

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE OF KING MONGKUT.

(continued).

F. O. Siam,
Vol. 24.
No. 30.

British Consulate
Bangkok,
August 18th. 1861.

My Lord,

The Foreign Residents at Bangkok of the Protestant Religion have hitherto assembled for the celebration of Divine Service, in one of the houses of the American Missionaries. This is in many respects inconvenient, and it was resolved during a meeting, held for that purpose at this Consulate, that a memorial should be addressed to the Major King of Siam by the Protestant Community of Bangkok, soliciting His Majesty to grant a piece of land, in a convenient place for the erection of a Protestant Chapel. A Sub-Committee was named to collect subscriptions.

I was desired to act as Chairman, and to address the King on the subject of granting for that purpose, a piece of ground.

I have the honour to enclose herewith, a literal Copy of the King's answer, ceding to the Protestant Community the piece of land petitioned for.

The Act 6 Geo. Cap. 87 Sect. XI. cannot be applied to the present case according to the sense which it conveys. The number of Her Majesty's Subjects, professing the religion of the Church of England, is but small. I cannot appeal to Your Lordship under that Act for any assistance, but I may appeal for a grant to assist towards the erection of a Chapel at Bangkok, where according to the Protestant religion, service may be performed.

The Roman Catholic Church, besides that Bangkok is the Seat of the Bishop of Mallos, possesses four Churches or Chapels in Bangkok itself and five in the Country.

The Chapel now in contemplation of erection, will consequently be the first building dedicated to the performance of the Service according to the Potestant rites. I desired moreover the adoption of a clause in the organization of the Church Committee, that, should a Clergyman of the Episcopalean Church visit, or come to reside at Bangkok, the Chapel shall be likewise at his use to celebrate within, the Divine Service according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England. And with regard to the hours which are to be set apart for such a purpose, the necessary arrangements shall be made by consulting with the 'Trustees.' Having placed the foregoing under Your Lordship's consideration, I now solicit Your Lordship's Sanction, that on account of Her Majesty's Government, I may be permitted to subscribe towards the erection of the Chapel out of the Contingencies, two hundred Pounds.

Your Lordship will observe from the letter which the King has addressed to me, that it is His Majesty's pleasure that the expenses for the proposed road from his palace to Paknam at the mouth of the Menam, a distance in a straight line of about thirteen miles, shall be defrayed out of the Treasury; hence the sum of one hundred pounds Your Lordship authorized me to contribute out of Contingencies towards the formation of the road, will apparently not be required.

The King maintains likewise favourably the proposition of the erection of a Light house at the Bar, and at his desire, a Committe was named during a meeting at the Consulate to give a report in what manner it may best be effected.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a note which I have received from Mr. Gunn, one of the Sub-Committee to collect subscriptions, from which Your Lordship will observe that British Subjects resident in Bangkok have subscribed one thousand and five dollars (at four dollar and eighty cents per £, equal to two hundred and nine pounds ten shillings) towards the erection of a chapel, with a probability that the sum will ultimately amount to twelve hundred dollars two hundred and fifty pounds.

I have the honour to be &c.

Robert H. Schomburgk.

To

The Right Honourable,
 Lord Wm. Russell, M. P
 &c. &c. &c.

F. O. Siam (L. S.)
Vol. 24.
Copy
No 35.

Royal Residence,
Grand Palace,
31st July, 1861.

Sir,

I have received your letters under the date of 12th and 18th inst. the former accompanied 4 documents in relating to the proposed route.

This purpose is great, it may be troublesome and noxious to the native inhabitants in that district of their residences shall be removed for purpose of direct and broad route or path. And the fund of work will be great, ought to be from Treasure of our Governments.

Myself alone cannot decide to give you proper answer for being read to foreign community, who unanimously has shown the petition to me. I have therefore delivered those documents in hand of Chauphya Phra Klang the minister of Foreign Affairs here to obtain creditable translator or interpreter to translate in Siamese proper intending that I will lay before our Council for consideration and conclusion what to do. Then I will cause a proper answer to be given to you from them.

Myself think to construct the light houses at the Bar from the fund being the money of three years taxes deposed on Chinese people on this year

Regarding the required brief document for being testimony the small of ground given for erecting the Chapel for Protestant Christians, I beg to enclose herewith the customary Royal order or command in two pieces of paper, one of which shall be handed to the Officer of Surveying, the other shall be retained by the person who will possess the place concerned therein. It will I think [be] sufficient for the purpose. But if you require a longer document [than] these, which uncustomary, I will consider the proper term and give you another afterward. I ought to be very busy in writing and

arranging several documents in various affairs in locality. I seek pardon from you therefore for meet the delay always.

