

11-23-1852

Letter from Matthew C. Perry, in Norfolk, Virginia aboard the U.S. Steam Frigate Mississippi, to William J.W. Clancy, commanding U.S. Steam Frigate Powhattan, directing him on the route by which he shall sail to Macau (China). November 23, 1852.

Matthew Calbraith Perry Commander East India Squadron  
*United States Navy*

William J.W. Clancy Commander U.S. Steam Frigate Powhattan  
*United States Navy*

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The dated  
the day before  
the date of  
the day before  
the date of  
the day before

M. C. Perry

U S Steam Frigate Mississippi  
Norfolk Virginia November 23<sup>d</sup> 1852

Sir

When the U S Steam Frigate Powhattan  
to the command of which You have been assigned is ready for  
Sea, and you have authority for sailing from the Secretary of the  
Navy, you will proceed with her with all despatch to Madeira  
and there replenish your coal, and spending as little time as  
possible at that Port, Sail from thence for the Cape of Good Hope  
there again to replenish your coal, sailing thence with all  
expedition you will proceed to Mauritius or Isle of France, and  
again filling up your coal at Mauritius proceed to Macou-  
China, where you will find further instructions from me.

I shall sail to morrow in this Ship with the  
intention of pursuing precisely the same track designated to You  
and will cause to be held in readiness at the abovenamed Ports  
provisions of Coal etc so that you will meet with little delay.

It is possible that you may reach the Cape  
of Good Hope before the Mississippi, as the Powhattan is

Captain Hm J M Cloney  
Appointed to Command U S Steam Frigate Powhattan

the fastest Steamer of the two; should such be the case you will await my arrival there, employing the time in preparing your ship for sailing and having coal and water ready for the Mississippi on her arrival.

It is not unlikely that you will again be compelled to take in a supply of coal at some intermediate place between Mauritius and Macao. It is therefore left to your discretion to stop at such Port as you may deem most desirable having in view the greatest chance of obtaining the quantity desired, and selecting one of those resorted to by the English Steamers

Probably Singapore is to be preferred.

On leaving Madeira, it will be well in view of saving coal, to remove the immersed floats of the Powhattan and run the Trades down under canvass resuming Steam to carry the vessel across the Equatorial Latitudes, and again resorting to canvass in the South East Trades; but upon this point much must be left to your own judgement and discretion.

You are probably aware that Coal vessels have been despatched from New York to the Cape of Good Hope and Mauritius, to meet the outward bound Steamers of my Command, and you will receive your supplies from those vessels or from a Stock left on shore.

Before leaving the United States you

will transmit to the Navy Department full muster  
Rolls with separate lists of the officers attached to  
Your Ship.

Wishing you an agreeable and prosperous  
passage to China

I am Sir  
Most Respectfully  
Your obedient Servant

  
Comd East India Squadron