

Zachary Taylor,
President of the United States of America,

To His Majesty the Magnificent King of Anam.

Great and Good Friend!

To you, my Brother, the Great and Mighty King of Anam, I send love and goodwill, in this letter, by the hands of Mr Joseph Balestier, my faithful, and trusty Envoy and Minister to South Eastern Asia, to whom I give express orders to deliver it into your own Royal hands, in order that you may understand how greatly I have been grieved to hear it said, that the Captain, of one of my warships, had misbehaved himself, four years ago, (which I have only heard of lately, for the first time, because your Country is so far from mine,) by landing men from his ship in Toorong Bay, and firing on your people, and killing and wounding some of them - I have ordered a trial of inquiry to be had upon him to be followed by every measure which justice shall require. - And how could he have done so, when he knew, that my warships and trading ships, have always been received with friendship, in Anam, and that my own heart has always been with you, and your people, Brother! - That Captain could not have been in his senses, if he did so. I am sorrowful, and I grieve, for this breach in our friendship, and I make haste, now, to send you this letter that you may know my heart.

America, my Country, is very large - very great: - I have a great many war-ships, fire-ships and trading ships. - I am now at peace with all the world, and my people are good and peaceable, and in China and Siam, where every year, many of them go to trade, they are very much liked, and my heart would be glad that, now, you know how I disapprove of the bad conduct of any person commanding one of my war-ships, you would forget what is past, and receive my ships, and people, as before, to trade, and you may be assured that you will never have cause to complain again.

Having unbosomed myself to you, my Brother, because I am just and good, I hope you will listen to my words of peace, and not think of revenging, on innocent people, of my nation, the evil brought on by others, contrary to my orders. I can now do no more.

But, I must let you know that, if you, or your officers, seek to revenge yourselves upon any Americans, for what ought to be forgotten and forgiven after my letter has come to your hands, that, then, you will force me to send my warships, fireships and soldiers, to Amoy, to ask you why you are so revengeful, for what cannot now be helped; and upon you will devolve all the bad consequences.

It is greatly to be regretted that our former Mission to the East, under Mr. Edmund Roberts, who was sent out by this Government in 1835, to

Cultivate friendly commercial relations with you, should not have proved as successful as could have been wished; but it is not too late now, I trust, to place those relations upon the best possible footing, and thereby to promote the harmonious intercourse of the two Countries, and to extend most advantageously to both, the benefits of trade and commerce. This is our ardent and sincere desire, and this Mr. Paletier is instructed to do all in his power to accomplish.

May your God, and my God, prevent the shedding of any more blood between my people and your people, My Brother,

Your Good Friend,

Z. Taylor.

By the President:

John M Clayton.

Secretary of State.

Washington City, August 16th 1849.