I beg to remain, .

Your good friend,

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

on 3727th day of reign.

(L. S.)

(Sd.)

(L. S.)

P. S. I do not understand exactly throughout those documents as term therein are generally strange or unaccustomed in speaking and reading to me—they ought therefore to be translated in Siamese proper.

(Sd.) S. P. P. M. M.

(L. S.)

British Consulate

F. O. Siam

Bangkok.

Vol. 27. No. 15

May 8th 1862.

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose herewith in original, a letter which I received from The Major King of Siam, His Majesty requesting that he may be permitted to purchase one of Sir William Armstrong's guns. I beg to refer Your Lordship to the letter itself, and if the request of the King can be executed, I am sure he will consider himself under obligation.

The permission appertains perhaps more strictly to the War Department, but I have no doubt if Your Lordship would advocate the King's request, he might see his wish realized. His Majesty has given the requisite orders for payment, reception and transmission of the Gun to Messrs. The Borneo Company Limited in London.

I have the honour to be &c.

Robert H. Schomburgk.

To

The Right Honourable
Earl Russell

&c., &c., &c.

(L. S.)

F. O. Siam,
Vol. 27.

Royal Residence
Grand Palace
29th April 1862.

Honored Sir,

I beg to apply to you one of my pleasures and desires hoping you can favour me to furnish it without delay as I thought it is only harmless.

Having had learned from various searches the bestness and most curiosity of the new breach loading cannon invented by Sir William Armstrong, I was eagerly desirous of obtaining one small gun of the only $2\frac{1}{2}$ bore made in good brass in manner of the Armstrong's cannon for my own enjoyment or play, to see the power and curiosity and usefulness &c. thereof, and for being the only specimen of such celebrated cannon, whenever We would concern relating to the power of such the breach loading cannon to our visitors came from remote state of Laos &c: to whom the sight of curious and powerful articles manufactured in Europe is very seldom; my purpose was only as the forementioned not for war-like purpose.

So I have written my order to the branch of the Borneo Company Limited at Singapore, offering to them the only price or amount of £300 that is to say three hundred sterling sovereigns for one of the gun forenamed with bore of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, they having accepted my order and being silent during a mean while have written me refusal of obtaining it for me in consequence of the prevention of their Governments. The extract of their letter to me is as the following.

"I have the honor to inform your Majesty that my friends in London applied to Sir Wm. Armstrong's agent for a six pounder gun with a bore of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, that gentleman stated that £ 300 was sufficient for the cost, but that he could not forward one without an order from the War Office. Accordingly my friends applied at the War Office and Lord Degray and Ripon informed them that at present it was not possible to allow any Armstrongs

“guns to be sold. In these circumstances I have been unable to procure one for Your Majesty.”

Can you favour me by asking your Governments at home to favour me by their permission for only one of small Armstrong's guns of the bore of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to be sold to me according to my very desire? as I wish it only for purpose of pleasure in witnessing the specimen of such the newly invented gun to see the improvements of British power &c., not for any warlike purpose, so I hope my desire must be considered harmless.

When you will favour me by asking your government at home for what purpose I hope you will forward this my sealed and signed application to London, for being a testimony which your governments at home will see with great confidence on you.

I hope they will perhaps make permission extraordinary and peculiarly for myself, whom they are knowing as an intimate and distinguished friend of their gracious Sovereign Her Majesty Victoria the Queen of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland defender of faith.

I have the honor to be

Your good friend,

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

on 4003rd day of reign

To

His Honor

Sir Robert Schomburgk,

the Consul of Her Britannic

Majesty for Siam, &c. &c.

British Consulate

Bangkok.

July 31st 1862.

F. O. Siam

Vol. 27. No. 25

My Lord,

I have honour to enclose herewith in original two Notes which I received from the first King, referring to a collection of live animals from Siam which his Majesty is just now sending as a present to the Emperor of the French.

When the Siamese Embassy was in Paris, they were requested to interest their King to send such a collection, and one of the Employé's at the Jardin des Plantes, with Assistants, accompanied the Embassy on their return to Bangkok in order to superintend the choice of animals and their transmission to France.

