

just as all Chinamen look alike to us, but all appearing different to each other. As to our local men with their magnifying glasses, it was like giving a mother a magnifying glass to identify a long absent son, while she would tell him better by taking in his whole figure.

The clerk was remanded for trial, and bail taken for his appearance, but before his trial the truth became known to his entire exoneration, the facts being as follows:—

Captain Pope, who was in command on the Island, was in the habit of sending daily for any letters for himself or his men, and the Pope-Macdonald letter had, by error, been placed in Captain Pope's mail-bag. The captain's servant, seeing the mistake, opened the letter, and, instead of re-addressing it to J. H. Pope, sent it to the Hon. John Young, as already stated; but the tempest he had raised alarmed him, and he quietly gave up his place and left for the United States; but, seeing that an innocent man was likely to suffer, he had the grace to write to the authorities explaining the whole affair, in the same handwriting as the slip addressed to the Hon. John Young, a *fac-simile* of which letter may still be seen in the papers of that time.

I mention this incident merely to show the danger of relying upon *expert* testimony, which is only valuable when the witness is thoroughly familiar with the handwriting in question, and is otherwise thoroughly reliable, and having no interest in stating what is not true.