

THE LATE MR. **BURLINGAME.**

LETTERS FROM MINISTER CURTIN AND THE CHINESE EMBASSY.

In the correspondence between Minister Curtin and Mr. Fish, the former, writing from St. Petersburg, Feb. 23, said:

"The Chinese Ministers and their suite are deeply distressed at Mr. Burlingame's death, though they announce that they will continue the mission, Sun-Tajen and Tchih-Tajen now taking the head of it. Unfortunately, Mr. Brown is not here, and cannot arrive before Sunday night. Gen. Vlangally, the Russian Minister at Peking, who was in daily consultation with Mr. Burlingame up to his illness, fears that the Chinese may construe Mr. Burlingame's death as the hand of Providence working against them, and that the beneficial results of the mission may be at an end. I have done all I could in the matter, and shall continue to cultivate as friendly and intimate relations as possible with the members of the mission; but I have apprehensions that, on account of the great success of the mission, its direction will fall into foreign hands, and that European Governments may seek to control the policy of the Chinese Government, unless wise measures are taken to counteract them."

On March 13, Minister Curtin conveyed to the Chinese Embassy, "in accordance with express direction of the President," the assurance of the profound regret felt by the American people for Mr. Burlingame, and received the following reply:

CHINESE EMBASSY TO MR. CURTIN.

Chi and Sun, Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of China, make a communication in reply. We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's dispatch, conveying to us, by the direction of the President, the expression of the profound sympathy and sorrow with which the death of our late colleague, Mr. Burlingame, has inspired the Government and the people of the United States, and also expressing your Excellency's own deep feelings of sorrow for the loss we have sustained.

We receive with due respect the expression of sympathy on the part of the President of your honorable country, and we, personally, fully share in your Excellency's deep feelings of sorrow. Mr. Burlingame was one of China's truest friends. He had established the closest relations of amity between our two countries, and it was his ardent desire and object to unite the nations of Europe in the same bonds of friendship and good will toward China. For this reason we, as well as all our countrymen, felt for him the sincerest affection.

We now join with your Excellency in profound regret for his loss; but if we can cause the bonds of friendship with which he has united our countries to become daily closer and closer, though he himself be dead, his work and his fame will still live. It is this thought which must be our consolation in our present sorrow. We are forwarding copies of the dispatch under acknowledgment, and of this our reply, to the Board of Foreign Affairs in Peking, to be laid before the Emperor our Sovereign.

We have the honor, in the mean time, to request that your Excellency will have respectfully conveyed to the President of the United States these our thanks for his gracious expression of sympathy and condolence. A necessary communication addressed to Andrew G. Curtin, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America at the Court of Russia.

Fung-Chih, ninth year, second moon, 18th day (March 18, 1870).

Mr. Curtin also writes: "That among the sympathetic letters from all parts of Europe is one from the Queen of Prussia, expressive of her sad feelings at Mrs. Burlingame's bereavement." Minister Bancroft writes: "The historian, Runke, said to me that he looked upon his death as a loss to the human race."