

Deposition of Tsae Kungchaou. On the 7th of March, the circumstances which took place on board the Navigator were deposed to by this fortunate man, as he now may be called, at Macao, whither he went to see the English and other gentlemen who had subscribed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for him and the French sailor, who was saved.

“He describes himself as a native of Tunggan heen, in the district commonly called Chinchew [Tseuenchow] in the province of Fuhkeen. He has been in the army twenty-four years; and once was a petty officer, although he is unable to read and write. His family consists of a wife, two daughters, and two sons. The eldest son, about thirty years of age, is a profligate man, addicted to opium-smoking and kindred vices. He left home and was supposed to be at Singapore. On the 22d of March 1828, the father sailed from Chinchew with a design of going to Singapore in search of his son, to bring him home again. A gale of wind however drove the vessel into one of the ports of CochinChina. Some time in June, application was made by the French Captain through a Fuhkeen broker, named Yang Chihheia, for a passage to Macao in a Fuhkeen junk. He was to give three dollars for each package or case, and the thirteen passengers were to go free. This being all agreed upon, one of the two sailing captains of the junk, named Keängshih, wanted the captain to advance 450 dollars to be deducted when they arrived at Macao. The French captain however refused. The other Chinese captain named Wookwan was also in want of money, and conferred with Keängshih whether to give them a passage or not. Keängshih left it to Wookwan to do as he pleased. Thus the matter rested till the 17th of July, (as the deponent stated from memory), when the French captain put his things on board and his people embarked. On the 18th, the junk sailed from CochinChina. And at this early period Wookwan had formed the plot to murder the foreigners and seize their property. As soon as the deponent heard it, he made signs with his hands to the French captain of an intention to murder him. But he did not believe it, and treated it lightly, saying, as the deponent understood him, “I have fire arms, for every attack he makes, I have means of repelling him—what can he do to me!” The deponent also dissuaded Wookwan from his purpose, telling him that the foreigners had fire arms, and it would be impossible for him to succeed.

“On the 27th of July, as the French captain was sitting on the water reservoir, Wookwan engaged four men with hatchets concealed in their sleeves to begin the attack. But the captain perceived it, and ever after avoided those men; and would not sleep near them, but moved to the deponent’s place to sleep. On the evening of the 29th, it was again intended to murder the captain, but on seeing him armed the people were afraid to attack him. On the 31st of July the hills of Macao were seen, and as the passage was not known, fishing boats were hailed. Three of them came and talked about the price of piloting. They asked thirteen dollars each, making

thirty-nine in all. The French captain promised but thirty dollars, and eventually retained only one, to whom he was to give ten dollars. In the evening of August 3d, the junk arrived at the entrance to Macao, and twelve Fuhkeen passengers went on shore. Wookwan then called the foreigners to take a boat and go on shore. Seven of them wished to go, and the deponent tried to induce them to go. But the captain hearing that they were so near Macao, thought whether they went or not that night, was of no consequence.

“Afterwards, at the 5th watch, (about 4 o’clock in the morning,) two Chinese, Lin Chetung and Pookeäng, with sticks or clubs beat to death five foreigners, who were down below to watch the property. Lin Chetung killed three, and Pookeäng killed two. The eight foreigners on deck were not aware of what happened when these two murderers came on deck, to search for the remaining eight and murder them also. But the foreigners awoke and were ready to defend themselves. The deponent sought for weapons to deliver secretly to the foreigners, to enable them to resist their enemies; the French captain at this time fired and wounded two of the Chinese; one mortally who died; the other survived. The powder being expended (and the last shot having burst the pistol and shattered the captain’s hand) all the crew of the junk set upon the foreigners, with long spears.

“After this a foreigner (Francisco) jumped overboard into the sea. Wookwan immediately called out to pursue him with a boat. The deponent hearing this contrived to conceal the scull, which being done prevented the foreigners being pursued. At day light, the combat was renewed. There were three Chinese, Chang Wootseon Tsangleen, and Lintan, who pursued the captain, striking at him to kill him; they also pressed upon the mate and murdered him. There was a purser, who not being dead, knelt and implored them not to kill him, but to throw him into the sea. While in this position, a Chinese came suddenly behind, cut him down with a hatchet, and pushed him overboard. There was also a young foreigner about eighteen years of age who was cut down and thrown overboard. Twelve foreigners in all were murdered. After the bodies were thrown into the sea, the chests and cases were searched. Four thousand and three hundred dollars were found. Eighteen small gold coins were found in the mate’s chest. The deponent did not regard how they distributed this money.

“During the night of August 4th, the deponent dreamed that the twelve deceased persons knelt down before him and implored him to give information against the murderers. And they pointed particularly to a small box that he might notice it. After he awoke, at day light he went to look at this box; and on opening it saw thirty foreign papers, and three papers with Chinese characters. (CochinChinese documents.) These he secreted about his person. On the 9th of August the junk anchored at Heimuu (Amoy). Wookwan then told those who had no share in the affair that they might go on shore, in small boats to be hired. Then Wookwan and those who entered into his plot, fifty-four in number, consulted about getting