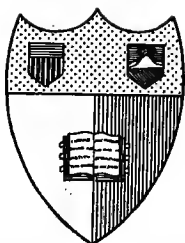


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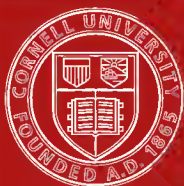


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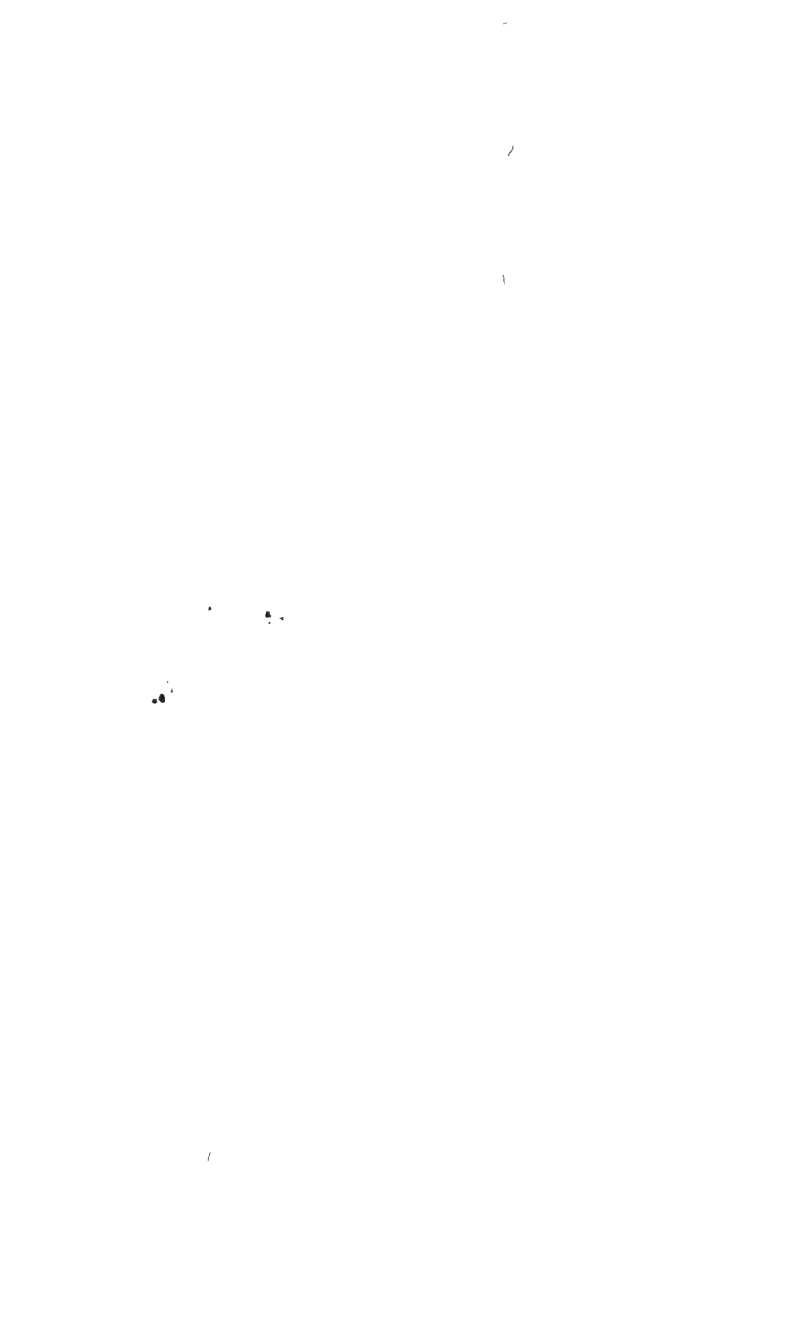
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DIARY
OF
THE SIEGE OF THE
PEKING LEGATIONS,

JUNE TO AUGUST, 1900.

Chas. J. Mason

BY

1/28/14

WILLIAM MEYRICK HEWLETT,
Student Interpreter at the British Legation,
PEKING.

Published as a Supplement to the *Harrovian* of
November, 1900, by the Editors.

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PREFACE.

—:O:—

THE Editors are glad to have the opportunity of making this diary known. Among the handful of Englishmen inside the British Legation was Mr. Meyrick Hewlett, who, we do not think we are wrong in saying, had during his school life here a larger number of friends than anyone else in the School. Through the long anxiety over the fate of the Legations all Harrow boys who knew Mr. Meyrick Hewlett felt that if the worst befell and the Legations were taken, they would have a deep private sorrow, in addition to the general mourning which would have stricken the nation. Happily the siege ended well. The quiet steadfastness and confidence of the men who helped to save the Legations are revealed in the pages that follow. We may leave Mr. Meyrick Hewlett to tell his own story, merely saying that the "Diary" really took the shape of a long letter home; it was not in any sense written for publication, but as a plain, straightforward narrative by one who went through this most trying siege we believe it will commend itself not only to Mr. Meyrick Hewlett's brother Harrovians, but to many others.

We may add that it was Mr. Meyrick Hewlett's own request that if any part of the diary was published, it should be done by the Editors of his School paper.



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DIARY

OF THE

SIEGE OF THE LEGATIONS, PEKING.

WATERLOO DAY, 1900.

British Legation, inside the Cordon of the Garrison
in Occupation, Peking.

I KNOW how wickedly you are rejoicing at my having had typhoid, and being even now incapable of doing any guard work, or any Student's work as interpreter, whatever. You must forgive awful writing as I only have moments to jot down my diary as alarms are always about. Well, to go back to Sunday, June 10th, and jumble up reports and facts showing you the time we have had.

The Admiral (Seymour), at 9 a.m., took things into his own hands and forcibly took a train. They got a quarter of the way to Yangtsún, and then found the line all torn, and are not up yet and no news of them, causing all here the greatest anxiety. On Monday, June 11th (4 a.m.), 50 carts and 40 of our guard went to meet the troops who were reported to have arrived at Machiapo, but not a sign or a rumour of them from anywhere or anyone. The carts were brought back and put up in a square in front of the theatre, the mules being tethered on "Bax's"* lawn and round his house. At 8 a.m., came certain news that the Summer Legation, London

* Mr. Bax Ironside, the first Legation Secretary, who left Peking earlier in the year.

Mission and Church of England Mission (Scott's*) where Rose and I were last year, were all burnt, poor Lady MacDonald's new things from home, and old "lovey" odds and ends all gone, and some of the Chinese caretakers murdered. The teachers gave up coming.

At 4.30 p.m. came the news of the murder of the Japanese Chancery Assistant outside the Yun-ting Mên (Mên is a gate) by Tung Fu-hsiang's Chinese troops (Kan-su regiment). Tung Fu-hsiang, an ex-Mohammedan, turned traitor to his religion and to get a position gave away his former friends, and with the Kan-su troops quelled the Mohammedan rising in 1896. He was also partly responsible, as they were his troops, for the riot at Liu-Kao-chiao in October, 1898. The Jap was dragged from his cart and hacked to pieces, but his boy escaped, and the gate was shut immediately. The Japs proposed sending troops at once, but did not want to force matters, and rumour said they wired to Japan for 20,000 men. Another rumour came that the troops were seven miles from Machiapo. In the evening the Boxers issued a proclamation, stating the numbers of guards and guns in the Peitang and calling on their men to attack it; it was left alone. The Mafus, all but four, left, the "boys" as yet sticking to it; the Mafus came back next morning. The position of the "boys" was very hard all this time, as many are R.C.'s and it did seem hard for them to leave their wives and children and not go home, yet many stuck to us. The poor head boy's younger brother was killed in the atrocities which followed, and he just saved his mother and Oliphant's† boy just saved his family. To-day our last wire, the Kiatka line, was cut; the only ones to benefit (!) being the Chancery, whose work has been enormous.

