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Go to... Jan. 1846.

To Hon. James Buchanan
Secretary of State.

Sir.

Your letter of 16th April 1845, has been received, embodying my commission as Secretary of Chinese interpreter to the Mission of the United States to China, and also a letter of credit on the Bankers of the United States at London.

I have addressed previously to meeting China, expressing to me his opinion of the desirability of an enlargement of the powers of the government availing itself of the services which my relations to the Chinese might enable me to render to them. In view of my views in the event the subject should come up on this storm to America, I have expressed to him that my desire had been to serve, not in the highest possible capacity to America; that if in the prosecution of this object I can also render any service, however humble, to my own country, still more shall I rejoice to do it.

On the arrival in China of the Acting Commissioner Commodore Blake, my first inquiry on receiving from him the appointment of the President was, whether the acceptance of it was compatible with my continued labors in my missionary capacity, at the same time observing that my continued influence with the Chinese required that these should not...
acree. He answered affirmatively and added that
if I were jealous for the good of the Hospital under
my charge I should not decline it, "with this under
standing and with these views I have accepted
the appointment and assumed the responsibilities
assigned me by the President & Senate. Should
however the test of experience prove that present
views & expectations are without foundation,
I respectfully request that with one year
previous notice to the government, I may
be allowed honorably to resign the present
appointment.

Permit me Sir, in conclusion to call your
attention to the expediency of encouraging
some young man or men of requisite abilities
and qualifications coming to China to acquire
the language with the prospect of ultimately
rendering it subservient to his country.

Aside from the uncertainties of life,
at a period not very remote, the present
American analogues may be by age
or other causes unable to render the same
which hitherto the relations of the two
countries will constantly require, & the
language is not one which like other
living tongues may be acquired in one
or two years.

While permitted to hold my present
office it shall be my endeavor to dis-
charge its duties with fidelity & such
ability as I possess, ever mindful
for the interests & the honor of both countries.

With my respects to the President, to one

appreciation of the honor he has conferred.

I am 2nd respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

[Signature]

Peter Parker.