and contrivance of the

invention thereof throughout, till we could fulfill their management to produce their good effects, but in certain number of those we and our native servants could not understand to work well. We have asked for direction from Sir Robert Schomburgk the Consul, he could direct us to do and explain for our understanding, but only in some thing he stated that he does not understand, so we ought to wait on certain foreign visitors and do enquiry for intelligible knowledge thereof. For instance the Hydro press of cotton can be understood and worked very well in facility by Siamese workers immediately on arrival of the instrument, without enquiry for direction from European visitor, but the coining mint was postponed several months, when there was an English engineer called to Siam has directed, then it can be in work of our native workers. But the photographic camera was to postponed very long because Siamese have no facility to work. Afterward however we have met with a Swedent photographer being visitor here, and the other English gentleman, who was a person of good understanding of photographic work introduced to us by your Majesty's Consul Sir Robert Schomburgk, who both have given some instruction and assistance to our native worker who become now in some facility in the photographic work. Wherefore we on this occasion have liberty to let our native photographers take the likeness of ourselves, when we adorned with the watch decked with diamonds and the double edged sword, which were honorary royal gracious gift from your Majesty, received by us a few years ago, and seated ourselves by the tables containing the gift silver inkstand and desk together with the revolving pistol and rifle, wholly being royal gracious gift from your Majesty, in a framed piece of paper, have caused another photographic likeness of our royal affectionate Queen consort to be done in another framed paper, and let the painter paint both according to their ability, and got the said two photographic portraits, with a lump of pressed cotton in the Hydro-press, and a set of silver coins made up here by the native worker is the coining mint, so that there are three articles in number entrusted to the care of the present Siamese Embassy in accompany here with

—designed to be offered to your Majesty by them for inspection, hoping that your Majesty will see the effects of your Majesty's gracious present bestowed on us before, and to let your Majesty know that some articles of royal gift from your Majesty, which were for dress and employment, are decorated in our body and placed in our own use at our court, to be great honor to ourselves, because those are mark and token of the confirmed friendship between your Majesty and ourselves as we have received from your gracious Majesty. We are sure that when your Majesty would learn this our statement, and see the sample of the effect of the instruments which were royal gift to us from your Majesty become served by native worker of Siam for good effect, your Majesty will be very glad and please to learn. Sir Robert Schomburgk, the Consul of your Majesty, is an advanced in his age — he is elder then ourselves but 3 or 4 months, and have knowledge of various Sciences of Natural History, botany, geographic measurement &c., &c., and acquired with knowledge of civilised and enlightened code of laws. Whenever any matter or affairs occurred in his duty, he has endeavoured according to ability and opinion to serve your Majesty without delay, and in relating to the local affairs of our country out of his duty the same, he has liberty to given us suggestion and express his proper opinion and pleasure to us, and some time he required us to give him assistance to let him travel in certain interior regions of this country, for witnessing geographical position and observing some curiosity &c. We think the consul Sir Robert Schomburgk is righteous in consular affairs and always endeavouring in service to your Majesty with his utmost ability, and we solicit therefore your Majesty favour on him. Also M. Thomas Knox, the official Consular Interpreter of your Majesty, who was now returned to England, have been with us here very long for many years before conclusion of the improved Anglo Siamese Treaty. He can speak, read and write in our vernacular Siamese language with facility, and has right always in service to your Majesty in his duty, and his characters were pleased much morely to our governments. We wish therefore your Majesty gracious and merciful favour on him too on

this occasion. Will Siamese Embassy embrace good opportunity to visit your Majesty's dominion and have personal audience of your Majesty or not, we could not ascertain, because the desired and expected opportunity shall be determin[ed] by French Governments as under whose power the Embassy of this minor powerless monarchy has opportunity to cross the great Ocean and to reach Europe — which is far most distant from hence, in like manner of the former Siamese Embassy has liberty to do so under your Majesty's gracious favour.

If this Embassy however would have embraced good opportunity to arrive your Majesty's dominion, we pray your Majesty's gracious and merciful favour upon them. We trust however that this our royal letter and its accompanied articles, which were the effects of the instrument being the royal gift received by us from your Majesty, will no doubt be reached your Majesty's kind acceptance in any rate and per any way.

For the confirmed friendship existed between your Majesty and ourselves, we hope your gracious Majesty will allow us to bring a private proposal to your Majesty's notice. We venture that we have heard from many persons, who are your Majesty's subjects resident and visitor here, and who have informed us on the similar tiding and statement, that there were many monarchs of various nations in Europe who are in friendly term and alliance with your Majesty, ever have presented to your Majesty various peculiar decoration of their own arms or signs of their countries for your Majesty kind acceptance to be decorated in any manner, and then your Gracious Majesty has responded to them by bestowing on them some decorations which were mark or signs of your Majesty's standard or arm of your dominion in return for honor to them, and that when such the gift of honorary decorations are sent mutually among European monarchs, to improve royal friendship, there is an European custom to send with testimonial diploma.

If this tiding be true, we venture to state that we are desirous of presenting your Majesty a Siamese decoration made to show

a sign of ourselves or of our country, which would be appeared or known that it was offered from ourselves, whenever your Majesty might graciously decorate with it and show on any assembly or congregation, it will prove greatest honor to our name in that meeting. Also we are very desirous of receiving an honor from your Majesty's gracious favour, by benevolently bestowing upon us any decoration in any suitable manner to be dressed on our body, and to show in principal meeting that it was bestowed on us from your Majesty as a peculiar royal gift, it will prove greatest honor to us here among Eastern Monarchies. Will the desire occurred to us be proper and agreeable or not? We are the only ruler of remote or very distant country from Europe and have very different costume and appearance, yet we became an allied to your Majesty and other several rulers of civilized world, but we are afraid that the decoration made by our native artist, jeweler, gold smith, &c will be very ill construction or more titled manufacture than those of European article, so Siamese manufactured decoration may be not acceptable by your Majesty. Also we are very ignorant of the custom in furnish the style of Diploma which was said to be accustomed to accompany the offered decoration, how it shall be formed in proper manner; for this consequence we have postponed our desire to do so in the present occasion in am (? though this opportunity allowed us to send herewith.

Please permit us to express our pray to the superagency of the universe that should his devine blessing be poured continually upon your Majesty, to prolong and maintain your Majesty's valued life for long enjoyment of good health, happiness and prosperous reign, and to continue your Majesty's decendent in such manner upon your Majesty lawful dominion on future, during which while we pray also that the friendship and alliance of both nations of British dominion and Siam shall be firmly and peacefully continued without suspending or disturbance some time, until the end of the age of the sun, moon, and heaven and the earth. Amen.

Given at our royal audience hall Anant Samagome Param Maharaj wang grand palace in city of Ratnekosindr Mahindr Ayudia

Bangkok Siam, on the night of waxing moon in the Lunar month of Chitr, being the 5th from commencement of Cold Season in the year of Cock, still second decade of Siamese Astronomical Era one thousand two hundred twenty two, corresponding to the Solar date of Thursday the 21st day of the month of March in the christian Era one thousand Eight Hundred and sixty one, which is eleventh year or 3596th days of our reign.