Tuesday, June 12th, and still no troops. We heard that the line at Anting was badly destroyed and that they had had two engagements. The Russian wire reopened, and the Chief sent a wire at once. The Russians landed 2,000 men at Taku and the Japs (according to a "Customs" rumour) sent another urgent message for 20,000 men. It was much discussed at the time whether it was a sign of a future war.

In the afternoon the two new Yamên members¹ (created the 10th) called on the Chief and gave leave for more troops on

* Bishop Scott.

† David Oliphant, of the Consular Staff.

condition they did not leave the Legations, or look over the walls. As it must have been known the Admiral left on Sunday, this seemed another rotten "saving face pidgin." I had a long talk to my teacher, Kuei (an R.C.), who said they were threatened in the streets, and called "wicked literati"; a good many "boys" left—mine, Hancock's, Warren's, Barr's, and Flaherty's* are the only five who have consistently stuck to us, my Mafu as well (except two days) being faithful. Many Legation boys, cooks, and coolies have fled, but refugees took their place. Poor old Kuei! He little knew Friday would see him filthy, dirty, flying for his life. To-night three fires reported in the City.

On Wednesday, June 13th, no news of the troops. A Ting Chi (Government Messenger) of eight years' standing in the Legation, was sent out, disguised as a vagabond, to find out their whereabouts, but returned, saying he would go no farther, even for 100 dollars. The Germans captured a Boxer going down the street in the afternoon, and the French shot two. A corps of irregulars from the Hotel joined in, getting in the way abominably, and shot a Jap in the head, but he is better now. At 7, the Boxers poured in the Ha-ta Mên, causing a great scare, and at 7.45 an explosion occurred followed by a report (untrue) that the Austrian Legation was on fire; the American Mission Chapel, just inside the Ha-ta Mên was fired, but not the Compound, in which were 400 Chinese converts. It was most beautifully guarded, the Missionaries under Capt. Hall (U.S.) and 20 men having made a defence of a trench and barbed wire. The alarms were sounded, and all the troops at their posts; the Italians and French at the Ha-ta Mên end of the Legation Street, and the Russians and Americans at Chien Mên end, both with barricades.† The Germans and Japs were in the centre, the latter doing good patrol work between their Legation and the Austrians, and round by Su's Fu (palace); our Tommies were on the North bridge, commanding the entry from the N.W. City and the Austrians from the east. We all had dinner fully armed; to-day the Kiatka line was cut again

* Fellow Students. Mr. Hancock and Mr. Townsend (another Student) have, since the Siege, died of typhoid fever.

† Plans of the British Legation and of the positions of defence are given in the Appendix.

and the isolation is complete. In the evening the Austrians used their Maxim on the Boxers, and tried to save a woman, who was burnt by torches put on her body. The destruction at night was enormous, and always accompanied by massacres, the sight of the enormous fires being very weird. The Tung Tang, a huge Cathedral 17 years old, was burnt, and many streets round. The London Mission went, and an Asylum of blind Chinese converts, the whole of a street, in which were the Customs' buildings of the east City, causing irreparable losses to Europeans and Chinese. Our men all slept under arms and fully dressed, and the Students took posts and acted as interpreters on the Bridges. I was, of course, out of it all, being very tottery on my legs (certainly to your joy, to my bitter disappointment), but determined to come in as soon as Capt. Poole and Dr. Poole will let me.

I was allowed my revolver to-day, and given a station on Dering's* verandah, quite an unimportant one. All the carters, who brought the carts in, left but five, to whom I gave cigarettes. They made many gestures of gratitude. The carts were all left in the Legation, and afterwards proved very useful.

Thursday, June 14th, I went and had a look at all the barricades, and the dead Boxers outside the Italian barricade. At that time we thought (some of us) there was something pathetic in the thought of these ignorant men, who believe themselves quite invulnerable, coming often singly to be shot. They advance slowly, making the most absurd gestures with their arms, burning joss-sticks, and carrying torches, refusing to move back, and making no combined rushes. They are easily shot, but now no sympathy can be found for these brutes, who murder and burn. Some of the atrocities have been too awful for words; I tell you so that at home no rotten sentiment for the Boxers may get about, as we are mad at the atrocities perpetrated all round us, and in poor burnt-out old Peking. When relieving refugees at the Nan Tang they found a woman in a house, her arms tied behind her back, her head in the fire, both breasts cut off, and her heart pulled out, and this is one of many hundreds. It is too awful and compares with Armenian

* Mr. Dering is Secretary to the British Legation.

atrocities. I tell you we are boiling, and long for relief, not only to get out of our (to-day) very tight fix indeed, but also for an awful and just revenge on these unprincipled murderers. At 11.30 came the news that the Nan Tang (S. Cathedral) was on fire, a building 278 years old, and of great historical interest, containing as it did a Memorial Tablet given to the Cathedral by the Emperor Kang Hsi. It was $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from our Legation towards the Hsui Chi Mên, but for fear of weakening the Legation defence, they dare not send immediate help. Bishop Scott's (except the church and dwelling-house, which went next day) burnt and looted. At 12.45 Capt. Wray captured a Boxer, and he was put in our cells. He was unarmed, or he would have been shot at once. It was a pity he was'nt, as the boys and Mafus, etc., in the Legation thought he could breathe fire and harm the Legations when bound, and many left. He came out to the North Bridge kowtowing and making idiotic gestures and said he was going to buy food. Two disgraceful Edicts were published condoning the Boxers.* Another Council of War was held.

At 7, the Germans on the Tartar City wall, seeing a meeting of Boxers outside the wall, fired from the wall and killed 10 odd, dispersing the rest. This started the most terrific yelling I have ever heard, you cannot conceive the row, and the yells of "Sha," "Sha" (Kill! Kill!), etc., lasted till 11.30, but the Chien Mên and the Ha-ta Mên were shut, and they could not get in. The Americans and Russians caught a man setting fire to Legation Street. Two large fires were reported from our south stable picket, where I went up to have a look out. I had just left and got to the Ping Gate, when I heard firing from our north picket. The Boxers had come from the east, and one with a sword made a rush at Captain Strouts. He hit him with his second and third shots (revolver), and two Marines bayoneted him. Another got within five yards of Sergeant Preston, who shot him dead. The Boxer was armed with a lovely old halbert, evidently taken from a temple. The rest threw down their torches and fled. There was a lovely moon, and the rattle of musketry with the clear "Halt! Who goes there?" of sentries all along the Legation wall

* For these and subsequent Edicts and Decrees, see Extracts from the *Peking Gazette* given in the Appendix.

was very jolly. The Austrians used their machine-gun with great effect, and captured 25 ragamuffins in the train of the Boxers, off to loot the Belgian Legation. I had a talk to Captain Strouts and Dr. Morrison, and turned in at 1.30.

June 15th.—The Russians and Americans went to the Nan Tang to save the converts; many were found roasted alive and so massacred as not to be recognisable. It was noticed that the houses of Boxers had yellow placards in Chinese characters on them, written on paper such as I gave Jack,* which was taken from a Boxer temple in which 44 Boxers were slain. My old teacher, Kuei, just escaped with his family, and the mess boy had his brother killed; it was said Tung Fu-hsiang's troops were looting with the Boxers. The Americans had 200 converts, and they began putting them into the large compound opposite our Legation, belonging to Prince Su, which I shall afterwards call the Fu. Su was in a tight fix, and refused officially to permit actual entry into his Fu, but he fled (with a pass from the French Minister) and his Fu was occupied by the Japs and Italians. It is a most important post, and commands our Legation, and the Japs have been fighting like demons. As I write they are hard pressed, and we have reports our troops are 16 miles away, but dare not believe it. Sir Robert Hart spread a rumour that Tung Fu-hsiang's troops were going to attack at night—they did not, but subsequent events showed that his rumours were not unfounded. Poor old Sir Robert! it seems a life's work destroyed; he shares all with his men now, and will not eat at the Chief's. Some Customs people have nothing left. I am sending all my curios home by one of the Customs ladies. I fear I shall lose about 300 dollars at least, if not more, by all this, but hope finally to gain splendid chances. At tiffin we had the only despatch we have ever got from Admiral Seymour. Whatever happened to that first force we cannot guess; you know by now, but I do pray and hope you have not been too anxious about me. It is impossible to know what you have heard, but I know how near your thoughts have been. I have had two lucky escapes, but a merciful Father is always watching us, and I feel sure we shall all meet together in the summer of 1904. In

