

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

Mary Easton Sibley Papers

George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers

5-3-1873

Letter to Mary Sibley from Isaac Yokoyama, May 3, 1873

Isaac K. Yokoyama

Virginia Theological Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/mary>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Yokoyama, Isaac K., "Letter to Mary Sibley from Isaac Yokoyama, May 3, 1873" (1873). *Mary Easton Sibley Papers*. 9.

<https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/mary/9>

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers at Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mary Easton Sibley Papers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. For more information, please contact phuffman@lindenwood.edu.

Theo. Semenary
Fairfax county Va.

Mrs. Mary Sibley

Dear Madam.

I received a letter from Dr. Hepburn, and found in it those which [page taped over] no without regret concerning my sisters, for he thinks that there are many objections against coming of my sisters to this enlightened Christian land, where they could obtain all possible knowledge of pure & uncorrupted Christian doctrine.

I think all his objections are very doubtful, and ___ if I argue against them. But [page taped over] subject or obey to the decisions ___ doesn't [page taped over] say any thing against them.

He writes as follows

This country in my opinion, is no place for Japanese girls, they will be more apt to learn things that will be of use to them about dress, and fashion, and the follies of our so called civilization; They will be surly unfitted for their Japanese home and people.

Such is his grand argument. He knows better and is also more experienced in missionary ___, to the point my business contend against the opinion.

However, I like to know your more experienced idea about my sister's care whether, it would be better for them to stay at heathen land or to come to Christian land to become true & faithful servants of our Lord Jesus.

For I am so much anxious about their coming.

Dr.'s objections about coming of my sisters is because he does not understand what is heathen and how are its custom, habit, and tradition. If he knows half about heathen systems as I know, ___ doubt he will consent to them coming.

It is dreadful, awful & horrible thing to be a heathen.

Which do you rather prefer to learn the dress & fashion of civilization or heathen customs, such as idolaogy profaneness, Sabbath breaking, cutting eye brow, dying teeth, slavery to husband (that is all women are treated like slave by their own husbands) evil company, ___?

All women in heathen land are exposed to such dangers as above mentioned, and without exception all females are subjected to under go bad things to become wife of any family, that is, they must worship their ancestors of husband's family, dying teeth, cutting eyebrow, and slavery to their husbands, becomes they must do all these things, for they are marriage vows of the country when they engage.

There are hundred of more bad things which I can not write to you because they are entirely too bad to describe, and if I write you about our seven divorcing laws against women, it will make you feel bad, no I do not do it now.

These are many works of heathen ethics concerning women all of the are quite result to female sex, yet publically act such ethics are taught in the school.

Now my sisters are studying those heathen ethics which are ___ horrible to eyes of knowing Christians.

As long as they live in Japan they must study or else they will be of no use in Japan, but the Dr. does not fully understand things which are worse than the dress & fashion of so called civilization.

Dear madam will you be kind enough to think about all these causes and try to get my sisters in some way by [page taped over] help of God? I will try to meet with the doctor, and try to convince all [page taped over] point which I know of.

Please give me your address and let me know whether you did receive my picture or not.

Yours respectfully

Isaac K. Yokoyama