

THE STORY OF THE SIEGE IN PEKING

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PREFACE

DURING the two months we were shut up in Peking, hoping we might possibly be rescued, my wife kept a diary. The following pages are partly taken from that diary, and were principally written for the information of the friends who so long mourned for us as dead. It is at their request that this little book appears in print.

YIP-SHI LIOBNATZ

THE SIEGE OF PEKING

BEFORE relating a few incidents of an event unparalleled in the history of the world for atrocity and perfidy, it may not be uninteresting to consider some of the causes which produced the outbreak.

The first and principal cause, no doubt, was the encroachments of Western nations. Germany seized Chiao Chou in Shantung. She did it in a manner the most offensive and best calculated to hurt the susceptibilities of a proud nation like the Chinese. Russia, posing as the protector of China, took Port Arthur, and was gradually absorbing Manchuria. The British Government, on the pretence of preventing further Russian encroachments, but really to satisfy public opinion at home, took Wei-Hai-Wei.

Newspapers, British and Continental, openly discussed the partition of China. No wonder, then, that the Chinese became desperate, and madly resolved to drive the hated foreigner beyond the 'four seas' or perish in the attempt. Nor to the mind of the Chinese Government did the enterprise seem so desperate or impossible.

Doubtful friends of England had kept the Chinese well posted in the history of the South African War. If a small Republic, numbering not more than 40,000 men, could keep England at bay for so many months, what could not a nation like China, numbering 400,000,000 souls, accomplish, even if all Europe were arrayed against her?

Another cause was the ill-feeling that had gradually been growing up between the heathen and the Christian converts, Roman Catholic and Protestant. In this also may be included the inborn dislike the Chinaman bears to the 'foreign devil.' The Roman Catholic Church, and to some extent the Protestant Church, in China is an *imperium in imperio*. The convert looks not to his own official for protection and justice, but to his priest or pastor. In case of a lawsuit, he invokes the powerful aid of the foreigner, and may possibly win it, even though justice may have been on the side of his heathen opponent.* There is no doubt that the Boxer movement which began last year in Shantung, and which this year caused the massacre of so many missionaries and native converts, took its origin from the above causes. It had smouldered for years, until this year, fanned into life by the smile of Imperial favour, it broke out with irresistible fury.

* The Chinese official is often corrupt, which makes it difficult for the missionary not to interfere.

THE BOXERS GROW MIGHTY.

The Boxer movement began in Shantung in the autumn of last year. Converts were maltreated and their houses looted, but no lives were taken. Later, about Christmas, an English missionary, Mr. Brookes, was murdered. The Chinese paid a small indemnity, but no adequate punishment was demanded, although it was well known at the time that the then Governor of Shantung, Yu Hsien, was at least indirectly responsible for the murder.

Immediately afterwards Yu Hsien received high marks of Imperial favour, and was promoted to the Governorship of Shansi, where he lately distinguished himself by murdering over fifty missionaries, women and children, whom he had beguiled to the capital of the province under promise of protection. So far it had been quiet round Peking, so that we did not feel in the least alarmed. On May 17 we heard that the Boxers had burned a village about 100 miles distant, inhabited by Roman Catholics, and had killed all the inhabitants. From that date native refugees, Catholic and Protestant, began to crowd into Peking. The missionaries went to their different Legations, and vainly tried to induce their respective Ministers to take active means to stop the horrible atrocities that were taking place in the country around. The Ministers represented

to the Yamen the dangerous position of affairs, and the folly of their policy, but any active measures on their part would only have precipitated the crisis.

Meanwhile the anti-foreign movement grew nearer. On Monday, May 28, the railway-station near Peking was burned, and traffic temporarily stopped. At that time the guard of Marines had not arrived, so we felt very alarmed. Arms were served out, and each took his turn of watching all night. On May 31 the foreign guards arrived. As we resided about two miles from Legation Street, we could not relax our night-watch. On June 4, the last train ran between Tientsin and Peking, and the long siege of seventy days began. In order to understand our environments, it is necessary to give

A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF PEKING.

The Tartar city is roughly in the form of a square 12 miles in perimeter, surrounded by a wall 50 feet high and 40 feet thick. Immediately to the south of this city lies the Chinese city, also surrounded by a wall, but of smaller dimensions than that of the Tartar city. The southern wall of the Tartar city serves for the northern wall of the Chinese city, and is pierced by three gates.

Running parallel to the south wall of the

Tartar city is Legation Street. All the Legations with the exception of the British, Austrian, and Belgian Legations are situated in this street. Almost adjoining the Russian Legation, and about 150 yards north of Legation Street, lies the British Legation. A broad moat runs north and south past the British Legation; where it pierces the city wall there is a lock now well known as the Water Gate, through which the British troops passed to our relief. It is crossed by two bridges, one in Legation Street, and the other about 400 yards to the north, adjoining the Imperial city wall. On the east side of the moat are the extensive grounds of Su, an Imperial Prince. His place is known as the Su Wang Fu, and borders on the back of the Japanese Legation.

Besides the Legations, there were a number of mission compounds scattered over the Tartar city. Up to this time the missionaries in Peking had all stuck to their respective posts. Every day, however, brought a fresh budget of news of massacre of converts. Within a few miles from Peking two British missionaries were murdered by Boxers. Sir Claude Macdonald informed the Chinese Government of the deed, and not only was no redress promised, but even sorrow was not expressed.

By June 9, the missionaries, having recognised that living in isolated positions was dangerous not only for themselves, but for their converts,

had all concentrated at the Methodist Mission, taking as many of their converts as possible with them. The Methodist Mission was chosen on account of its nearness to the Legations, to which the missionaries might retreat if hard pressed. On the same date we moved to an empty house in Legation Street, close to the French Legation. We left on a Saturday, and the following Wednesday our house was burned to the ground by the Boxers. For the last ten days we had been kept awake by constant alarms. Only the night before we were awakened about 2 a.m. by people congregating and talking outside our compound gate. They were Boxers marking the houses inhabited by foreigners.

LOOKING FOR THE RELIEF FORCE.

We were now buoyed up with the hope of the speedy arrival of the relief force under Admiral Sir E. H. Seymour, of whose departure from Tientsin we had already heard. The Legations had hired a great number of long carts to convey the baggage and ammunition of Seymour's troops from the railway terminus, which is six miles from Legation Street.

On June 11 my servant ran into the house, white with fear, and told me a messenger from the Chinese city reported that foreigners were being killed at the southern gate of that city. I told him to hold his tongue and not talk nonsense,

but on inquiry found the report was only too true. The Japanese Minister had sent an under-secretary of the Legation along with the carts to meet the expected Marines under Seymour. On reaching the southern city gate, he was seized by Tung Fu Hsiang's soldiers and brought before an officer, who ordered his immediate decapitation.

