Anson Burlingame – The Man and His Legacy

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Renaissance Man of Conviction & Principle

- Advocated for the Equality of People
- Extended to the Equality of Nations
- Codified in the Burlingame Treaty of 1868
Advocated for the Equality of People

While in Congress – 1855-61

• An outspoken opponent of slavery
• Spoke elegantly against fellow Cong. Brooks, SC
• Supported Lajos Kossuth for Hungarian independence from the Austrian Empire
• A founder of the Republican Party
Extended to the Equality of Nations

Dual Ambassadorships – 1861-67

- Lincoln’s Ambassador to Austria ➔ China
- Took time to learn China’s conditions
  - Advanced “cooperation” over existing “concession” policies
  - Promoted trade – tech xfer mining, RR, telegraph
  - Introduced legal structure – domestic and int’l law
  - Demonstrated court system – defense with witnesses
    ✷ Convicted David Williams to hang for killing 3 men – with local witnesses
- Known for his deeds rather than words
- Emperor Tongzhi’s Ambassador to the US
Codified in Burlingame Treaty

Equality between US and China - July 28, 1868

- Accept China as an equal nation, equiv. to UK, France, Russia, etc
- Not interfere with internal affairs of either nation
- Open two-way unlimited immigration
- Free to reside, travel, study in either nation
- Right to appoint local Consuls by the sending nation

⇒ Only the U.S., among all western powers recognized China as an equal sovereign nation
An Eulogy from Mark Twain

For he had outgrown the narrow citizenship of a state and become a citizen of the world; and his charity was large enough and his great heart warm enough to feel for all its races and to labor for them. He was a good man, and a very, very great man. America lost a son, and all the world a servant, when he died.
Thank You

Additional info:
www.Burlingame.wikispaces.com