

Havana April 21st 1853

Gen. Caleb Cushing.

Dear Sir.

Since my return to this city, the subject of the Consulate has been brought up both by my friends here & in the States, & they have urged me to prep my application for the appointment to this post. I am perfectly aware of the utter uselessness, of making this application, without a strong & powerful influence with the President. I presume there are many who have applied for the office, from different States, and who bring strong recommendations, probably not one of them understand the language, or have any idea of the duties, of a Consul, or Commercial agent (which is all the exequatur from the Spanish Govt. acknowledges them.) Still, in a political point, my own strong claims, it may happen, as it sometimes has, that the Cabinet find it difficult to decide upon the claims of the several applicants, & not wishing to incur their displeasure, have taken an entirely new man, who perhaps has not even been an applicant, now should this be the case there might be a chance for me, it is true I am not known to either the President or any of the members of the Cabinet, excepting yourself. You have known me for more than

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a quarter of a century - and can judge more or less
of my experience & abilities to fill the station, and
I am fully convinced that a few words from you
to the President, would have more effect than all
the letters of recommendation which could be brought,

As I wish for the office, not so much for the con-
-siderable salary as the position & protection it gives the
incumbent, I would willingly share the profits with
you, and will pay you yearly twenty five per cent
of the perquisites of the office, for your trouble & exertion
in my behalf. This I consider but just, and it shall
be sacred between us. If on the receipt of this, there
should have been no one appointed, I should think
you might easily influence the business in my
favour, my experience here is an American merchant
for sixteen years, my constant intimacy with
the Commodore during the time I have been here,
and my good standing with the Government, as
well as my knowledge of the language, would be
a recommendation I should think sufficient for
the president, As for politics, I never have been
active not having had an opportunity, but the
principles laid down in the inaugural address
exactly meet my views, As for my standing, and
connections you are well acquainted,

In my interview with you, when in Washington
I was led to relinquish the idea of getting the
consulate at Honolulu, & gave up the arrangements
for business which I had in view at that place

I now regret that I had our own conversation with you
on the appointment here, Mr Sheskey has sent in
his resignation & I fear that these lines will be received
after an appointment is made, Should it not be the
case I trust you will view this communication in
the friendly & confidential spirit in which it is
written by

Your friend & Old Servant

John Quincy Adams