Tung Fu Hsiang is the General of the Mahomedan soldiers, feared all over China for their barbarity. All along we had not feared the Boxers; our only fear was lest the Chinese troops should throw their lot in with the Boxers, and we now saw our fears were only too well founded.

A DIARY OF THE SIEGE.

The following notes taken from a diary kept during the siege will perhaps best explain events in their chronological order:

Wednesday, June 13.—There was great excitement to-day over a Boxer seized by the German Minister in Legation Street. He and another Boxer were riding in a cart down Legation Street waving naked swords. The Chinese asked that he be given up for punishment, but Baron Ketteler replied he would be given up on the arrival of the relief force. Later on a small force of Germans surprised thirty Boxers in a temple. The men escaped, but their girdles, swords, etc., were carried off.

Thursday, June 14.—Yesterday, at 6.30 p.m., the Boxers rushed into the city, and set fire to a street chapel near the city gate. Seeing the flames, the Italian and French Marines sallied out and killed many of them. The Boxers ran up north, and during the night most of the foreign dwelling-houses and chapels in the city were looted and burned. M. Chamot, the hotel-keeper, closed the city gate, locked it, and took away the key.

Friday, June 15.—Yesterday we spent quietly in the house. After an early dinner we went over to the French Legation, and heard the news of the burning of the Southern Cathedral, in which it is said there were 400 women and children. What their fate is we do not know. We spent the night in much anxiety, disturbed by distant cannonading. The howls of the people outside the city gates were fearful to hear. Their cry was 'Kill, kill! Burn, burn!' It seemed as if hell were let loose.

Saturday, June 16.—Still no news of the relieving force, already a week on the way. Yesterday the Boxers set fire to a foreign drug-store outside the city. The flames spread, and the richest part of the Chinese city was burned. The city gate took fire, and we were afraid the flames might spread to Legation Street. In the afternoon a few British and Japanese Marines went to a temple where Boxers were known to be hidden. About forty Boxers were shot, and only one

escaped. They were in full dress, armed with swords and spears, and no quarter was given.

Sunday, June 17.—To-day the crowd outside the barricade got some Mauser rifles and fired on the Americans, who returned the fire. No casualties on our side.

Monday, June 18.—Yesterday the Italians made a sortie in search of Boxers, but were led wrongly. They got to the Imperial city, where Chinese troops fired on them. They returned the fire, killing some. To-day we took a walk to the Su Wang Fu, and saw the crowd of native refugees. It was a pitiable sight: men, women, children, and babies lying on the ground in the open air, and many badly wounded. When will this bitter persecution cease?

Tuesday, June 19.—The Yamen Ministers visited the Legations yesterday, and promised that Jung Lu's soldiers would protect the Legations. We heard that Tientsin was surrounded, but well barricaded, and the Boxers had burned the newly-erected Roman Catholic Cathedral. This afternoon, by Imperial Edict, we were ordered to leave Peking in twenty-four hours. The reason given was that the Admirals of all the Powers had demanded the surrender of the Taku Forts in forty-eight hours, and so broken off friendly relations with China. War has practically been declared against the rest of the world. A meeting of the Ministers was held, and we were warned to be in readiness to leave Peking. We made a

few preparations for to-morrow's journey, though we well knew that there was a probability that no one would reach Tientsin alive.

Wednesday, June 20.—This morning Baron Ketteler was murdered by Jung Lu's soldiers when on his way to the Foreign Office by appointment. The secretary of Legation, Mr. Cordes, was also severely wounded, but managed to escape to the Methodist compound. Baron Ketteler was going to the Yamen with a view of convincing the Ministers of Foreign Affairs as to the mad course they were pursuing. He was most popular with the Chinese, so we now know for a certainty that the massacre of all foreigners is determined on.

Thursday, June 21.—Yesterday, after Baron Ketteler's murder, we all retired to the British Legation. With the exception of the Austrian and Italian Marines, who retired, the Marines of the other Powers defend their different Legations. It was quite a busy scene, cart after cart arriving at the Legation laden with stores and luggage. Knowing that the food-supply was most important, we only thought of that, and so lost all our belongings. At 4 o'clock the twenty-four hours' grace given us by the Chinese expired, and at 3.45 p.m. the Imperial troops opened fire. Our only casualty that day was poor Professor James. He had gone over to the Su Wang Fu, to look after the comfort of the native Christians who had all collected there, and for whose safety

he had done so much. When returning by the North Bridge over the moat, he was fired on and probably taken alive by the Boxers. His awful fate cast a gloom over the Legation. Up to our arrival at the Legation no measures had been taken for its defence, so a general committee was formed, and Mr. Gamewell, an American missionary, was put in charge of strengthening the defences of the Legation.

Friday, June 22.—About five o'clock this afternoon the Boxers set fire to a building adjoining the west wall of the Legation. We all ran with water, and after a while got it under.

Saturday, June 23.—At 10 a.m. a large building in the Han Lin Academy, adjoining the north wall of the Legation, was set on fire. The heat was terrible, and for hours we were kept in suspense. Thank God, however, the wind changed, and we were saved! How we dread the sound of the fire-bell! Rockets were seen to-night to the south-west.

Sunday, June 24.—Up till this the Chinese have only used rifles against us, but shells fell to-day for the first time. God grant us speedy deliverance! At 10 a.m. the Boxers set the stable gate on fire, and for some time the position was critical. It was eventually extinguished, and the gate strongly barricaded.

Monday, June 25.—No fire to-day. All busy making sand-bags. In the afternoon a poster was seen on the North Bridge. By the aid of

glasses we made out the writing to state that an Imperial Edict had been issued for the protection of the Legations. The rest of the proclamation was rather ambiguous. It might either mean that a communication would await us on the bridge, or that we were to send a communication to the bridge. We took the former interpretation, and sent out a Chinaman in full official dress, with a white flag, to receive the communication from the Foreign Office. As the Chinese soldiers were about to open fire the man ran back into the Legation. Some of us are highly delighted, whilst others believe that the whole affair is a hoax to lull us into false security.

Tuesday, June 26.—At 12.30 a.m. tremendous firing opened on us from the east, and again at 3 a.m. The truce was all humbug. Green rockets thought to be Japanese were seen during the night. The women were busy to-day making thousands of sandbags, and the men making bomb-proof shelters. Horseflesh to-day for the first time.

Thursday, June 28.—During the night big fusillade. Alarm-bell rang for general attack. The Su Wang Fu, occupied by the Japanese, was shelled all day. In the afternoon smoke was seen to issue from the Legation stables, and the fire-alarm was rung. Most of us ran with buckets of water, and as we entered the yard the shrapnel flew over our heads. A mule fell dead just behind me, but there were no other casualties. The

Chinese had placed cannon just in front of the building, and were bombarding it at a few yards' distance, raising a cloud of dust which looked exactly like smoke. A sortie made to take the gun was unsuccessful, but a great many Chinese were killed.