* This is a plain sheet of yellow rice paper.

the despatch the Admiral said 20 marines had kept off 4,000 Boxers, killing 50; he was then 40 miles away (18 days ago); he wrote on the 12th. A special message was sent urging him to hurry—we never got an answer. At 2 Dr. Morrison asked for a patrol to go to Nan Tang to save the Catholic converts. As the French Minister could not spare men, 20 English, Americans, and Germans, the three Protestant countries, saved 100 odd; Dr. Morrison shooting a man who was actually in the act of killing a woman. Everyone said the scenes of burnt people, houses, and property, and houses still burning was perfectly awful. Halliday was in command. Many girls of 13 or so, have sat to be killed, and disfigured their faces with mud and filth to avoid being carried off; but it is horrible, and I won't write any more horrors. I gave Dr. Morrison some straw mats for his refugees (he had 27 in his own house). The Fu was a pathetic sight; the Chinese, many well-to-do, all in a mass, huddled together, and the poor women, with their small feet, worn out by this walk and the hot sun. They were supplied with tea from our Legation, and with food contributed from all the Legations, and a Jap guard put over them.

(My birthday, July 1st, 6 p.m., a little lull, so I will go on, but we are in a tight fix and our outposts nearly done for this morning, but that is later history—poor Townsend hit in the leg and shoulder during a sortie.) At night, two huge fires, we did not know what; but it was a ghastly feeling to know the murder going on and being powerless to stop it. No Legation was attacked, in spite of the rumour of an attack intended on us and the Austrians. Another unfounded rumour that the Russians were close. I slept in my clothes.

Saturday, June 16th, Oliphant's Mafu had a chat; plucky chap, he had been out and found the Pei Tang (N. Cathedral) all right (as far as we know, it still is), and in the streets had passed two men tied to stakes being cut up. At Chien Mén he was almost cut off by Boxers entering, and arrived dead beat, but very pleased with himself. I think I told you of the tale first-hand from a member of the Grand Council to the compradore of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. The Dowager Empress at a meeting had urged the extermination of the Legations. It was strongly opposed by Prince Ching

and Yung Lu (the latter from sheer common sense), and at 1.30 that night the Yamen gave leave for troops to come, and Yung Lu fled, only coming back last week. It may be a tale, but it was certain these last six days (June 10th—16th) it was touch and go whether the troops joined in with the Boxers. Some people laughed at the time—we know it now—also how well-founded were Sir Robert's rumours. It has indeed been merciful that they have held aloof, as if they had attacked we should have been in a bad way, and a greater mercy is that the guards came when they did. At that time people hardly realized the Boxers would enter Peking, and this murder and desolation was undreamt of.

To continue, June 16th, a body of 20 marines, 10 Americans, five Japs, and some Austrians, went towards the Tung Tang to root out a Boxer temple, of which Dr. Morrison knew. When 250 yards outside the Austrian picket, Dr. Poole saw a Boxer run into the temple and give the alarm; stones were thrown from the temple, but it was surrounded, burst into, and every one, 44 in all, slain, the wounded being killed, a splendid justice paid for the brutality of this week. The bodies of the Chinese converts were found in the temple, and some, not yet killed, were saved. They went round the quarter and found it all a wreck. I was on the North bridge listening to the firing, as the Chinese soldiers were at that time perfectly friendly. At this time a destructive fire had begun outside the Chien Mên, in the Chinese City's richest quarter. It burned furiously all day and destroyed the outer Guard House on the top of the Wall at Chien Mên, the big one, of which you have the photo, not being touched. It began by the Boxers firing separately all shops that sold foreign goods, but spreading east and west, destroyed goldsmiths' shops, and precious stones, curios, furs and silks, lanterns and fans, and book (the famous Liu Li Chang) streets, all of which were totally destroyed. It is pitiable to think of the misery which must follow so enormous a destruction, and the value cannot be estimated. The fire evidently caused alarm in the Palace, as at 5, the Imperial Palace Body Guard came into the Palace precincts on watch. At 5.15, the Russians killed a man of the Chinese Fire Brigade who was putting out the fire, which had begun in

Legation Street, thinking he was setting fire to houses, their uniform being like that of soldiers. In Legation Street, the Pai-lou and one house were burnt, and the Russians, as a precaution, began pulling down houses outside their Legation, and throwing refuse into the Canal. The fire was extinguished—Chung-li and others accused themselves of not having tried sufficiently to put down the fires, and they were deprived of the buttons and official status, but *not* turned out of office. The head of the Gendarmerie was disgraced and the Government sent a request to know when they might send troops to help us. The Ministers made every effort to avoid any collision with troops, and this was more hindrance than help.

On Jack's birthday (June 17th), at 2.30 a.m., four shots entered the Legation, stray shots fired by Chinese *soldiers* at the American picket. The Americans replied and one Chinaman was killed. The wearisome old report came that the Russians were at Tung Chou. I went to tiffin with Dr. Morrison and poor Huberty James, a good Chinese scholar and killed during the week, poor fellow.*

* * * * * *

When at tiffin we heard firing from the Austrians. Some Germans, who were patrolling, had fired on some of Tung Fu-hsiang's troops, who had thrown stones—a most unfortunate thing, as all wanted to avoid embroiling Chinese soldiers, and it began serious trouble. Our picket was withdrawn from up the road, and luckily Strouts and Russell escaped being hit, as bullets were flying straight down the road. Our Marines, although under fire,

* In a letter dated September 6th, W. M. H. writes that Huberty James was decapitated and his head put up on the Tung Hua Mên and then on the Gate of the Imperial City. He adds that the Boxers changed the names of streets to names such as "Flying Foreigners" Street, "Cut Up Foreigners" Street, etc., and that the Cemetery had been absolutely destroyed, not a stone left standing, and 13 graves had been opened and the remains burnt.

never returned a shot. The French and Japs came up to the rescue. After this incident, the Imperial City was barricaded, where the Canal enters it under the wall.

At 6, Sir Claude, with Mr. Cockburn as interpreter, had a talk to one of Tung Fu-hsiang's officers, and it was agreed the two troops should mutually avoid each other, and the incident be looked upon as a mistake. 7.30.—A fire in the Chinese City, and one in the Imperial City reported. At dinner, we got a report that the relief column had met 6,000 of Tung Fu-hsiang's troops and 20,000 Boxers, and had been driven back from Huang Ts'un (15 miles from here) to Yang Ts'un (20 miles from Tientsin), but we refused to believe it. At 9.15, 9.30, 10.45, 11.15, volleys came from the American and Russian barricades.

Monday, June 18th, the same rumour, "Russians in the vicinity." A message was brought to M. de Giers, Russian Minister, requesting him from the Yamên to keep the Russians outside the City, as Chinese soldiers were now guarding the city and regrettable accidents might occur, also requesting no more raids on Boxers as it irritated the people; no answer was sent to this message. Many of Tung Fu-hsiang's troops going north chatted with officers of our North bridge picket, and said their object was identical with our own. 2.40, Four Ministers came and visited Sir Claude.

At a Council of War it was agreed that passes for Chinese servants in the Legations are only wanted between 7 p.m. and 4 a.m. The Chinese also issued an edict, that any Chinese whatever, soldier or civilian, passing outside the foreign cordon during those hours did so at his own risk, as the foreign troops had orders to shoot any man appearing in the streets. The Customs P.O. courier could not get to Tientsin as it was literally besieged by Boxers; they had burned the R.C. Cathedral and the Russians only saved the station there by using shrapnel.

June 19th.—(I continue on your wedding-day (July 2nd) which I shall celebrate in "Fizz" taken from the stores — it is now got for nothing, and less valuable than soda water, which is running out. I have a case taken from the Club free of charge.)

