

Dr. W. D. Williams

26 Feb. 1794

W. D. Williams

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I was quite Surprised in hearing of your sudden departure from Canton I thought we would have the pleasure of having a Long Conversation about the different Informations you might wish to receive from Pekin, I expected you would have also given me a Letter for Mr. Desdachs but as there is yet time I beg you will be so kind as to furnish me with the occasion of doing you so little a Service in Acknowledgement for the Favours you were pleased to confer on me, as I do not like to confine myself to Verbal Expressions of the lively Sentiments of Gratitude with which I am penetrated for your Kindness.

I must own the Correspondance of Pekin lies under great Secrecy the Mandarins last year opened and retained the Letters sent

the Capital after having ^{got them} interpreted; a few days they have opened
Others in order to get them likewise interpreted but I imagine
they will not retain ^{them}. I am convinced that the letters I might
hereafter send from thence, would suffer more difficulties than
those of Others in consequence I can only promise to write
as far as my Superiors think it prudent and convenient
Having made this necessary restriction you may depend on the
punctuality with which I shall endeavour to acquit myself of
your desires and commissions

As I am under obligations to Mr. Crocker and his three Wives
Mess^{rs}. Drummond Michie and Gilmore I take the liberty of
sending ^{upon} your address four pieces of Silk which the Emperor
sent ^{me} flattering myself that these Gentlemen will not disdain this
trifle but receive it as a small token of the just acknowledgement
of the favours they were so kind as to bestow on Mr. Lamont and me
I expect to day or tomorrow to know whether I shall go to Peking and
immediately after receiving the news I shall have the honor

of acquainting Sir George Staunton thereof

I have the honor to remain penetrated with
due sentiments of lively Gratitude and Esteem

Sir

Your much Obliged
and
Very Humble servant

R. Hanna

a Canton 26 Feb^r 1794