The French Steamer "Gironde" was sent expressly to Bangkok for the purpose of conveying these animals to Suez, from whence they will be conducted across the Isthmus and placed on board of an other vessel of the French Government which awaits them at Alexandria for further conveyance to France.

It must become obvious, that as simple as the gift of the Siamese King to the French Emperor is in its true light, sufficient éclat has been given to this act by the French Government.

His Siamese Majesty probably considering, that having presented such a collection to the Emperor of the French, apparently imagined that such might cause remarks, if a similar present were not equally tendered to the Queen, he addressed to me his letter of the 21st of July. I informed the King in answer that the Zoological Society of London was an institution of private individuals, and that while I had no doubt they would feel grateful to his Majesty for his kind offer, I thought they might hesitate to incur so heavy an expense as would be entailed upon them by sending a vessel express for such a purpose to Bangkok. I promised however to communicate to the Zoological Society his Majesty's note. This produced in answer his second letter of the 23rd of July, requesting me to communicate to Her Majesty's Government his offer. I beg leave to enclose a copy of my answer to the King.

I intend to write by the present opportunity to the Secretary of the Zoological Society, informing him of the King's offer with the request to

place the matter before their Council and to inform me whether I am to take any further steps.

It would no doubt gratify the King if Your Lordship were pleased to acknowledge his offer of sending a similar collection as the one transmitted to France, to Her Majesty the Queen, if a proper conveyance be provided for.

I have the honour to be &c.

Robert H. Schomburgk

To.

The Right Honourable

The Earl Russell. K. G.

&c., &c., &c.

F. O. Siam
 Vol. 27.
 No. 102.

Royal Residence,
 Grand Palace,
 21st July 1862.

Sir,

On the time of the Siamese Embassy having been at Paris Monsieur Charles De Montigny, who had been French Plenipotentiary in negotiation of Galico Siamese Treaty here on the year 1856, and who on last year was sent by the French Governments at Paris to accompany Siamese Embassy there for having been familiar with Siamese, has introduced a person who is superintendant the Imperial Zoographical museum to be acquainted with our Embassy, and assured that His Majesty the Emperor of France please to have various kind of animals of Siam for that museum, His Majesty will be very glad if we would send some number of Siamese quadrupeds and fowls, for that purpose when our Ambassador have accepted, the French Governments have sent two French Zoographers with our Embassy on return to Siam and have placed arrangement that after a few months an Imperial Steamer will be sent here for receipt of animals required and selected by those two French Zoographers.

So on the present opportunity the French steamer "Gironde" came and lies at outside of the Bar—the French Commandant, acting consul and Zoographers encouraged me to write our royal letter in address to the Emperor on the subject. So I ought to do it, because our Embassy have had accepted to do so when they had been at Paris.

Whereas yourself had introduced a diploma from Zoographical or Zoological Society of England to me and made me an honorary member of that society on your first arrival here, I wish now therefore to serve her Majesty the queen of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on such or similar way, if you endeavour to have any person of that society to be here for selection of

animals and cause a large Steamer to come here for their receipt. I shall be glad to secure.

I beg to remain,

Your good friend,

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

on 4086th day of reign.

To His Honor

Sir Robert Schomburgk

Her B. Majesty Consul

for Siam &c. &c.

F. O. Siam
Vol. 27.
No. 103.

Royal Residence
Grand Palace,
23rd July, 1862.

Sir,

I have received your Note of the 21st. inst. on last night. I beg to state that when I have written you my last note, I considered that when I have so liberty to send some number of Siamese animal for Zoographical museum of Paris per the Imperial Steamer, it might be known to many even through England; and it might appeared that I am delighted to have much more respect and favourable endeavour for service to the Emperor of France than to Her Britannic Majesty, who has entered the true friendship with me before the Emperor of France, and who is of the language which is medium of my use in correspondences with many European nations who have now treaty power with this country. Then many might consider me as I am much marvelled or admired with name of that Emperor, that now French Subjects boasting almost everywhere, like the prince of Cambodia who considered the French Monarch as most and highest of all monarches on the surface of the earth.

For this consequence, I have considered that it will be best if I have the equal service to Her Britannic Majesty on the same manner, and it will be known as an equal friendly service with that was done to the French Emperor.