It is 3.15, and all has been quiet to-day; a search-light seen last night about 30 miles away; we hope the troops may be up to-morrow. The P.O. courier had his letters burnt so

you may have lost my last mail *—I hope not, as it was a good full one. We heard the bridge at Yang Ts'un behind the Relief Column was burnt, so knew they must be in a bad way. At 5.30 the Telegraph Office outside the Ha-ta Mên was burnt; it made a huge fire, and four others were also reported. The fire set a light to a fire-work shop, which made a terrific row; the order passed to keep a very strict watch in the Legation. To-day was an important day, as at 4 we received the ultimatum to leave Peking within 24 hours. A Ministers Meeting was held, and we were told we might have to go; all of us are dead against it, we thought of some trap like Cawnpore; there was a report the Taku forts had been taken, but our Ministers wrote to the Yamên, and said they did not recognize the action as an act of war, being unauthorized by them, as they knew nothing about it. I slept, fully dressed, † on the Students' Verandah.

June 20th.—Our barricade was moved first thing to just round our Big Gate. At 9.0 came the really ghastly news of poor Baron von Ketteler; he had gone with his interpreter in chairs, accompanied by two T'ing Ch'ais to the Yamên. After entering the Ha-ta Mên main street he was shot at from all sides from houses by Chinese soldiers. The chairs were dropped and the chair coolies fled. The T'ing Ch'ais galloped back with the news. Cordes, the interpreter, badly wounded, ran as soon as his chair was dropped, but not seeing Ketteler with him, he returned; however, seeing no trace he went in and was received into the American Mission defence. The Yamên sent and said they could not recover the body; at the same time, although they could not give us transport, etc., only safe-conducts (our Ministers always decided not to leave Peking except one), and no extension of the 24 hours, friendly relations still existed, and our Relief Force was only 15 miles away. To bear out the friendly relations, punctually at four, when the ultimatum expired, we heard heavy firing from the Austrians, and our North

* This letter, dated June 10th, arrived on October 13th, and is given in the Appendix.

† In his letter of August 25th, W. M. H. writes under the date of August 23rd: "A good undress sleep between sheets; the first since June 12th."

bridge picket was brought in ; the bullets began singing and whizzing over the Legations, my first sound of this, by now, monotonous sound. Poor Huberty James, who was convinced it was a mistake, without telling anyone, went alone on to the bridge to talk to the soldiers. He showed he was unarmed, but was shot at once, and taken away. Pray Heaven the poor fellow had been shot dead, and not taken with any life in him. A Frenchman was also killed. I sat in the Big Gate barricade and watched Capt. Halliday taking shots at the bridge. Up till now the only attack had been on us and the Austrians. I was acting as interpreter to stop the rush of coolies into the Legation, when Capt. Halliday asked me to shout to the Italian Minister and servants to come back. I got up and shouted and was immediately hailed by bullets, which whistled through the trees over my head ; my first sensations. In the evening the Austrian Legation and the Customs were abandoned, and the siege of the Legation has fully begun ; and now we have held out nearly a fortnight, pray goodness we stick to it until the Relief Column comes. I hope you will keep me every cutting and picture of this trouble that you can get ; it is a time to have been in, and I hope I get out with a whole skin. I hope you will have a good rejoicing. We all have the toast the "Old Folks at Home" every Sunday, and now it is drunk with great vigour.

(July 2nd.—Going on at 6.15.)

June 21st.—At 7, some Boxers crossed the North bridge and were fired at. At 8, an attack began on our Legation from the Hanlin and Carriage Park, and I went up into our Students' Quarters, and watched the Chinese moving about. The American Mission, which was evacuated yesterday, was burnt, and there was a large fire in the direction of the Belgian Legation. The Chief took me to-day as his orderly, and getting the news first hand is very nice, besides seeing the correspondence. I sleep in his study. At 6, it was reported by the Austrian Minister that Prince Ching's troops were firing at the Boxers outside the Ha-ta Mên from the Wall. At the same time Tung Fu-hsiang's troops were sniping us, showing the farce of the whole situation. Not one of our Chinese servants could be persuaded to take a message to

the Yamên. At 6, the firing was much heavier. The Chinese Bank and Austrian Minister's house were burnt. 6.45.—The Italians and Russians who came up to help, repelled an attack of mixed Boxers and troops. At 7, the Chinese were reported to be entering the Mongol Market. At 7.10, the T'ing Erh was hit 10 yards from me, and tiles from the roof fell nearly at my feet. Prince Ching was reported to be still helping the Italians and French.

June 22nd, 8.15.—The French and Italians had to evacuate their barrier in Legation Street, and retired to the French Legation. This was followed by the burning of the Italian Legation; the Italian Minister and his wife could save nothing. 8.45.—An Austrian under-officer ordered the general retirement into our Legation, which was only to be done in a case of extreme danger and as a last move. The French, Japs, Italians and Austrians all came in; it was a gross error, but they were at once ordered to retake their positions, which at 9, was successfully accomplished. The officer had all command taken from him, and Sir Claude took the supreme command. One German was killed entering our Legation. 9.20.—The Russians came in and also were promptly sent back. The following notice was posted on the Bell Tower:—"The German Marines on the Wall have spoken to Ching's troops and found them very friendly; they said they had orders to stop any Boxers, and Ching had given orders to shoot anybody disobeying the order; of course the foreign troops come on this Wall." 1.45.—Ching was again firing off the Wall at Boxers. 3.15.—A fire near the Ha-ta Mên and two in the west. 1.45.—The Italian 1-in. gun was dragged upstairs into the stable quarters (where I lived at first), to batter down a loopholed wall in the Mongol Market vicinity. 2.15.—Time honoured report that troops had signalled. 2.30.—A messenger, who had got through to the Yamên, came back with a receipt but no answer to the query why Chinese troops were firing. 4.20.—The fire alarm sounded, the Chinese had set fire to a house behind Tours',* and just outside our Legation wall. We got it under in about

* Mr. Tours is the Accountant at the Legation.

2½ hours, the coolies of the American Mission working splendidly, as they have all through at barricades and everything, these so-called coolies being well-to-do preachers and teachers among the Chinese, accustomed to comforts; no one can ever estimate the sterling work they and the American Missioners have done. 5.30.—A big fire due west, and two fires at each side of Legation Street. 6.10.—Private Scudding, on the south stable look-out, was shot, poor chap, his own fault, as he would not keep under the sand-bags, but sat upon them, although frequently told not to do so. 7.30.—Capt. Myers, of U.S. Marines, came in with a piece of a shell, which had burst over the American Legation, and said the Russo-Chinese Bank, 100 yds. away from them, had been badly hit by shell. The Hanlin was patrolled at night; no one was found in it, and no preparations to set fire to it.

(July 3rd.—Pelting rain. 11.30.—Quite quiet and just a minute to continue.)

