for life or justice, and who are but little controlled by public opinion. The trade is just commencing again from this bay to the Klamath & Trinity & over a hundred packmules left this last week with goods and provisions. The road is however still bad & the snow not melted from the mountain. Enclosed you will find a specimen of shell called by the Hudsons bay Company "haiqua", and here "aliqua chick," or Indian money which is one of the great staples of trade with the natives along this whole coast. It is sold by the fathom, being strung upon thread, and is valued according to the length of the shell. Those which measure forty to the fathom are of greatest value and sell readily in trade at two dollars a fathom. The smaller not bringing more than one. A large quantity could be disposed of if to be obtained, it now being very rare. I have thought that your Chinese could imitate it in porcelain with exactness, and if so, a very profitable operation could be made, not only by selling it to mines & traders here and in Oregon, but in purchasing directly from Indians skins & dust. I wish then for you would consult your house, to whom in case of accident I also write directly on the subject & see what can be done. The chick should be strung on common pack thread in bunches of ten strings, each a fathom long and should be imitated as nearly as possible to avoid detection. As little of a Chinese mark should be given it as possible, for I do not want the traders ~~&~~ to find out whence it is obtained. No one has yet attempted it, and although some of the Germans have talked about it, I have discouraged the idea & always given France as the place whence if at all it must be ~~was~~ got. The shell itself is found in deep water by fishing, & as the Company have ceased