Moreover whereas you have introduced the Diploma from the Zoological Society of England to me and made me their honorary member long since, and nothing has been done by me in favour to the said Society after the Diploma was received, when they would have learnt that I sent certain number of Siamese animals to the Zoological museum of France, they might be sorry and consider me as the foresaid also.

On your reply to my last note you said that will write information and send my note to the only Zoological Society—it is occurred to me that it would be best and you would oblige to me

much if you would write this my intention to the British governments at home to make known to Her Britannic Majesty; then the receipt of animals may be with Her Majesty's man of war in the same manner; it will be great honor to me.

I beg to remain

Your good friend,

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

on 4088th day of reign.

To His Honor

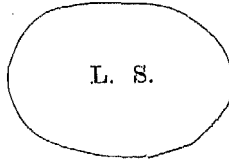
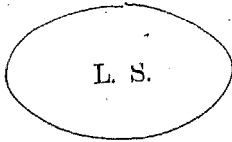
Sir Robert Schomburgk

the Consul of Her Britannic Majesty

for Siam &c. &c. &c.

[True Copy.]

F. O., Siam
vol. 34.



Somdetch Phra Paramendr Maha Mongkut by the Divine blessing of the Superagency of the Universe, the first King of Siam, and its dependencies, great parts of Laos, Cambodia, several provinces of the Malayan Peninsula &c. &c. &c.

To

Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria,
Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,
Sovereign of Hindostan, Defender of the Faith, &c. &c. &c.

Our royal Sister and most distinguished and respected friend,
Humbly and respectfully sendeth greeting.

Please permit us to acquaint Your gracious Majesty, that Your Majesty's faithful consul, Sir Robert Schomburgk, whom Your Majesty in Council was pleased to nominate as consul at Bangkok, on his arrival here in the year of the serpent, ninth decade of the Siamese local Era 1219, corresponding to the Christian year 1857, was the bearer of Your Majesty's Royal letter and certain royal gifts to cement the friendship between us and Your Majesty.

The subject of Your Majesty's letter was introductory of Sir Robert Schomburgk in order that we might become familiarly acquainted with him.

Sir Robert Schomburgk has now been in Bangkok over six years, and has, on all occasions, endeavoured faithfully and zealously to fulfil his duties as the servant of Your Majesty.

He has also by his good qualities greatly pleased our Ministers, who have expressed their satisfaction with his conduct as consul, in a letter sent in his charge for the information of Your Majesty's Ministers.

Sir Robert Schomburgk is about the same age as ourselves, being only three months older. As he is now sixty years of age, he feels himself unable to withstand the effect of our warm climate, and has taken leave to return to Europe, where the climate is more salubrious.

We could not allow Sir Robert Schomburgk to depart without our royal letter which we have to send in his charge, and as he has resigned his appointment as Your Majesty's consul at Siam, we would beg Your Majesty that you will still continue to extend Your royal favour to him. We would beg Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct Your Ministers to select a person of rank and possessing the like good qualities as Sir Robert Schomburgk to be appointed in the place of Sir Robert Schomburgk without delay. We also beg that the new Consul at Siam may be a person of intelligence and well acquainted with his duties. We would prefer a person sent direct from England, and whose good qualities and abilities the British Government is aware of from personal acquaintance.

If the new consul be a person familiar with the international and other laws, he would render great assistance to the Siamese Government, who are in governing of a powerless nation, by advising and conferring with it in matters of importance, and thereby ward off any calamities which might otherwise befall us through misunderstanding with the neighbouring great powers.

From the South West extending to the North West of Siam, since the last 40 years, the frontiers of Great Britain certain disputes have joined those of this kingdom, different understanding on trifling matters have sometimes taken place between the two governments, but through the medium of Your Majesty's consul here, all these differences have been nearly all satisfactorily arranged: those that remain unsettled are but a few unimportant ones.

The Siamese Government is aware that it is distant from Europe and that it is unacquainted with the good laws and custom[s] of civilized Europe. The Siamese Government have consequently been willing that Your Majesty with the Ministers should decide on all such differences, as it has been confident that the decree of the British parliament would always be guided by justice. We consider ourselves as closely connected with Great Britain for the following three reasons.

1st Our territories have for a long period past, bordered on those of Great Britain, as we have above stated.

2nd A treaty was concluded many years ago and was renewed before any other nation made one with Siam.