Friday, June 29.—Counted seventy shells in the forenoon. Bullets whizzed about all day long, and a British Marine was killed by a stray bullet.

Saturday, June 30.—The most awful night I have known. Heavy thunder and vivid forked lightning all night, combined with heavy rifle fire from every direction, made a most memorable scene.

Sunday, July 1.—The American and German troops abandoned the wall. The Americans, reinforced by British Marines, retook their position. The Germans returned to their Legation.

Monday, July 2.—Flashlights were seen during the night. We are still making sandbags. The Chinese bombarded the French Legation, making a large breach in the compound wall. It is feared the Legation will have to be abandoned.

Tuesday, July 3.—About 2 a.m. the Americans, assisted by British and Russian Marines, made a brilliant sortie on the city wall, and took the Chinese position. The Chinese had built their barricade with a curve, so as to render the American position untenable; and as the occupation of the wall is absolutely necessary to the safety of the Legations, it was determined to

take the Chinese barricade at all costs. The American Captain Meyers led the party. Under cover of darkness he crept over his own barricade, and closely followed by the British, Russian, and American Marines, surprised the Chinese, killing a great number. Two American Marines were killed, and Captain Meyers slightly wounded.

Wednesday, July 4.—Heavy firing all last night. It sounded as though fiends were let loose all round us. What will be the end of all this? Shall we get out or not? Shells bursting above us all day long! Couriers are being sent out to meet our troops, whom we expect are on the way. How we long for relief to come!

Thursday, July 5.—Very sad day! Mr. Oliphant killed. Cannon-balls are falling in the compound, so we hope the Chinese have run short of shells.

Saturday, July 7.—It is reported from the French Legation that heavy cannonading was heard outside the city at 10 a.m.

Sunday, July 8.—The American gunner was making a cannon out of one of the fire-engines, when a native Christian brought in an old cannon left by our troops in 1860. It was found in an old iron shop within our lines. It has been mounted on a German water-cart, with Italian wheels, using Russian shells, the gunner an American, so we have named it the 'International.' Some familiarly call it the 'Betsy.' It was most amusing firing it the first time, for, no one knowing how it would go off, it was placed

in front of the barricade outside the large gate, a fuse laid, and the gunner hastily retired behind the barricade, where officers and men were eagerly waiting for the result. It recoiled several feet, but did not burst, and successfully planted a shell in the Imperial city. Fancy the surprise of the Chinese on learning we had artillery!

Monday, July 9.—Shells and cannon-balls going all night. Three spies were shot at the French Legation.

Tuesday, July 10.—The 'International' was fired this morning from a window in the Students' Library. It rebounded several yards, shattering the windows. It is quite an amusing cannon, but does good work.

Thursday, July 12.—To-day a soldier who was captured at the French Legation was questioned. He says five days ago Tientsin was taken by the foreign troops, and twelve days ago Taku was taken—but he is probably lying.

Friday, July 13.—A great many cannon-balls flying this morning, but quieter this afternoon. One ball lodged in the corner of our roof, and another fell into an adjoining room, where two ladies were sleeping. In the evening there was a very heavy attack, lasting two hours. A mine was exploded in the French Legation.

Saturday, July 14.—The explosion at the French Legation was very serious. The greater part of the Legation was burned to the ground, and two Maries are missing. Mr. Vonn Rosthorn,

the Austrian *chargé d'affaires*, was buried in the ruins, but shot out again by a second explosion.

The French now only hold one third of the Legation compound. One of our messengers returned, having been beaten and turned back by the Chinese. A letter came from the Yamen, signed by Prince Ching and others, asking us to go to the Foreign Office for protection. We are to go in batches of ten, and unarmed! The Chinese must think us fools to propose such a thing.

Monday, July 16.—To-day very sad. Captain Strouts did not come for tea this morning, but he and Dr. Morrison went over to the Su Wang Fu. They exposed themselves in crossing a mound. Captain Strouts was mortally wounded, and Dr. Morrison received a serious wound in the leg. A letter came from the Yamen stating that they were not surprised at our not assenting to go to the Yamen for protection, but that if we would stop firing, they would do the same.

Tuesday, July 17.—To-day Mr. Bismarck came with a messenger from Jung Lu bringing a card from Sun, commander of Jung Lu's troops, asking for a meeting to be arranged between Chinese and Foreign Officials. The messenger says the Chinese are tired of fighting, and that General Nieh, on being defeated at Tientsin, committed suicide.

Wednesday, July 18.—To-day a messenger sent

out by the Japanese returned bringing the good news that we shall soon be relieved.

Thursday, July 19.—A conciliatory letter came from the Yamen which makes us think pressure is being brought to bear from home; also a letter signed by Prince Ching and others ordering us to leave for Tientsin in twenty-four hours.

Friday, July 20.—A present of vegetables came for the Ministers from the Yamen. Many disapprove most strongly of receiving paltry presents from people who have been trying their best to kill us.

COPY OF SOME INTERESTING LETTERS.

Correspondence Up to Date between Prince Ching and others and Sir Claude Macdonald.

'For the last ten days the soldiers and militia have been fighting, and there has been no communication between us, to our great anxiety. Some time ago we hung up a board expressing our intentions, but no answer has been received, and, contrary to our expectations, the foreign soldiers made renewed attacks, causing alarm and suspicion amongst soldiers and people. Yesterday the troops captured a convert named Ch'en Ssu Hsi, and learnt from him that all the foreign representatives were well, which caused us great satisfaction. But it is the unexpected that happens. The reinforcements of foreign troops were long ago stopped and turned back by the Boxers,

and if, in accordance with previous agreement, we were to guard your Excellencies out of the city, there are so many Boxers on the Tientsin-Taku Road that we should be very apprehensive of misadventure. We now request your Excellencies to first take your families and the various members of your staff and leave your Legations in detachments. We should select trustworthy officers to give close and strict protection, and you should temporarily reside in the Tsung Li Yamen, pending future arrangements for your return home, in order to preserve friendly relations intact from beginning to end. But at the time of leaving the Legations there must on no account whatever be taken any single armed foreign soldier, in order to prevent fear and doubt on the part of the troops and people leading to untoward incidents. If your Excellency is willing to show this confidence, we beg you to communicate with all the Foreign Ministers in Peking, to-morrow at noon being the limit of time, and to let original messenger deliver your reply in order that we may settle in advance the day of leaving the Legation. This is the single way of preserving relations that we have been able to devise in the face of innumerable difficulties. If no reply is received by the time fixed, even our affection will not enable us to help you. Sixth moon (18th). Compliments.—PRINCE CHING and others.

On the following day a reply was sent declining

on the part of the foreign representatives the invitation to proceed to the Tsung Li Yamen, and pointing out that no attacks have been made by our troops, who are only defending the lives and property of foreigners against the attacks of Chinese Government troops. The reply concludes with a statement that if the Chinese Government wish to negotiate, they should send a responsible official with a white flag.

