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J.M.J.

Hong Kong 9.2.85

My dear Sir William,

Your welcome letter and accompanying pamphlet was forwarded to me here. I had reason however to remember you without this reminder for I have been staying with Sir. Geo Bowenⁱ who more than once mentioned your name in connection with his reminiscences of Victoria. I have found him most kind and hospitable, but from the enclosed extract I send you it appears that he does not succeed in pleasing everyone. He took the chair at a lecture I gave when as you perceive his remarks were not in the best of tasteⁱⁱ— a weak point in his speechifying which was well-known to you. Since I last wrote I have been rambling a great deal. After leaving Perak the Acting Governor applied to the Admiral for a passage for me on board H.M.S. Pegasus which was going for a cruise round Borneo and the Philippines. I need not tell you what a very interesting voyage this was to me. I went a little way up the country in Borneo and saw the Dyaksⁱⁱⁱ (or as they are here called the Dusuns) in their native state. They a kind agricultural people and I assure you that their part of the country is as well and carefully cultivated as any part of Java or China that I have seen. What I saw of the Philippines was very delightful. The Jesuit Fathers were very kind to me. The conquest of these islands to the faith is one of the most glorious results of missionary enterprise of which the church can boast in these latter days. The Spaniards are generous and kind — hospitable to an astounding degree — but not religious — at least the men I met seemed to have no faith. They are not scoffers like the French however. It is no use to try to tell you about my visit to Canton, at least to tell you in a short letter but may I not hope to tell you one day *viva voce*?^{iv} The days of our charming intercourse are not I trust gone for ever.

I had a little trouble in getting off to Canton. The war has upset everything and the C. River is full of sunken ships and torpedoes, so that a special pilot is wanted to take one up, and he has to be obtained from the Chinese gunboats. However, I got up there and spent five days most pleasantly. I got all about the city without molestation except from the curiosity of the passers-by and the importunity of the beggars. My time went all the more pleasantly as the Vice-consul is Dr. Hance F.L.S.,^v the greatest authority we have on Chinese botany. He has a splendid herbarium^{vi} and when tired of sightseeing in the city I had only to retire to the Consulate where a rare treat awaited me in going over his collection. I am now staying with Judge Russell^{vii} who has a cosy house on the top of the Peak from whence there is a delightful view when the mist will permit one to see it. I have not been well but only a severe cold so it is not worthwhile referring to it. In about a fortnight I am going to Japan and then return to Singapore where, if I do not make a run to Sumatra, I will make arrangements for returning to Australia. I have had a good long holiday now but I think I was fairly entitled to one especially as my little illness has shown me that continued preaching has left its effects on my lungs. I hope you Mrs. Archer and my dear Gracie are well. Say I sent my very warmest love and best blessing. I preached yesterday at St. Joseph's Church here to a large European congregation composed mostly of officers and men of the army and navy with a sprinkling of

civil servants their wives and families. I can be, you see a little use, even here. Good bye my dearest Sir William. God bless you. A line to Govt House Singapore if posted before May will reach me.

Ever yrs. J.E. Tenison Woods.

Written across: There are at present in Hong Kong three French Bishops and 35 priests - all in Chinese costume, pigtail included. They have been driven from their missions by the Chinese.

ⁱ Sir George Bowen (1821-1899), an Irishman and graduate of Oxford University, established his reputation as an outstanding Greek scholar before his appointment as first Governor of Queensland in 1859. An able administrator, he was appointed to New Zealand in 1867 and worked for a just peace settlement at the close of the Maori Wars. His term as Governor of Victoria (1872-1879) was made difficult by the continuing power struggle between the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. (Note I, 29/1/78) After three years at Mauritius he was in 1882 appointed to Hong Kong where six years later he retired from office. He was elected a Member of the Royal Geographical Society in 1844 and served on its Council from 1889 to 1892. (Dictionary of National Biography Vol. XXII, pp. 240-242)

ⁱⁱ In his report to the Earl of Derby (4th February, 1885), Sir George Bowen encloses the full account of the lecture on "The Mines and Minerals of the Malay Peninsula" given by Julian on the previous day to a large audience in Hong Kong. In the course of his introduction, Sir George remarked, "Here we have a practical proof that religion has no longer any fear of science. We see a Roman Catholic clergyman about to lecture on what was once considered the dangerous science of geology, and I am surprised we have not the Bishop ready to applaud him, but I am sure it must be owing to some accident that my friend Bishop Raimondi is not here today. (Applause) In the sixteenth century, as we all know, the great astronomer Galileo was persecuted because he contended that the earth goes round the sun, and until quite lately geology was considered a more irreligious science than astronomy. This feeling was not confined to the Church of Rome. At the end of the last century an eminent Bishop of the Church of England ridiculed the pretensions of geologists — and we know that ridicule is often a more dangerous weapon than hatred;... by saying that for a man crawling on the face of the earth to pretend that he knew what was going on in the interior of our planet was like a gnat on the shoulder of an elephant pretending that it knew what was going on in the bowels of the huge animal. (Laughter) But behold what progress! Here we have Mr. Woods at the end of the nineteenth century, about to tell us living in Hong Kong what is going on in the bowels of the Malay Peninsula. (Applause). This is probably the section which occasions Julian's comments.

ⁱⁱⁱ Primitive people living in Central Borneo and speaking a Malayan language. In this instance Julian speaks of the Dyaks and Dunsuns as one, but in "Geographical Notes in Malaysia and Asia", *Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S.W.* Second Series, Vol. IIIA, 1888, p. 624, he differentiates between them, remarking, for example, 'The Dunsuns are not much burdened with clothes... nevertheless they have more clothes than the Dyaks.'

^{iv} "in conversation".

^v Dr. H.F. Hance (1827-1886) entered the Hong Kong Civil Service in 1844 and served in the Far East until his death. An eminent botanist, he undertook the study of the flora of China and many European scientific societies elected him as Fellow. He collaborated with the English botanist, George Bentham, as well as publishing widely himself, and Sir Joseph Hooker, the English botanist, was profuse in his praise of Hance's contribution to botany. (Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. III, pp. 115-116)

^{vi} At his death (the year following this letter) Dr. Hance's herbarium consisted of over twenty two thousand different species of varieties of plants. (*ibid.*)

^{vii} James Russell was recruited as a cadet for the Hong Kong Civil Service in 1865. In the negotiations with China, following the 1886 blockade, Russell, the Registrar-General, was a member of the Hong Kong Commission. The agreement, dealing primarily with the opium problem, which was signed on 11th September, 1886, was largely his work. He is mentioned (as Mr. Justice Russell) attending Woods' lecture (Note 2). A competent administrator, he "had won the esteem of the Chinese community before he was raised to the bench in 1888 as Chief Justice in the Supreme Court". (C.B. Endacott, *A History of Hong Kong*, London, Oxford University Press, 1958;, pp. 168, 213, 244-247)