

HOW TO DEAL WITH CHINA,

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HOW TO DEAL

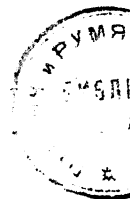
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WITH CHINA.

A LETTER TO DE B. RAND. KEIM, ESQUIRE,

AGENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY



GENERAL CHAS. W. LE GENDRE,

U. S. CONSUL AT AMOY.



AMOY

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The manuscript from which this paper was printed was written in great haste and not as legibly as it might have been, and it was passed through the press by, and under the supervision of Macao-Portuguese and Chinese, persons comparatively ignorant of the English language; the consequence is that so many errors have crept into the text that the author has abandoned the task of drawing up a table of errata, as hopeless.

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U. S. Consulate for Amoy and the Dependencies thereof

Amoy, 5th June, 1871.

To the Hon. First Assistant Secretary of State

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit, through you, a paper which I have prepared for Mr. Keim, who came to inspect my consulate, in January last.

In undertaking this task I have been guided by two considerations: First, to give to the Country the benefit of the experience which I have acquired, in its service, during a residence of five years in the East; and, in the second place, to be of use to an officer specially recommended by the President, in assisting him in making his report to the Government more fully than he otherwise could have done with the unavoidably imperfect information that he was enabled to gather during his brief stay in China.

In the preparation of this paper I have availed myself of the experience which I have acquired during my repeated and protracted visits to Formosa. This Island represents China in miniature, with many of its varieties of race, each speaking different dialects, with all its literary aspects, its administrative and military organization, its

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wonderful agriculture and commerce, all of which the observer may embrace within a narrow space, under the Imperial Rule, not exceeding two hundred miles in length by twenty in breadth. There I have studied the inland trade in its connection with the collection of public revenue under a system peculiar to the Chinese, in its complex forms and features; and in an uninterrupted intercourse with the authorities and people there, I have been enabled to obtain an insight into subjects which would have otherwise been closed to me; and with what personal observation had not furnished me, I have obtained in communications with men who had past the best years of their lives in public employ in this country, and by whose experience it has been my good fortune to profit.

I have had only one hundred copies of this paper printed, forty of which I now beg to hand you for circulation as you may think fit. I have kept the remainder in the Consular Archives, save three copies which I have sent, to the Consul General, to the Minister and the Admiral. I shall wait the Department's permission before presenting any of them to my friends.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. W. LE GENDRE.