On July 16, the Chinese sent a reply to Sir Claude Macdonald's letter of July 15, in which they explain that the reason for suggesting the removal of the Legation staff to the Tsung Li Yamen was that the Chinese Government could afford more efficient protection to them if concentrated there than if scattered as at present. As the foreign Ministers, however, do not agree, the Chinese will, as in duty bound, do their utmost to protect the Legations where they are. They will bring reinforcements and continue their endeavours to prevent the Boxers from firing, and they trust the foreign Ministers, on their part, will restrain their troops from firing.

On July 17, Sir Claude Macdonald replied to the effect that the foreign troops had all along acted entirely in self-defence, and would continue to do so. But the Chinese must understand that previous events had led to a want of confidence, and that if barricades were erected, or troops moved, in the vicinity of the Legations, the foreign guard would be obliged to fire on them.

On July 17, in the afternoon, the Chinese replied reviewing the situation, and ascribing the present hostilities to the attack previously made by the Legation guards. They noted with satisfaction that a cessation of firing has been agreed to on both sides, but suggest, as foreign soldiers have been firing from the city wall east of the Ch'ien Mên (name of the middle city gate), they should be removed from that situation.

On July 18, Sir Claude Macdonald replied with a review of the situation from the foreign point of view.

On June 19 the Yamen had given the Legations notice to quit Peking, and the foreign representatives had replied pointing out that there were no facilities of transport. The Yamen had then replied extending the time, but in spite of this, fire was opened on the Legations on the following day, and they had been under constant fire ever since from Chinese Government troops, a condition of things unparalleled in the history of the world. He alluded to the incident of the poster displayed on June 25, the free moving of Chinese troops during the cessation of hostilities then caused, and the renewed attacks made after the completion of hostilities thus facilitated. He hoped that mutual confidence would be gradually restored, but meanwhile he again pointed out that cessation of hostile preparations, as well as of actual firing, was necessary on the part of the Chinese forces to secure that the

foreign troops should cease firing. As for the suggestion that the foreign troops should leave the city wall, it was impossible to accede to it, because a great part of the attacks on the Legations had been made from the wall. He concluded by suggesting that sellers of fruit, ice, etc., should be allowed to come in.

THE DIARY CONTINUED.

Wednesday, July 25.—Intensely hot and pest of flies shocking. There is still no certain news of the relieving troops. A Chinese soldier whom the Japanese pay for news states that the Imperial troops have been defeated at Ho Hsi Wu, 40 miles distant. As the spy gets paid for every item of news, his information is not to be relied on. Another messenger came from the Yamen asking us to leave for Tientsin.

Thursday, July 26.—It is reported that 4,000 Chinese soldiers with nine guns left Peking to-day, going south, probably to meet our troops. The Japanese spy reports that a battle is impending at Chang Chia Wan, 20 miles distant.

Friday, July 27.—It is rumoured that a battle is impending at Tung Chou, 12 miles distant, that Tung Fu Hsiang has committed suicide, and that the Empress is collecting carts and mules with a view to flight. A present of vegetables and flour came to-day from the Ministers for Foreign Affairs. The flour we do

not intend to use, fearing it may be poisoned. The majority of us strongly disapprove of taking presents from Chinese officials who have been treating us so badly.

Saturday, July 28.—To-day the little beggar-boy messenger sent out from here on the 4th returned with a letter from the British Consul at Tientsin for Sir Claude Macdonald. He only reached Tientsin on the 20th, having been captured by the Boxers and made to work for them for nearly a fortnight. However, he kept our message concealed in a loaf of bread. The Consul writes that General Gaselee was expected to reach Tientsin in a day or so, and that plenty of troops are on the way, if we have food enough to hold out. We are greatly depressed at the news, as we now know the troops have not yet left Tientsin for our relief, and the Consul's letter gives us no information as to when they will start.

Monday, July 30.—Yesterday the Chinese built a barricade over the North Bridge. We fired on it with the 'International' and partially demolished it. It was, however, rebuilt during the night. Our gunner was wounded. There was a great deal of firing last night.

Tuesday, July 31.—Last night we built a barricade over the South Bridge so as to secure communication between the British and other Legations, necessary on account of the Chinese having occupied the North Bridge. There was

some firing during the night. From a *Peking Gazette* we learn that Jung Lu's troops have been handed over to Li Ping Heng, who is very anti-foreign, also that two Chinese Ministers have been condemned to death for being pro-foreign. The news is very depressing, as we now know we shall again be attacked, even more vigorously than at first. For the last twelve days, though we have been besieged very strictly, yet there has been little firing. Colonel Shiba, the Japanese Commander, received a letter from his Consul at Tientsin, stating that departure of troops had been delayed by transport, but an advance would be made in two or three days.

Thursday, August 2.—Letters have been received by the American Legation to the effect that the troops will leave Tientsin on or about August 5. We are greatly elated by the good news.

August 6.—Last night there was an attack, and to-day a despatch came from the Yamen asking why we had fired on the Chinese troops.

August 7.—We are longing for news of the troops, and wonder if they have really started, or if their departure has again been postponed. The horse-supply is nearly finished, but with care the wheat will last for three weeks more. If the troops do not arrive before that, starvation awaits us.

August 8.—Colonel Shiba has news from a coolie that numbers of Chinese soldiers are leaving the city, we suppose to meet the advancing force.

A despatch came from the Yamen informing the Ministers that Li Hung Chang had been appointed by the Empress to conduct peace negotiations.

August 10.—There was a bad attack last night from all directions. In the afternoon I went over to the Su Wang Fu, to one of the Japanese outposts, and was told a messenger had just arrived with a letter to Colonel Shiba from the Japanese General. It was written from Ho Hsi Wu, a place half-way between Tientsin and Peking. It stated that the Allies had defeated the Chinese in two big engagements, and that they hoped to reach Peking on the 14th or 15th. I ran back to the British Legation, and was the first to convey the good news. We are all so thankful and elated! Even some who had long faces all the time now begin to relax a little.

August 12.—Last night there was a very fierce attack from all directions. A French Marine was killed and also a German.

August 13.—Again a big fusillade going on all night. Yesterday evening the second French officer was killed. Yesterday the Ministers agreed to receive the Chinese Ministers at an interview this morning. It is almost the unanimous opinion that now we know the relieving force is so near, we should have nothing to do with Chinese officials. The Chinese Ministers, however, have solved the difficulty by declining to come, excusing themselves on the ground of being very busy, and, besides, because we had last night, by our

fire, killed a high military officer and many soldiers. This evening a shell fell into Sir Claude Macdonald's bedroom, shattering everything. Fortunately no one was in the room at the time.