June 23rd.—Went on pulling down houses round to prevent fires. 4 to 7.30.—Fairly heavy firing on the west defence, which was silenced by the Italian gun. 9.15.—Heavy guns were reported from the N.W., outside the city. 10.—The firing became heavy on our N.E. defence, and the Italian gun was sent for, but it had been sent to the Russian Legation, then being also attacked. The coolies pulling down the houses outside Bax's house drew a heavy fire from the Chinese. One was killed, but the others all stuck to their work. The firing was returned by our south stable picket, and the Russians from the north of their Legation, where they had the Italian gun. Sir Claude gave an order to break a hole in the wall to the Hanlin, so as to have a ready communication to put out fire or pull down houses. 10.30.—Heavy firing; north and west attacked; 11.15, first fire in the Hanlin, where the Chinese were entrenched; by 11.45 a good hold was got over the fire, and in the afternoon we began pulling down houses which were a danger to our North defence. An attack was made by us on the Hanlin, and the place cleared. At 12 there was a fire outside the Russian Legation. The Russian Minister said they had not rung the alarm, as they could cope with it themselves. 12.15.—The

Hanlin quite clear and houses being pulled down by us as stated above, the refuse as far as possible being thrown into the Canal. In the morning, the Fire Committee and officers were divided in opinion as to the question of pulling down houses and occupying the Hanlin in a military sense; so they settled as a compromise to make the hole in the wall, and occupy a small part, but it was agreed that the Chinese would never burn so old a monument of the country's literature. However, they did it, and the oldest and most magnificent library in the world has now been destroyed; the value cannot be estimated. 12.45.—Sir Claude gave orders that an attempt should be made to save the valuable books and prevent stealing them (many of the good ones have been stolen) and that all be brought to the Central Hall of the Legation; but, of course, many have been destroyed, and only a minimum saved. They wanted (no messenger could be got to go) to send a message to the Yamên, to ask some civil authorities to come and see for themselves that the Chinese soldiers had set fire to the Hanlin (as hundreds of cartridges bore witness) and that we were trying to save the library. 1.15.—The second fire in the Hanlin. The Chinese set fire to the main entrance, which is opposite the Imperial City. 3.15.—The Russians and Americans were badly threatened by fire, and sent for help; 25 men were sent. The Russo-Chinese Bank was burnt, in which were 80,000 dollars hard cash. The Customs men went to help and clear Su's Fu and the Customs environs; they found the Japs hard pressed, and all the Customs houses burnt (Sir Robert's included). Richardson in the Customs was wounded. 4.45.—Coolies and a fire-engine sent to the Russian Legation. A third fire in the Hanlin, a huge building 50 yards from us and separated by a wall, so no danger. 5.30.—The American Legation main entrance hit by a shell. I went all over our defences with the Chief, and to the Russian and American Legations, where I saw the roof broken by the shell; we watched the fire in the Hanlin, and saw them pull down a big tree, which was alight, to prevent it spreading to the Students' Quarters. We watched the Russians firing at the Chinese in the Mongol Market. 6.30.—The fire outside the Russian Legation greatly increased, and at 7.30 a fourth fire in the Hanlin

threatened the north stables. They had made most determined attempts to burn us out, but none had as yet succeeded. Yesterday, Sir Claude had to move his study as a shot had entered it.

June 24th, 5.0.—The Chinese were using their big 3-in. gun (about a 9 pounder) against the Japs in the Fu, and a piece of a shell fell in the Legation, causing an absurd little panic, especially to the French Minister, who has shown himself a horrible coward all through. 7.15.—Fairly heavy attack on the Russians and Americans; 1 American was killed. 7.30.—We saw Chinese flags placed at intervals along the City wall, it was a gorgeous morning and they looked very picturesque, blue with a red border and four black characters on them. News came that the Fu was being closely attacked. 7.45.—A great number of Chinese in the Russo-Chinese Bank tried to break into the American Legation but were kept out.

8.0.—Col. Shiba, the Jap commander, was hard pressed in the Fu, about 150 Chinese attacking them and trying to pull down the wall. The Chinese appeared on the City wall, but the Germans cleared them off to within 100 yards of the Ch'ien Mên itself. An order was issued to reinforce the Japanese and Italians in the Fu. 8.10.—An order given that every available coolie should go and make a barricade by the American Legation on the Wall no matter what they might be doing in our Legation, and at 8.15 Sir Claude gave orders that the Wall must be held at all hazards, as if that was lost, our central position—the British Legation—would be liable to be shelled by Chinese from the City wall. Half-an-hour later the Americans had retired from the wall saying it was too hot for them, although there had been no casualties. 8.30.—Ten Germans, six Customs, and six Marines under Halliday, sent to help in the Fu; an order was sent to the French Legation to assist by making a demonstration in the rear, the ten Germans to help their own men on the Wall if wanted. 9.0.—A fire outside the south stables between us and the Russians and also under the south stables outpost; heavy firing in the direction of the Russians. Two sorties went out, one under Captain Strouts which attacked a house, killed three-quarters of the occupants, the rest fled and

set fire to the house ; and the other under Capt. Halliday to catch some men who were throwing large stones over into the stables, they cleared the place, but poor Halliday was shot point blank through the shoulder, the bullet just grazing his lung ; however, after he was wounded he killed three. The Chief wrote and congratulated him, and Halliday sent for me to have a chat, but was forbidden to see anyone. In the Fu, ten Italians, ten Japs, and ten French made a sortie against 150 Chinese and drove them away, for the time preventing them making two holes in the Fu wall, but after this the Chinese took from us the plan of barricading and they have thrown up in every conceivable lane, barricades, thereby making sorties harder for us. 9.35.—Again Sir Claude urged it was of the greatest importance to keep the Wall, and arrangements were made to build large barricades at night. It was proposed to hold the Wall from the Ha-ta Mên to the Ch'ien Mên, and to take the gun at the latter, but the project could not be carried out, and only the positions at the back of the German and American Legations were secured. 9.40.—We heard that the American Legation was on fire, but they got it out. The Germans carried the wall again to within 100 yards of the Ch'ien Mên, and found it all strongly fortified, especially at the Ch'ien Mên, where was a gun, which at 12.30 finally made the Americans leave the Wall, which they retook again at 3.45. 11.45.—Another fire in the south stables, when some of the Mafus quarters actually caught, and 12.30 a big fire near the north stables, but the wind was blowing it away from us. A Jap messenger (a Chinaman) got back, and said he had been 25 miles down the line and seen no Boxers and no troops.

4.—Big guns heard and notice put up : “ Heavy firing constantly heard towards west, thought to indicate approach of foreign troops.” A Marine was shot in the leg in the pathway “ Chancery Lane ” outside Mr. Cockburn’s house. Six barricades on the Wall begun by the Americans ; a German slightly wounded. 7.15.—Capt. Myers reported the Americans and Chinese on the Chi'en Mên were 100 yards apart—they finally were 35 yards apart—and were watching each other. Sir Claude had given orders that 60 coolies

should have three hours' rest and extra rice, so as to be able to build a big barricade at night; also for a reinforcement of 60 men ready to help them—the Chinese had a 3 lb. gun up there not as yet used. 8.15.—I went up to Barr's picket, having free access anywhere, and listened to the fighting on the wall. 8.45.—Another fire by the American Legation. Orders were given to reinforce Capt. Myers, to take the Chi'en Mên at 9.30, but it was finally given up as our small numbers did not justify risking loss of life on a large scale. 10.45.—The barricade was reported finished. To-day some of our ponies got out of the Legation during the fire in the south stables, and about six were shot by the Chinese on the North bridge. I am afraid "Memory"* was one, but I cannot find out, as many have been put in the Fu. Last night the Germans saw two white rockets S.W. and guns said by connoisseurs certainly not to be Chinese were heard in the west. But these reports are cruel, as we were all longing for the troops, and it made us hope against hope, and calculate when they would come, when it was better not to expect them. The Chancery Building was turned into a Hospital.

(July 4th, 9 a.m.—All quiet, a severe attack on the west, but we are all fit and cheery. I have had a good wash and complete change, and feel beautifully clean.

* * * * *

Now for the diary. No doubt this letter begins to bore, but wait till it gets to page 100!

