(Copy)

Rhodesia. December 31st 1895

Sir

I have become acquainted with the contents of the Governor's letter No: 25 in reply to a proposal made by me on the 28th Inst to the effect that providing the Japanese Authorities would set-free the innocent Japanese at present under examination, for a crime which they certainly were committed, I would do my utmost to get back the Aino Skulls said to have been stolen at Otaru bee.

My reasons for maintaining that the said Japanese are innocent of the crime put to their charge must undoubtedly be apparent to every sensible person and I feel confident that all will agree with me in saying that these unfortunate Japanese could

H. Monro Esq
H.M's Consul
Rhodesia

have been nothing else, than the unwilling tool of his employers, and that supposing him to have been present when the theft was said to have been committed, he in all probability was unaware of it at the time, as in my opinion nobody would venture to make a confidant of a Japanese in such an undertaking.

It is with deep regret that I perceive by the contents of the Governor's letter, that my endeavours to save the innocent Japanese have failed and I therefore have the honor to request you will inform the Governor, notwithstanding his touching appeal to my generosity and humanity and as the object of my interference has not been attained; I do not for the present consider it necessary to occasion myself any further trouble or continue my endeavours to get back the missing shells.

I have the honor to request you will forward a copy of this letter, assuring the Governor at the same time, that should he see fit to reconsider my proposal and release the Japanese, I am prepared to fulfil my promise.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble servant
(Signed) James. Enslie

A true copy
L. Monard Esq
H.B.M's. Consul

Kuhwdcate. 30th December 1865

Sir

In a letter from H. E. the Governor to you No: 25, it is stated that "I said that it was" "true that Samish, Chow and Whitey day out" "the skulls of Amos" &c: This is hardly correct. I unhesitatingly condemned the violent conduct of Messrs Chow and Samish on that occasion and I said in answer to a remark of the Governor, that it was like guilty men to act like that, not that it proved their guilt. So I still think and the Governor can easily perceive how easily the sentence was mistranslated and misunderstood.

I am Sir
Your obedient servant
(Signed) Alfred Howell

Alfred Howell Esq.
Consul
&c

A true copy.
J. Monard. Capt
H. B. M's Consul.