August 14.—Last night was the most dreadful, and at the same time the most joyous, night of all. The attack was hellish, bullets flying thick like hail, and shells continually booming overhead. Our Gatling gun, the Austrian and Italian Maxim guns, also the 'International,' were going nearly all night, to prevent the Chinese from rushing the Legation. It seemed as though the Chinese were going to leave their covers at last and destroy us by mere force of numbers. We could hear their officers urging their soldiers on, telling them we were few in number, and the soldiers replying, 'Pu hsing!' meaning, 'It can't be done!' Twice the alarm-bell rang for the reserve to muster to repel a general attack. At 2 a.m., east and south-east, we heard a quick faint sound—tat, tat, tat! exactly like the distant echo of our own Maxim gun. We soon understood the meaning: our troops were not far off, likely at the city gates. Then came the faint sound of distant volley fire. We all ran round the compound, regardless of the whistling bullets, rousing any that might be sleeping—though few could sleep that night—to tell the good news.

August 15.—Yesterday, at 2.30 p.m., I had lain

down for a short rest, having been up all the previous night, when I heard a shout, 'The troops have come!' I ran out hastily, and there on the lawn was General Gaselee and a number of Indian soldiers, presenting a most picturesque appearance. The joy was unspeakable! Hurrahing and cheering were intense. The Indian troops seemed even more excited than we. They waved their turbans and shouted 'Hurrah!' with beaming faces. A little after the Welsh Fusiliers and the American troops came in. We gave them as warm a reception as possible, but we had expended all our remaining strength in cheering the Indians, so I am afraid they thought they got a poor reception. The French, Russian, and Japanese troops did not get in till late on the fourteenth. The troops of the above three Powers reached the city gates long before the British. They attacked the East Gate of the Tartar city and the East Gate of the Chinese city. Both these gates were strongly defended, and were only taken after a long and desperate struggle, in which many of the Allies were killed. The British troops came up to the city much later, rushed in by the South-East Gate of the Chinese city, ran along the outside moat, and into the Tartar city by the Water Gate, with the loss, I believe, of only one man. When the Indian troops came into the British Legation the Chinese troops around, hearing the cheering, and not knowing the reason, opened a very heavy fire on

the Legation. A Rajput and a woman were wounded by stray bullets. This was the only woman wounded during the siege.

The above few extracts from my diary will give some idea of the events as they occurred. When we first retired to the Legation, humanly speaking, there was no hope. No provision had been made for a siege. The Europeans had, perhaps, provisions sufficient for a fortnight or three weeks at the utmost, but for the 2,700 Chinese there was food sufficient for only a few days. Providentially, within the lines held by the foreign guards a grain-shop was found containing over 120,000 lbs. of wheat. The district in which the Legations are situated is very poor in Chinese shops, and it was a most unique occurrence to have such an amount stored. Then, again, another shop was found containing plenty of grain for the horses and mules. When one gets over the idea, horseflesh is not bad food, though we got very tired of it before the siege was over. Our great fear was lest the ammunition should not hold out. The British Marines only brought 300 rounds per man with them, and the Marines of the other countries about the same. The strictest orders were given to the men to husband their ammunition, and not to reply to the Chinese fire unless they were sure to hit. One British Marine, who from nervousness or inexperience fired off about sixty rounds in a short time, had

his rifle taken from him. The other Marines were not as careful as the British, and before the relieving force came the Italian Marines had quite run out of their ammunition, and those of France, Russia, and America had only a few rounds left. We obtained a considerable amount of ammunition from the dead bodies of Chinese soldiers killed in sorties. The rifles used by the Chinese were not uniform, but mostly were the German army rifles, and some of these were better and of a more recent date than those used by the German Marines in Peking. They also used expanding bullets, which made a curious report in the air, just like the sound of a sharp explosion.

For the first month we were bombarded day and night, and altogether about 3,000 shells were fired. As for the rifle-fire, it was terrific; generally, the darker the night the more fierce the attack. Often as the bullets struck the roof of the houses it seemed just like a hail-storm. Altogether the Chinese must have wasted considerably over a million cartridges. Then, for a fortnight, there was very little firing. This change of policy was synchronous with, and no doubt due to, the defeat of the Chinese at Tientsin, and the occupation of that city by the Allies. During this time the Chinese repeatedly sent messages for us to leave Peking, and also asked us to go to the Foreign Office for protection. I do not believe at this stage they meant

treachery; their idea was that the allied troops were only coming to Peking to relieve the Legations, and that if we left the troops would not come. No doubt they would have liked to have seized the foreign Ministers and held them as hostages. At last they became so importunate in their demands that the Ministers, in order to gain time, replied they could not leave without instructions from their Governments, and asked leave to telegraph, knowing that before an answer could be received the relieving force would have arrived.

The French Legation, being in the most exposed position, suffered the most. The walls round the Legation were nearly all levelled to the ground, and the buildings, with the exception of one small house and church, were completely destroyed. Indeed, at one time the whole Legation was almost in the hands of the Chinese, and the French Commander had given orders to blow the bugle for retreat, when the Chinese, mistaking the meaning, and thinking the French were going to make a sortie, all ran away.

The German Legation, from its proximity to the wall, was very badly damaged, and the mortality among the defenders very great. It could not have been held much longer. As the Americans held the city wall adjoining their Legation, very little damage was done to it. Their position on the wall was most perilous; only a few yards off was the Chinese barricade,

where a cannon had been mounted. At these close quarters they were shot at and shelled day and night.

The occupation of that part of the city wall opposite the Legations was essential to us, as, if the Chinese had possession of it, they could have fired straight down and shelled the Legations, making our position untenable. The Chinese recognised this, and did their best to get possession of it. No doubt, also, they keenly felt the insult of their own wall being in the hands of foreigners. They must also have understood that, by being in possession of the wall, we might naturally facilitate the entrance of the relieving army. British and Russian Marines assisted the Americans on the wall. It was not at all an enviable position to be sent to; in fact, it was designated by the name of 'hell.'

As I have already mentioned, the Japanese Marines did not occupy their own Legation, but a large compound (commonly called the Fu) belonging to a Prince, at the back of their Legation, and running parallel to the British Legation. By so doing they not only protected their own Legation, which is practically uninjured, but also the British Legation on its east side; they were reinforced by British and Italian Marines, and volunteers, principally from the Customs. The native Christians had all collected there for protection. The Chinese literally thirsted for the blood of these Christians, and

the Fu was attacked even more fiercely than the American position on the wall. By burning and fighting the Chinese gradually encroached, and the Japanese had to retreat till, at the last, only about one-third of the Fu was held by our men. Altogether, in all the Legations, about seventy men were killed, and 120 wounded. Singularly enough, the British lost the fewest, though they were constantly on the wall with the Americans, and in the Fu with the Japanese.

