To His Excellency

Sir Henry Bartle

We Chinese residing in the Colony of Victoria address your Excellency with deep respect, and the belief that our petition will receive kind attention.

The public papers remind us that the annual tax upon the Chinese is expected to produce in the year fifty thousand pounds, and we know that some of this money will be applied for additional Government officers and Police as those of our countrymen who are badly disposed require to be watched, and deserve to be punished. But we trust, with the aid of the above sum, further protection, kindness, and instruction will be shown to those who are honest and obedient.

Your petitioners wish to secure a more ready means of communication with the Government and to receive the best and clearest instruction about the Mining laws as most of our countrymen are employed in the pursuit and are liable to stop or punishment just as if they understood them.

Your petitioners therefore would beg that a grant should be made by the Government to procure a set of Chinese type, that these laws might be printed, and other means of instruction be more readily afforded to us.

Your petitioners learn that there are nineteen school supported by the British Government at Hong Kong with an attendance of 150 boys. There are for children but in the Colony we all want instruction and it would be useful for all to you learn your language. We therefore beg...