3rd Besides the treaty Royal, letters have passed between Your Majesty and ourselves, the Siamese ministers and those of Great Britain have corresponded, these correspondences have been mutually read and understood without the necessity of the interposition of an interpreter

For these reasons we beg Your Majesty will bestow your compassion and favour on us.

Sometime since, we and our Ministers were desirous of nominating a Siamese consul at London, and we requested Sir Robert Schomburgk to inform Your Majesty's ministers of our intention. A reply was received giving their consent which pleased us much. We then selected Mr. D. K. Mason a British subject who had resided in Siam for eight years as merchant and had become acquainted with the customs of Siam, and who having many friends in London was desirous of returning to live there in an honorable position.

We informed Sir Robert Schomburgk who expressed to us his approbation of our choice; we therefore appointed Mr. D. K. Mason as our consul and conferred on him the title according to the Siamese custom of "Phra Siam Dhurabah." Sir Robert Schomburgk assured us that Your Majesty's Government would recognise the appointment.

I would beg Your Majesty will extend your favour and benevolence towards Mr. D. K. Mason our consul.

We were sincerely grieved to learn of the decease of Your Majesty's royal mother, and of Your Majesty's royal consort, which two sad events happened on the last year

We sincerely sympathize with Your Majesty's irreparable losses, nevertheless, we trust that Your Majesty will find consolation in the thought that all mankind must follow this path, even those most dear to us cannot be prevented from leaving us.

We ourselves have also within the last three years suffered losses in our royal family, by the death of our royal queen consort aged 27 years, of our second son aged 38 years, and of our daughter aged 8 years. These matters are all known unto Sir Robert Schomburgk.

We must now beg to express our pleasure and congratulations at learning that Your Majesty's royal family has been increased by the birth of royal grandchildren. We sincerely trust that they may long remain and will prove a source of happiness to Your Majesty.

We pray the Superagency of the Universe may pour his Divine blessing on Your Majesty and render you every happiness and a long and prosperous life and reign, and that the friendship between our two nations may be happily connected until the end of time.

Given at our Royal Court House Anant Samagome, Grand Palace Ratne Kosind Mahindr Ayudia Bangkok on Friday the 7th night of the Lunar month of Bisakh, which is the 6th month from commencement of cold season in the year of Mice sixth decade of Siamese local Era 1226, corresponding to the 27th day of the month of May in Anno Christ's 1864, which is the 14th year or 4762nd day of our reign.

Manu Regnia { All above lines are the Respectfully Homage from
Your Gracious Majesty's most obedient faithful
humble Servant honoured by Your Gracious Majesty
as Your Majesty's affectioned Royal Brother and
distinguished friend.

(Sd.) S. P. P. Mongkut Rex Siamensium.

[L. S.]

[L. S.]

F. O. Siam
vol. 46.

Royal Residence
Grand Palace,
Bangkok.
8th July, 1868.

My dear familiar friend,

His Excellency Henry Saint George Ord, the colonel Governor commander-in-chief for the British Strait Settlement or Prince of Wales Islands Pinang Malacca and Singapore, seemed to be a noble person of best humour & grace toward me almost alike my late lamented good will old friend Lieutenant colonel governor John Butterworth C. B., who had been familiar & intimate friend in private communication with me during his stay in government of the Strait Settlement in late reign of Siam, when I was only a prince out of political affair, until I became enthroned on the present royal throne.

This present colonel Governor was almost alike the said friend, since his becoming the colonel governor in the neighbouring British colony to Siam, I have embraced good opportunity to communicate with him several times occasionally, his speech & tone of letter from him was very gracious & respectful & very satisfactory to me indeed. Now he became familiar & intimate with me as well as his Lady Mrs. Ord who was regardful to my fine noble Ladies here. I am very anxious eagerly & very desirous of meeting with him & his lady in person even once.

I consider this is the great opportunity to have fulfilment of my pleasure & desire for interview with the said noble friends in persons, as the total Eclipse of the sun on 18th August will be most remarkable & interesting and its most duration about noon will be at Houwan longitude E. G. $99^{\circ} 42'$ & latitude North $11^{\circ} 39'$ where I will go to wait to see the said Eclipse. I wish to write him an invitation to be in accompany me thither upon that time, but I fear may he refuse it. Please assist me to fulfill my desire according to your ability. I shall feel great obligation from you.

I beg to remain

Your faithfully good friend,

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

on 6265th day of reign.

To H. Alabaster.