The little spot used as a temporary graveyard in the south-west corner of the British Legation witnessed many a sad sight. Nearly every day a funeral took place, and often several; and as time after time we gathered round the grave of friends who only a few hours before had been full of life and spirits, we consoled ourselves with the thought that they were better off than we. They had a quick and merciful end, and as for us, what fate awaited us? Who could tell?

About two miles north of the British Legation, and inside the Imperial City, lies the Northern Cathedral. In it were a few Roman Catholic priests, over a thousand converts, and between twenty and thirty French and Italian Marines. During the siege they were completely isolated from us; they suffered many more hardships than we, at the last their allowance being only two ounces of grain per day. Only a few days before they were relieved the Chinese had fired

a mine under one of the buildings, and over 200, principally women and children, were killed by the explosion.

I may here state that the troops did not come a day too soon to our relief. After the troops had arrived a mine was found under one of the buildings of the British Legation, ready for firing. If it had been fired, not only would many have been killed, but the Legation buildings would have been burned, and in the confusion the Chinese might have taken the whole Legation.

After our relief, when the military men saw the barricades and other defences, they were astonished at their strength and extent, and wondered how we could accomplish so much. All the work was done by native Christians, under the supervision, for the most part, of missionaries. The native Christians by their labour more than repaid us for all the protection they enjoyed. After the Boxers had begun to burn mission compounds, and massacre native Christians, it became a very grave question what to do with the Christians who were rescued, and those that escaped. Professor James and Dr. Morrison solved the problem by placing them in the Fu. Its owner, an Imperial Prince, did not much relish his lowly guests, but he had no option. The day we retired to the Legation he vacated his Fu, and fled to the Imperial Palace.

Dr. Morrison's honours as *Times* correspondent are well known, but it is not generally known

how much he has added to them by his humanitarian efforts on behalf of the Chinese Christian refugees.

Looking back on the siege, what principally strikes me is the manner in which it brought out the good qualities of the besieged under very trying circumstances. Cooped up in a Legation capable of comfortably accommodating sixty or seventy people, the atmosphere polluted with decomposing animals and men, the flies as numerous as in the Egyptian plague, were over 600 people; yet harmony and unselfishness were predominant. True, there were exceptions, but very few. The Customs Volunteers and British Legation students won the admiration of all by their conduct under fire. The former, under Captain von Strauch, formerly a Lieutenant in the German army, and Mr. Macoun, an Irishman who had gained military experience in the volunteer force at home, did good service in aiding the Japanese to hold the Fu, and in addition, towards the end of the siege held the Mongol Market. Although all are worthy of mention, I shall only mention two who are now dead—Wagner and De Courcy. Wagner, a Frenchman, died bravely in the defence of his Legation, and De Courcy, a gallant young Irishman, lived through the siege, but died shortly afterwards of enteric fever.

Among the celebrities in the Legation was Sir Robert Hart, who has spent his life in the service of the Chinese, and for the good of China.

Although he has arrived at that stage of life when one cannot rough it with impunity like the young, yet all through the siege he insisted on being treated in exactly the same way as the youngest and strongest in our mess. When the alarm-bell rang for a general attack, he was always to be seen, pistol in hand, wending his way, often through pouring rain, to the general rendezvous.

The missionaries and native Christians worked so hard and unselfishly for the common weal during the siege as to win the admiration and goodwill of even those who were not favourable to Christian missions. After the siege the missionaries found themselves in a very difficult position. Homeless themselves, they had over 2,000 native Christians, both homeless and penniless, to provide for. Food could not be bought. By the consent of the military authorities they took possession of large native compounds, which had been deserted by their owners, and got food from deserted grain-shops. As far as I know, no missionary was guilty of looting in any ordinary sense of the term.

EXTRACTS FROM THE *PEKING* *GAZETTE*

DURING the greater part of the siege we were absolutely ignorant of news from the outside world. The missionaries sent out messengers to the native city, who returned with some copies of the *Peking Gazette*, which they obtained at the peril of their lives. These were translated and posted up for general information. I append some of these translations, which give a fair idea of the attitude of the Chinese Government during the crisis.

June 13.—' On June 11 the Japanese Chancellor was murdered by desperadoes outside the Yung Ting Men. On hearing this intelligence, we were exceedingly grieved. Officials of neighbouring nations stationed in Peking ought to be protected in every possible way, and now especially extra diligence should be displayed to prevent such

occurrences, when desperadoes are as numerous as bees. We have repeatedly commanded the various local officials to insure the most efficient protection in their districts, yet in spite of our frequent orders we have this case of the murder of the Japanese Chancellor occurring in the very capital of the Empire. The civil and military officials have assuredly been remiss in not clearing their districts of bad characters, or immediately arresting such persons; and we hereby order every Yamen concerned to set a limit of time for the arrest of the criminals, that they may suffer the extreme penalty. Should the time expire without an arrest being effected, the severest punishment will assuredly be inflicted upon the responsible persons.'

Edict.—'The Boxer desperadoes have recently been causing trouble in the neighbourhood of the capital, until Peking itself has become involved. We have repeatedly issued edicts stating our commands in explicit terms, to be made known to all; and we also ordered the various military commanders stationed at or near the capital to rigorously put an end to these disturbances; yet now we have cases of arson and murder, and bad characters of the lowest type are perpetually inventing rumours, on the pretence of revenging themselves on the converts. The result has been that good soldiers of ours have become involved, and regard our commands as something that can

be set aside lightly. In spite of the fact that these men are known to have leagued together to commit acts of murder and arson, they suffer themselves to be misled by them. Good citizens most of all desire to stimulate patriotism, and we would like to know when, in the history of a nation, the condoning of anarchy among the people has made that nation strong. We have now learned by investigation that among the ranks of the Boxers are many braves and desperadoes, who have vied with one another in disgraceful acts of robbery and looting. We have already ordered Kang I and others to proceed to various country districts, and acquaint each and all with our virtuous intentions, so that there may be tranquillity. Let the Boxers who have already entered into league disband and be content. It is obvious that various cases of murder and arson which have occurred are the work of traitors, and only the fact that a man has himself caused disturbance can make us regard him as a bad citizen. These bad characters must be rooted out, and no mercy can again be shown. We order Sung Ching to command Ma Yü K'un to come with all speed to the capital; and let strenuous efforts be made to arrest all desperadoes in the region round Peking. It is important that the ringleaders be seized, but the subordinates may be allowed to disband. It is strictly forbidden to the military to use these occurrences as a pretext for causing trouble, and our hope is that

the country may thus be cleared of traitors, and good citizens may be at peace.'