June 25th, 6.30.—Our two Boxer prisoners were shot in the north stable and their bodies thrown into the Canal. The Chief had to take to his bed, and affairs were carried on by the Italian Minister, a great pal of Sir Claude's and a charming man, Marquis Salvago Raggi—his wife also is charming. My French is improving! as I have to take all his orders in French. 6 to 8.—General quiet. 8.—The firing began on the N.E. part, but stopped at 8.15. At 8.45 it was

* W. M. H.'s pony.

quite quiet. At 9.45 firing again began on the N. and N.E. fronts. 11.30.—Orders were given to barricade the back of the German Legation; the officers decided it was not worth the risk to try and take the Chinese gun at the Chi'en Mên, but would do so if seriously troublesome; so they decided simply to hold on to the posts and not to risk loss of life and waste ammunition as the guns had done no damage whatever. 11.45.—40 coolies sent to clear the ground round the Russian Legation; an Austrian gunner wounded and one American at the American barricade, which was badly damaged by seven shots from the Chinese gun. Capt. Myers of U.S. guard declared it was impossible to hold it (it was still being held at 4), the plan being to rebuild it at 9 at night. Ten Germans were sent to reinforce the Americans, as Sir Claude urged it must be held at all costs. The Japs had to abandon a part of the Fu, as the Chinese had built a barricade opposite them, but they retreated very little. 1.45.—9 Marines, Capt. Poole, Dr. Morrison, and 7 Customs went to relieve the Japs in the Fu; they found all safe for the present, one Frenchman killed, two Japs and an Italian wounded. 2.15.—50 coolies sent to the German Legation, and 35 coolies to the American Legation. 3.30.—The Italian gun sent back from the American Legation as useless to cope with the Chinese big gun. 4.15.—A board appeared on the North bridge on which in Chinese appeared the following notice: "An Imperial command to protect Ministers and to stop firing. A despatch will be handed at the Yü Ho (Imp. Canal, *i.e.*, North Bridge), Bridge." A reply was sent on a big board, black characters painted on canvas, our bearer wore an official hat—the reply: "Honour to receive Imperial command and send a man to receive the despatch." The man got to the bridge safely, but on the Chinese calling out "He's come! He's come!" he threw down the board and bolted. Some Mandarins with soldiers came out, who by mistake were shot at by the Japs and Italians in the Fu, which was a pity, as the "Cease fire" order had been sent, but had not probably reached them. However, I think it was a ruse, as the Chinese pushed on barricades as hard as they could, and no message or despatch was ever sent at all. The Chinese stopped firing directly the horns in the Imperial

City blew, showing pretty clearly the whole thing was under Imperial control. Directly there was a lull, Mr. Gamewell* hurried on fortifications and defences as hard as possible, to be ready for all emergencies. On receipt of a rumour that Mandarins were coming to parley, all the Foreign Ministers assembled at the Big Gate at 5.45, but no message was ever sent at all. 6.15.—Some of our fellows spoke to the Chinese outside the Hanlin, and the Tommies waved their hats to them, the Chinese waving back. There were men of all regiments, Tung Fu-hsiang's, Ching's, and Yung Lu's, making a very picturesque effect in their different costumes. While all was quiet and we were parleying in the Hanlin, it was reported the Chinese were in great numbers on the City wall with a large Dragon flag, and the Germans sent for reinforcements. Capt. Strouts gave orders to be extra cautious, and not to permit men to enter the Hanlin. 7.—We gathered from conversation with the Chinese troops that Yung Lu (showing he had come back, if the Chinese were telling the truth), had ordered the "Cease fire," and despatches would be sent at once. At 7.30, another message was sent to the Germans not to fire until fired on, but to be very careful against surprise. 7.35.—Firing again heard S.E. in the direction of the French Legation. A fire outside the City wall. 7.40.—The Americans and Germans were firing on the City wall. 8.—The Chinese were hard at work building breastworks 100 yards away, from the outlook on Mr. Cockburn's house, apparently as a defence from shots from our men! The Chinese also built barricades in the Carriage Park, Legation Street, and Dusty Lane. In the afternoon the Austrians went to the burnt Italian Legation and found looters, killing about 60. 9.30.—White rockets followed by green repeated in the south. The Japs set fire to the east portion of Su's Fu. 10.—Guns still heard in the direction of Machiapo. 10.45.—Col. Shiba reported they had seen rockets they believed were their own. At 12 punctually a terrific fusillade was begun on our position, heavier than has ever been before, but quite harmless, although bullets whistled all over the Legation. It was also reported an attack was made on the

* The Rev. F. D. Gamewell, of the American Board Mission.

French and Americans and Germans on the Wall. The Italian Minister was most gracious, giving me all the information he thought would be of interest for my diary. The French Minister twice ordered the French officers to send 20 men to our Legation to be ready to be sent anywhere in case of emergencies, and was twice point blank refused. The French officer also refused to send ten men to help the Americans at their defence, so ten of ours were sent. This morning they started a system of forage carts working in Legation Street to clear all food from the remaining shops, which was distributed. We eat pony for dinner, which I enjoyed very much indeed, as I knew what ponies had eaten and could not tell what cows and sheep picked up; all the latter were kept for hospital, &c.

June 26th.—All quiet except for a little sniping and firing at the American barricade up to 9.20 p.m. 9.30. Orders given to reinforce the American barricade by 10 men from the French Legation (yesterday I wrote with what result). 11.30.—A fire in the Carriage Park, where were many Chinese soldiers. The Japs continued burning east of the Fu; 10 of our Marines relieved the Americans below the City wall. People started making bomb-proof shelters. Messrs. Cockburn, Ker,* and Brewitt-Taylor (of the I.M. Customs), and others were with the North picket in case a message came from the Imperial City. Allen, one of our men, was wounded by a shell at the American barricade. The Russians insisted on keeping their men in the Russian Legation to keep a retreat open, and the French officer only agreed to send reinforcements to the Americans if the latter were badly pressed. He complained to me there were too many Ministers. The French reported that the Chinese troops with baggage were moving off north and west, said to be Tung Fu-hsiang's troops (1,500 cavalry) also reported moving south.

The following notice was posted on the Bell Tower :—

“In case of heavy firing all men with guns of any description, who are not on special duty at that time, are to assemble at once at the Bell Tower, and there await orders of Capt. Strouts.”

* Assistant Chinese Secretary.

At 7, Chinese horns reported in N.E. 7.30.—The firing opened in the direction of the French barricade. 7.45.—A large fire behind the French Legation, and heavy volley firing from their barrier, one Frenchman wounded. The fire burnt out my boy's home; he got a permit to pass a few days later, and is now living in the Mongol Market vicinity. 8.15.—Heavy guns heard some way off in the south. 8.45.—Two Chinese lights reported from the Carriage Park. 9.20.—Firing practically ceased. I went all the rounds with Capt. Strouts. At the Big Gate they reported a siren signal heard in the S.E.; impossible to tell if Chinese or foreign—more false hopes. 9.45.—The firing began again, fairly heavy in the direction of the French Legation, and also towards the Americans. When I went to call Capt. Strouts from dinner, a shot hit the covered way above my head and another shot hit the front entrance to the Students' Quarters just by me. 10.50.—Heavy firing from the American barricade, and on our east front.

June 27th, 2.45.—Firing terrific all round the Legation as far as the left corner of the Hanlin, apparently to frighten us; two volleys, fired at the Hanlin main gate by us, stopped the firing. The Italian gun was sent to help the Japs in Su's Fu. Colonel Shiba wished to smash the barricades in Dusty Lane and outside the Imperial City; it was considered foolish to irritate the Imperial City from which there had been no sniping. 9.30 to 12.—Very quiet, when firing became heavier on N.E. and nowhere else. 12.—It was proposed, but never carried out, to build a redoubt in the Carriage Park. The Germans and Americans were relieved at the south barricade. A census of civil foreigners in Peking posted up:—

	M.	W.	C.	Total.
At present in the Legation ...	191	147	76	414
At present outside the Legation	54	2	3	59

The Chinese reckoned at about 3,000 all included.

