

those, who thus were suspected of it, that the republic of the United Provinces being then in alliance with Great Britain, and coming next to it in the proportion of the traffic carried on with the Chinese, a communication of the intended Embassy was expressly made to the states general of that republic, with offers of service, to be performed by the Ambassador, in case that any circumstance, in the commercial position of the Dutch factory at Canton, should call for his particular interposition.

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The general scope of the present mission cannot, indeed, be better ascertained than by his Majesty's private instructions to his Ambassador, signified to him through one of the Secretaries of State; in which it is observed, that " a greater number of his subjects, than " of any other Europeans, had been trading, for a " considerable time past, in China; that the commercial intercourse between several other nations and " that great empire had been preceded, accompanied, " or followed, by special communications with its " sovereign. Others had the support of missionaries, " who, from their eminence in science, or ingenuity " in the arts, had been frequently admitted to the familiarity of a curious and polished court, and which " missionaries, in the midst of their cares for the propagation of their faith, were not supposed to have " been unmindful of the views and interest of their

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“ country ; while the English traders remained un-  
“ aided, and as it were, unavowed, at a distance so  
“ remote as to admit of a misrepresentation of the na-  
“ tional character and importance ; and where, too, their  
“ occupation was not held in that esteem, which might  
“ be necessary to procure them safety and respect ;”  
that, “ under these circumstances, it became the dignity  
“ and character of his Majesty to extend his paternal  
“ regard to these his distant subjects, even if the com-  
“ merce and prosperity of the nation were not con-  
“ cerned in their success ; and to claim the Emperor  
“ of China’s protection for them, with that weight  
“ which is due to the requisition of one great sovereign  
“ from another ;” that, “ a free communication with a  
“ people, perhaps the most singular upon the globe,  
“ among whom civilization had existed, and the arts  
“ been cultivated, through a long series of ages, with  
“ fewer interruptions than elsewhere, was well worthy,  
“ also, of being sought by the British nation, which  
“ saw with pleasure, and with gratitude applauded, the  
“ several voyages undertaken already, by his Majesty’s  
“ command, and at the public expence, in the pursuit  
“ of knowledge, and for the discovery and observation  
“ of distant countries and manners ;” but that, “ in  
“ seeking to improve a connection with China, no  
“ views were entertained except those of the general  
“ interests of humanity, the mutual benefit of both

“ nations, and the protection of commerce under the  
“ Chinese government.”

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In the same spirit, it is said in his Majesty's letter to the Emperor of China, that, “ the natural disposition of  
“ a great and benevolent sovereign, such as his Im-  
“ perial Majesty, whom Providence had seated upon  
“ the throne for the good of mankind, was to watch  
“ over the peace and security of his dominions ; and to  
“ take pains for disseminating happiness, virtue, and  
“ knowledge among his subjects ; extending the same  
“ beneficence, with all the peaceful arts, as far as he  
“ was able, to the whole human race.” That his Bri-  
tannic Majesty, “ impressed with such sentiments from  
“ the very beginning of his reign, when he found his  
“ people engaged in war, had granted to his enemies,  
“ after obtaining victories over them in the four quar-  
“ ters of the world, the blessings of peace, upon the  
“ most equitable conditions ;” that, “ since that period,  
“ not satisfied with promoting the prosperity of his  
“ own subjects, in every respect, and beyond the ex-  
“ ample of all former times, he had taken various  
“ opportunities of fitting out ships, and sending, in  
“ them, some of the most wise and learned of his own  
“ people, for the discovery of distant and unknown  
“ regions ; not for the purpose of conquest, or of en-  
“ larging his dominions, which were already suffi-  
“ ciently extensive for all his wishes, nor for the purpose

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“ of acquiring wealth, nor even for favouring the com-  
 “ merce of his subjects ; but for the sake of increasing  
 “ the knowledge of the habitable globe, of finding out  
 “ the various productions of the earth ; and for com-  
 “ municating the arts and comforts of life to those  
 “ parts, where they had hitherto been little known ;  
 “ and” that “ he had since sent vessels, with animals  
 “ and vegetables most useful to man, to islands and  
 “ places where, it appeared, they had been wanting ;”  
 that “ he had been still more anxious to inquire into  
 “ the arts and manners of countries, where civilization  
 “ had been improved by the wise ordinances and vir-  
 “ tuous examples of their sovereigns, through a long  
 “ series of ages ; and felt, above all, an ardent wish to  
 “ become acquainted with those celebrated institutions  
 “ of his (Chinese) Majesty’s populous and extensive  
 “ empire, which had carried its prosperity to such a  
 “ height, as to be the admiration of all surrounding  
 “ nations.” That “ his Britannic Majesty being then  
 “ at peace with all the world, no time could be so pro-  
 “ pitious for extending the bounds of friendship and  
 “ benevolence, and for proposing to communicate and  
 “ receive the benefits which must result from an un-  
 “ reserved and amicable intercourse between such great  
 “ and civilized nations as China and Great Britain.”

The object of the Embassy was, indeed, so little confined to mercantile concerns at Canton, that Lord