Edict, June 17.—'Lately the people and Christians have sought means to stir up enmity, and bad language has arisen on every side. Vagabonds have taken occasion repeatedly to burn and rob. All foreign Ministers ought to be really protected. Jung Lu is ordered to detail his own soldiers and energetically use his authority, and go immediately to East Legation Street and vicinity, and with all his power protect those Ministers. He must not be in the least careless. If the Ministers and their families wish to go for a time to Tientsin, they must be protected on the way, but the railroad is not now in working order. If they go by the cart-road it will be difficult, and there is fear that perfect protection cannot be offered. They would do better, therefore, to abide here in peace, as heretofore, and wait till the railroad is repaired, and then act as circumstances render expedient. (Respect this.)'

Decree, June 21.—'Ever since the foundation of the dynasty foreigners coming to China have been kindly treated. In the reign of Tao Kuang and Hsun Feng they were allowed to trade, and they also asked leave to propagate their religion—a request which the Throne reluctantly granted. At first they were amenable to Chinese control, but for the past thirty years they have taken advantage of China's forbearance to encroach on China's territory, and trample on the Chinese people, and

to demand China's wealth. Every concession made by China increased their reliance on violence. They oppressed peaceful citizens, and insulted the gods and holy men, exciting the most burning indignation among the people. Hence the burning of chapels and the slaughter of converts by the patriotic braves. The Throne was anxious to avoid war, and issued edicts enjoining protection of the Legations and pity to the converts. The decrees declaring Boxers and converts to be equally the children of the State were issued in the hope of removing the old feud between people and converts; and extreme kindness was shown to the strangers from afar. But these people knew no gratitude, and increased their pressure. A despatch was yesterday sent by Du Chaylard, calling on us to deliver up the Taku Forts into their keeping, otherwise they would be taken by force. These threats showed their aggressions. In all matters relating to international intercourse we have never been wanting in courtesies to them; but they, while styling themselves civilized States, have acted without regard for right, relying solely on their military force. We have now reigned nearly thirty years, and have treated the people as our children, the people honouring us as their Deity; and in the midst of our reign we have been the recipients of the gracious favour of the Empress Dowager. Furthermore, our ancestors have come to our aid, and the gods have answered our call; and

never has there been so universal a manifestation of loyalty and patriotism. With tears have we announced the war in the ancestral shrines. Better to do our utmost and enter on the struggle than seek some means of self-preservation involving eternal disgrace. All our officials, high and low, are of one mind; and there have assembled, without official summons, several hundred thousand patriotic soldiers ('I ping' = Boxers), even children carrying spears in the service of the country. Those others rely on crafty schemes, our trust is in Heaven's justice. They depend on violence, we on humanity. Not to speak of the righteousness of our cause, our provinces number more than twenty, our people over 400,000,000, and it will not be difficult to vindicate the dignity of our country. The decree concludes by promising heavy rewards to those who distinguish themselves in battle or subscribe funds, and threatening punishment to those who show cowardice or act treacherously.'

Another decree in the same *Gazette* expresses the satisfaction with which the Throne has received Yü Lu's report of successful engagements at Tientsin on June 17, 18, and 19, and gives great praise to the Boxers, who have done great services without any assistance either of men or money from the State. Great favour will be shown them later on, and they must continue to show their devotion.

Decree, June 24.—'Yesterday shops and houses

in the neighbourhood of the Tung Tan, P'ai Lou and Ch'ang An Street were looted by braves with arms. This is a serious matter, and we ordered Jung Lu to deputy officers to arrest the offenders. Eleven in all, belonging to various divisions, besides twenty-three desperadoes from another body of braves, were arrested and executed on the spot, the public being duly apprised of the occurrence. We now command the various general officers to give strict orders to their subordinates that the braves are to be strenuously kept in order. Should these occurrences be repeated, martial law will be put into operation. If the various officers commanding patrols screen offenders instead of rigorously enforcing the laws, we order that they be severely punished after due investigation. We command the military commandants' Yamens, and those responsible for the civil administration of Peking and district, to arrest all desperadoes who may be creating a disturbance, and to execute them there and then. Let no mercy be shown.'

Second Decree.—'Board of Revenue ordered to give K'ang I two hundred bags (piculs) of rice as provisions for the I Hê T'uan (Boxers), for general distribution among them.'

Third Decree.—'Members of our people comprised in the I Hê T'uan are scattered in all parts of the region round the metropolis and Tientsin, and it is right and proper that they should have superintendents placed over them. We appoint Prince Chuang (Tsai Hsun) and the Assistant

Grand Secretary, Kang I, to be in general command, and also order Ying Nien, Brigade General of the left wing, and Tsai Lan, temporarily acting as Brigade General of the right wing, to act in co-operation with them. We command Wen Jui, Adjutant-General of the Manchu army, to be Brigadier-General. All the members of the I Hê T'uan are exerting their utmost energies, and the Imperial Family must not fall behind in harbouring revenge against our enemies. It is our confident hope that the desires of each and all will be successfully consummated, and it is of the utmost importance that no lack of energy be shown.'

Edict, June 27.—'An edict appeared yesterday directing, as a stimulus to exertion, discriminating rewards to be given to the various army corps that have distinguished themselves in the metropolitan districts. Now that the left wing of the army, under command of Sung Ch'ing, have, in sectional divisions, marched to the capital, let 100,000 taels be equally divided to the men, and let orders be given to rank and file to maintain the public order with unanimity and zeal.'

June 27.—Edicts commanding Yu Lu to retake the Taku Forts, and to prevent the foreign troops from creeping northward; also ordering the distribution of 100,000 taels to the divisions of troops in the metropolitan district, and a like sum to the Boxers assisting them.

June 28.—A supervising censor of the central city memorializes the Throne, requesting the dis-

tribution of rice. He observes that the patriotic Boxers had recently been burning out and slaying the converts, and that the markets are greatly disturbed, so that not only have the lower classes lost their means of livelihood, but some of the middle classes also are suffering want. Rather than allow the ranks of the criminal classes to be swollen, let a distribution of food be made by Imperial bounty. Referring to various precedents, he asks Imperial authority for the issue of rice, and that 2,000 taels may be allowed for expenses. He states that on June 16 there was a fire in the neighbourhood of the Ch'ien Mên accompanied by pillage, and much alarm was excited; officials took to flight and shops closed. It was urgently necessary to have further force to prevent more disorder, and this was supplied, special precautions being taken outside the three gates, Shun Chih, Ch'ien and Ha Ta. On June 21 an inn in the native city was robbed, and nine persons were caught and executed on the spot. On June 24 he received Imperial orders for the arrest and execution of rioters, and had hoped that the stringent measures employed would be successful; but on the 25th, sundry villains, pretending to be soldiers, surrounded an official's residence in second street off the Customs Street (probably Marquis Tsêng's), and entirely stripped it, shooting three servants. This caused terror among the people in the outer city and fresh disturbances in the markets. Memorialist and his colleagues will do their

best to keep order, but he suggests that the Throne direct the Princes and high officers in command of the Boxers to order them to arrest any brigands committing robberies, and also that the princes and high officers in command of the troops should make close investigation of cases of brigands passing themselves off as soldiers and committing acts of pillage.