2.15.—The Japs sent for reinforcements; 5 Customs, 5 Marines and a Corporal sent, and at 3 o'clock ten Russians. The attack on the Japs was very hot, and bullets were flying all over the Legation. In the Legation Peachey was wounded in the leg. 2.30.—Our 10 at the American

Legation sent for, a reserve of 5 being kept at the Big Gate, and 10 more to be sent to the Fu, the most important defence. 3.20.—The firing a little slacker. Col. Shiba suggested letting the Chinese into the Fu and killing them, but it was thought too risky. He is a splendid little man of action. 4.—Bugle sounded to quarters. The attack on the west was very heavy, and less on the east, at the same time it was reported numerous Chinese, with bugles, etc., were about to attack at the Fu. The Chinese broke the wall and got into the Fu; they were swept by a fire from the Japs, who were behind loopholed walls. A sortie was then made by our Marines, Customs, 5 Japs, and 10 Russians from the east, and 20 Italians on the west; both sorties cleared off the Chinese, till stopped by barricades; the Chinese fired a temple while retreating. The Chinese tried to drag out their dead bodies with rakes. 4.15.—The firing heavier in the west, and very little in the east, but by 4.30 it had ceased west, and increased east.*

5.5.—The attack began. Heavy firing from the Carriage Park and Hanlin; the Chinese occupied a large house in the latter. 6.30.—A heavy attack on the Americans. 6.15.—The Japs wanted reinforcements in the Fu, as the Chinese with ladders were about to come over the wall, but little Shiba said "no immediate haste." Another fire behind the French Legation. Very heavy firing everywhere (including the Fu) except in the east. 6.45.—The Americans and Russians at their defence heard Chinese bugles in the Mongol Market where the Chinese were in great numbers. 7.—Bugling reported to be heard in the Imperial City. 7.15.—The firing much less, and at 7.30 almost entirely ceased. 8.—The Americans reported that 200 Boxers, compelled to advance by Chinese soldiers, had attacked their barricade; they had killed 50 and the rest fled over the wall—this was proved a most gross exaggeration. 8.30.—Heavy guns again heard in the south, we still hoped it was the troops coming—a topic of daily conversation. 9.10.—The firing again heard at the Russian defence. 10.30.—Extremely heavy attack at the American position and north front, but as usual all ended in noise, and no attempt at a rush. 10.35.—General

* For a plan of these Sorties, see Appendix.

attack rung on the big bell by order of Capt. Strouts, but all the heavy firing ceased at 11.0, and it was quiet all night. We are beginning to get more accustomed to these terrific fusillades; they make a deafening noise, but there are seldom any casualties.

June 28th, 5.45.—Very quiet except for very occasional shots up to 11.45, when it was reported that the Chinese had a big gun N.E. of the Fu, and two shells had hit the Japs position. We set fire to a temple in the West Hanlin. 11.45.—Col. Shiba reported the Chinese with their gun were trying to knock down the wall of the Fu—he wanted to take the gun. Twelve French reinforcements were at last persuaded to come round, but were soon returned. 2.—The firing on N.E. heavier; a hole was made leading into the Carriage Park from our N.E. wall to use for sorties, etc. A fire due east. 2.40.—A fire in the south, 100 yards from us. Tien Tais (the tailor's) was burnt, and part of the street; it was not known who did it, but it was apparently by mistake, as it was right between us and the Russians. 3.—Practically no firing. Volunteers were wanted to defend the Russo-Chinese Bank, which was, however, taken next day at 10.30 a.m. (the volunteers left at 4 a.m.), and became a serious menace to the Russian barricade in Legation Street. A piece of shell struck our hospital. 6.30.—General attack rung; heavy firing all along the west, due west of the south stable quarters (where I lived when I first came up); 300 yards away a big gun was placed; it did great damage to the top storey, my old bedroom being a complete wreck. The dust caused by a shell bursting made some excitable lunatic ring the fire alarm. 7.10.—The Italian gun was brought to the Legation; on account of the heavy shelling it could not be used in the south stables. 7.45.—The firing much diminished and at 8 practically ceased. A notice was posted on the Bell Tower: "A Chinaman of the London Mission has got to Ts'ai yü (about 20 miles from here). He met Boxers flying from troops who had taken the Taku forts; as he came in he spoke to Chinese troops, who said they were tired of fighting the foreigners." 9.45.—Big fire east, behind the French Legation; firing from the French barricade. 10.15.—Firing from the Carriage Park. Sorties were arranged for 3 a.m.

June 29.—At 3 a.m. two sorties were made, one under Capt. Poole into the Carriage Park—three Marines, five Students, and five Customs, the object being to burn the houses in which the Chinese were entrenched; they got wrong and found themselves 10 yards away from a huge barricade, when they got under a heavy cross fire and could not achieve their object; owing to the bad shooting of the Chinese, they got off unhurt—they fired two volleys into the barricade. The second went round west of the south stables in the Mongol Market vicinity to discover if the big gun was still there. Some houses (the wrong ones, whereby their retreat was much endangered) were set fire to, otherwise not much accomplished, the gun having been withdrawn. It consisted of Capt. Wray, 20 British, 10 Germans, 10 Russians, 5 French, and 5 Italians—no casualties. Bugles again heard in the Imperial City.

6.—Firing from the Carriage Park (but not heavy), and from the gun at N.E. of the Fu against the Japs. 10.30.—Firing from N.E. much heavier. 10.40.—Dr. Morrison and I had to leave where we were making notes, as a bullet hit the T'ing Erh just beside us.

10.45.—Reported that the Chinese were occupying a position inside a small compound by the north stables, but they were not aggressive. During the morning shells continually whistled over the Legation. I was just missed by a shot I have kept, which fell at my feet, when I was carrying a letter.

12.30.—A fire in the east corner of the Fu, five Marines and five Customs men sent over to help.

1.10.—The firing a little heavier. A large pavilion in the Fu was set on fire by the Chinese. The Japs and Italians had an awful struggle there, but are sticking to it magnificently.

1.30.—The firing heavier in the Fu, but it lessened again at 1.45.

1.45.—The Chinese reported to be burning houses due north outside the Hanlin; we thought to make way for their gun; it has not yet been used from that quarter.

2.10.—One of our Marines, the jester and favourite of all, Phillips, was killed outside the guard house by the Big Gate in the compound. Poor chap, he was just chatting; the

bullet entered his right shoulder and came out at his heart. 3.—Heavy firing from N. and N.E. (Fu). 3.30.—The American doctor was wounded in the leg. 3.40.—The firing became less. 3.50.—Immediate help wanted at the French Legation, which was being badly attacked. 4.15.—Five Marines and five Customs who were in the Fu sent to the French Legation; the Marines were congratulated by the French Captain on their work; they shot most excellently and cleared the situation. They were ordered to return as soon as possible. 4.20.—A Chinese barricade opposite Mr. Cockburn's house advanced. A German civilian reported he heard continued hammering behind the Students' kitchen, so we had a jolly little scare that the Chinese had begun mining.*

5.30.—A French Lieutenant killed at the French barricade. The situation was considered grave on the French side; and the Japs in the Fu, where the wall had been battered down, were only separated from the Chinese by a hastily-erected barricade, which three shells could destroy. Col. Shiba reported he had to abandon a part of the Fu. A fire reported outside the south stables.

6.—Four fire extinguishers sent to the French Legation.

6.15.—The firing began to increase east, and at 6.30 it was very heavy, east, and heavy, west.

At 6.45, it was nearly all confined to the north, and at 7.15 almost ceased.

8.30.—There was some heavy firing on the west opposite Mr. Cockburn's house, but it soon became much less.

9.—The Austrian machine gun was brought in from the French Legation. 9.30.—The firing heavier west, and some in the direction of the Fu, but by 9.45 it entirely ceased, but only for five minutes.

* In a letter dated 25th August, W. M. H. states that the Chinese mine from the Carriage Park was investigated by the Royal Engineers, who found it 190 ft. long and ready laid, with room for 1000 lbs. of gunpowder; if it had been exploded it would have destroyed the whole of the Students' mess room and also part of their Quarters. A mine was also found in the City wall, under the American position on the wall.

W. M. H. adds: "We were saved just in time, in another week we might all have gone."

9.45.—A very heavy thunderstorm and rain came on. Immediately an exceedingly heavy and fierce fusillade began from the Hanlin; the lightning was grand, and the mixture of thunder and firing quite magnificent. The Chinese kept up fire with jingals until 4 next morning, although rifle fire ceased almost immediately. Their big gun has never as yet (July 4th) been fired at night. 10.—General attack rung, and at 10.15 the attack worked west, and was not nearly so heavy.

