

**NO. 1567 NATIONAL ARCHIVES,  
RECORD GROUP 77**

**SECRETARY OF STATE JOHN SHERMAN TO CHARLES  
DENBY**

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April 14, 1898

TRANSCRIBED BY  
CASSANDRA BATES  
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Your dispatch No. 2880 of February 28<sup>th</sup> has been received. You therein report that Yung Wing, upon being informed that you could not take up his case with the Chinese government, submitted for your examination a certified copy of his naturalization certificate, together with several passports issued by this Department. He further stated that he had voted without objection at all elections since his naturalization in 1852, and claimed that after such recognition by the government of the United States, his status as a citizen could not be questioned.

Inasmuch as Yung Wing appears to have been granted his certificate of naturalization, a refusal to admit now his right to privileges which he has apparently exercised for many years would on its face seem unjust and without warrant. Nevertheless, in view of the construction placed upon the naturalization laws of the United States by our highest courts, the Department does not feel that it can properly recognize him as a citizen of the United States.