June 28.—'A censor having complained of brigandage in the capital, we order that the Princes and Ministers in command of the troops, in concert with the Princes and Ministers in command of the Boxers (I Hê Tuan), shall instruct their subordinates to arrest the guilty and execute them on the spot. Relief was also granted for the hungry poor suffering from the high price of rice.'

July 1.—General preparations are being made for war, and, owing to the interruption of telegraphic communications, the courier service, fallen into decay, must be re-established. Yü Lu is directed to order all local officials to send out numerous spies to obtain information of the movements of the enemy.

Another decree states that the members of the I Hê T'uan (Boxers) began by taking 'Loyalty and Courage' as their motto, and it was expected that they would do good service in repelling oppression, but there had been in the neighbourhood of Peking many cases of wanton robbery and murder by bad characters feigning to belong to the Boxers. If no distinction is strictly

drawn, internal dissension will be added to foreign trouble, and the state of the country will be indescribable. Tsai Hsün is ordered to keep those members of the I Hê T'uan who have made submission under strict control, and to expel all persons pretending to belong to it as an excuse for raising trouble. All gangs collecting to commit murder from motives of vengeance are to be dealt with under the law against brigandage. There is to be no mercy shown.

July 2.—'Ever since foreign nations began the propagation of their religion there have been many instances throughout the country of ill-feeling between the people and the converts. All this is due to faulty administration on the part of local authorities, giving rise to feuds. The truth is that the converts also are children of the State, and among them are not wanting good and worthy people, but they have been led away by false doctrines, and have relied on the missionary for support, with the result that they have committed many misdeeds. They hold to their errors, and will not turn from them, and irreconcilable enmity has thus grown up between the converts and the people. The Throne is now exhorting every member of the I Hê T'uan to render loyal and patriotic service, and to take his part against the enemies of his country, so that the whole population may be of one mind. Knowing that the converts are also subjects, owing fealty to the Throne, we also know that they can

bring themselves to form a class apart, and invite their own destruction. If they can change their hearts, there is no reason why they should not be allowed to escape from the net. The Viceroy and Governors of the provinces are all, therefore, to give orders to all local officials to issue the following notification: "All those among the converts who repent of their former errors and give themselves up to the authorities shall be allowed to reform and their past shall be ignored. The public shall also be notified that in all places where converts reside they shall be allowed to report to the local authorities, and each case will be settled according to general regulations, which will be drawn up later. As hostilities have now broken out between China and foreign nations, the missionaries of every country must be driven away at once to their own countries, so that they may not linger here and make trouble. But it is important that measures be taken to secure their protection on their journey. The high provincial authorities shall make close investigation into the circumstances of all places within their jurisdiction, and speedily take the necessary steps. Let there be no carelessness. (Above decree to be circulated for general information.)"

July 8.—The posts about Tientsin are of extreme importance. Troops to be massed for their defence. The seventy-two expert companies, numbering over 10,000 men, all animated by a spirit of patriotism, united with the Boxers, would

swell the strength of the defence, and turn the edge of the enemy.

July 9.—'We appoint Li Hung Chang Viceroy of Chih Li and Superintendent of Northern Trade. As the guarding of Tientsin is at present of the utmost importance, we direct that, until the arrival of Li Hung Chang, Yü Lu, in concert with Prince Ch'ing, consult as to the best measures to be taken. Pending the change of officers, there must be no slackening of responsibility.'

July 12.—'Though Nieh Shih Cheng had done much to train the troops, yet on this occasion he has made many blunders. We deprived him of his rank, but retained him in command, hoping he would redeem his faults, but on the 11th of July he fell at the head of his troops.'

July 15.—Tung Fang, acting Governor of Shansi, in a memorial, quotes the following decree transmitted to him by the Privy Council, June 20:

'A quarrel has broken out between China and foreign nations; and it is extremely difficult to anticipate how matters can be arranged. The Viceroy and Governors have all been recipients of the Government's favour, and so it is their manifest duty to use every effort to make return, and to lay before us in full detail, according to the respective circumstances of their several provinces, schemes for the selection of generals, drilling of troops, and payment of the soldiery. They must suggest plans for the safeguard of the boundaries of the Empire against the aggressive designs of

the foreigner, and see that reinforcements be sent to the assistance of the capital, in order that no disaster may befall the dynasty. What is plain from the circumstances is that the situation hinges on the zealous and united co-operation of the Viceroy and Governors, in order to save the situation. Nothing less is demanded by the serious nature of the crisis; and it is our earnest expectation that such assistance will be given. Cause this decree to be known everywhere with the utmost speed, as its importance is very great.'

July 18.—'The reason for the fighting between the Chinese and the foreigners sprung from a disagreement between the people and the Christian converts. We could but enter upon war when the forts at Taku were taken. Nevertheless, the Government is not willing lightly to break off the friendly relations which have existed. We have repeatedly issued edicts to protect the Ministers of the different countries. We have also ordered the missionaries in the various provinces to be protected. The fighting has not yet become extensive. There are many merchants of the various countries within our dominions. All alike should be protected. It is ordered that the Generals and Governors examine carefully where there are merchants or missionaries, and still, according to the provisions of the treaties, protect them without the least carelessness. Last month the Chancellor of the Japanese Legation was

killed. This was indeed most unexpected. Before this matter had been settled, the German Minister was killed. Suddenly meeting this affair caused us deep grief. We ought vigorously to seek the murderer and punish him. Aside from the fighting at Tientsin, the Metropolitan Department (Shun T'ien Fu) and the Governor-General of this province should command the officers under them to examine what foreigners have been causelessly killed and what property destroyed, and report the same, that all may be settled together. The vagabonds who have been burning houses, robbing and killing the people these many days, have produced a state of chaos. It is ordered that the Governor-General, Governors, and high military officials clearly ascertain the circumstances, and unite in reducing the confusion to order and quiet, and root out the cause of the disturbance. Cause all people to know this edict.'

July 19.—*Part of Memorial by Chang Shun.*—'Your slave has examined into what has happened recently in the whole region south of the Imperial Domain, in stirring up affairs, in burning the railways, and in cutting the telegraph lines, rushing on in a wild tumultuous way, even the regions beyond the pass being stirred up. Yesterday a telegram came from Lu T'ai, announcing that war-ships of all nations had opened war against us on the sea; that Taku had already been lost, and that Tientsin was in extreme peril.

It is the Boxers who have stood at the head, working with great readiness in bringing on this trouble. All the nations saw this inflamed condition of the country, sorrow within and trouble without unitedly pressing upon us. Your slave, hearing of this condition of distress, was "scorched with grief." At the present time, when, by the making of railroads, hundreds of thousands from three provinces have been gathered together for the work, and because of some persons stirring up disorder, in less than the twinkling of an eye all is destroyed.

THE END

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