June 30.—Our south stable picket reported last night from 10 to 11 he saw a steady lime-light moving laterally in south. certainly not Chinese and certainly artificial. 6.—Very little firing, all from the west defence. 8.30.—Almost entirely ceased. 9.—Ten Marines sent to reinforce the Americans. 9.10.—Big gun began again N.E. against the Japs; lots of shell fell in the Legation. 9.55.—News from the Fu that the wall was being bombarded by cannon, and a breach had been made. 10.10.—The Japs sent for reinforcements; the north wall of the Fu practically destroyed. Five Students, Wihlfahrt (of the Russo-Chinese Bank), Oliphant, a Corporal and six men sent.

10.45.—The firing temporarily ceased, the big gun continuing to fire at intervals. 11.30.—Two Marines wounded at the barricade towards the Ha-Ta Mên, one a well-known foot-baller (we played against him last year.) He had his leg smashed to atoms, and said, "Well, I stopped that." The firing even of big guns ceased, still some sniping. 11.45.—Three Germans killed and two wounded at the barricade towards the Ha-Ta Mên; the Wall, however, was not abandoned. 80 lbs. of powder found in the Fu and put in Sir Claude's cellar.

1.30.—The Italian gun sent for. 2.—The Germans reported that Chinese soldiers in great numbers were passing through the Chinese City from the Ch'ien Mên to the Ha-Ta Mên. In the evening I went to the south stable with Sir Claude, and saw the wreck of my old room. We watched two rockets sent up by the Germans at 10—no answer. The firing very little from east and S.E. 7.15.—A fire in Legation Street. 8.20.—Volleys from the French defence; it soon lessened, in 20 minutes all ceased. During the night all quiet; very slight attack on the Hanlin.

(July 4th, 9.15 a.m.—Quite quiet, not a shot being fired; all positions still held, but no news of any troops at all. The list of casualties up to now is as follows, the first number being killed, the second, wounded: British, 2—14, Italians, 7—7, Germans, 7—8, French, 6—5, Austrians, 3—3, Americans, 6—9, Japs, 4—7, Russians, 3—3, Civilians, 3—4, total 41—60, very serious out of our little force. Now to continue my diary on my birthday (July 1st), which was one of the worst days we have had during the siege.)

July 1st, 5.45.—In our Legation all very quiet, practically no firing at all. 9.—The Americans and Germans reported they were under a cross fire on the Wall from the Ch'ien Mên and Ha-Ta Mên. 9.15.—The German twelve, under an under-officer, were surprised, letting the Chinese crawl up to them, and fled from their barricade. The Americans, seeing the Germans had left at the Ha-Ta Mên end, finding their rear exposed, evacuated their barricade, making the situation excessively critical. There had been no casualties. Orders were promptly issued to recapture the evacuated positions, as they are of extreme importance, and at 10.10 the American position was retaken; the German's never was, as the rampart leading up to it was swept by fire from the Chinese. The American gun was brought into our Legation, where it now is. Coolies were sent to the Americans to strengthen their defence, some of our own defences being temporarily weakened to help them strengthen theirs; reinforcements were also sent.

10.15.—Capt. Wray and 10 men were sent to relieve Capt. Myers at the American position, and seven men were sent to the Germans.

10.30.—Poor Wagner of the Customs was killed by a shell at the French barricade, and Monsieur Pichon came rushing up to say: *On recule de la Légation de France*; it was however retaken during the morning. The Germans thought it impossible to hold their own Legation (it is still held July 5th). 10.50.—The Italian gun was used from the Students' Library with good effect against the barricade in the Carriage Park. Firing on the east began, not very heavy at first, and the big gun was heard in the direction of the Fu. A very slight attack was made on the Hanlin. The

Austrian gun was brought from the French barricade into our Legation.

2.20.—Heavy volleys from the Fu. Chinese bugles sounded but the firing did not continue heavy very long.

2.30.—Wray shot through the shoulder, and one of our Marines wounded. 3.15.—Five Students (Hancock, Townsend, Bristow, Flaherty, and Russell) and seven Marines sent to help Col. Shiba to take the big gun. I watched the proceedings from the Big Gate. The big gun fired at 3.52, 3.57, and at 4. At 3.55, the Italians, Marines, and Students issued from the Fu into Canal Street, and at 4 punctually they charged. Soon afterwards we saw a Tommy running back waving his hand. We thought at first he had a message, but the poor fellow soon fell. Oliphant's brother (Nigel) and an American and one of our own men ran out and helped him in; he was shot through the thigh. The sortie got into a positive death-trap; they found themselves in a narrow lane and opposite a huge barricade, fired at from one side of the lane, the barricade, and roofs of houses behind them. Two Italians were killed, the Italian commander wounded, two Marines, Townsend, and one Frenchman, and one Jap also wounded. They found a hole into the Fu and got through two and two; luckily the Chinese firing was atrocious, or not one could have escaped. It was observed by our North picket, who saw the whole disaster, that the last to enter the hole were two *Students*, who were quite calm, firing at the barricade and covering the retreat of *troops*; they were Flaherty and Townsend who was shot in the leg and shoulder getting through the hole; he is much better now. The Italian commander and Shiba own up to a mistake and take the whole blame on themselves. Our North picket killed two Chinamen raking in the body of a dead Italian.

4.5.—The Italian gun sent to the Fu. 4.25.—The firing considerably lessened, and at 5.50 almost entirely ceased; the big gun still firing.

6.20.—Firing heard from the French-American barricade. After 7.30 practically no firing at all, not even sniping; it seemed as if some of the Chinese had drawn off, or ammunition run out. The quiet lasted all night.

10.15.—Volleys from the Germans and firing on the east defence slightly increased. 10.20.—A flash light, I saw myself, reported south. How we all hoped it was the Relief Column! In the evening I went with Capt. Strouts on all his rounds; pitch dark as, of course, all lights were out in the Legation.

July 2nd (Your wedding day).—During the morning the American position was made stronger, but the Germans were unable to recover their position on the Wall, and it has been occupied by the Chinese, who menace the Americans' rear. 5.30.—All was quiet, and it had been quiet all round during the night. At 8, still practically no firing at all, not even sniping, which seemed to confirm the opinion that many of the Chinese troops had drawn off. 9.45.—Col. Shiba set fire to the north end of the Fu, and shots became slightly more frequent.

10.—It was reported the Chinese were building a barricade opposite what was the main entrance of the Hanlin.

10.30.—The big gun began firing from the N.E. of the Fu. 10.35.—Rain began falling and fell all day to 6.30. 10.45.—Dr. Morrison and I had a very close shave when comparing and writing up our notes in the Ting Erh. The shots from the big gun N.E. of the Fu continually passing over our heads, and making noises which showed they did not fit. The following notice signed by Sir Claude and posted on the Bell Tower :—

“ Last night, between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m., an electric flash light was seen on the S.E. horizon, the approximate distance from Peking, 25 to 30 miles. The flashes were regular and occurred at intervals of about a second, with a pause of from 5 to 10 minutes between each 40 and 50 flashes.”

The signalman reported favourably on it. 12.30.—The Italian gun was brought to bear on the Chinese barricade outside the Hanlin main entrance, and entirely destroyed the brickwork of it.

3.30.—The big gun again firing from the Fu.

3.45.—A huge fire in the Fu (east) lit by the Italians and Japs; an Italian killed. Another fire in Legation Street towards the French defence; a barricade was built in the north stables to cover the retreat from the Hanlin if necessary,

and a hole knocked in the north stable wall to make an exit from the Hanlin; a wall was also begun to protect the passage leading to Sir Claude's front door. 6.10.—A fire lit by us in the Carriage Park—it was a small temple.

6.15.—The firing began to increase from the Fu. 7.30.—The firing heavier from the north, but it soon ceased. The Fu was in a critical position to-day, but was still held on to, and unattacked during the night, when the Japs and Italians considerably strengthened their position.

July 3rd, 3 a m.—Twenty-five British, 14 Americans, and 15 Russians attacked the Chinese Tower and barricade towards the Ch'ien Mên*; they took it and captured two Chinese flags, rifles and spears; also clearing the west rampart. Captain Myers was wounded and Corporal Gregory and two Americans killed. The firing very heavy in the S.W. (Mongol Market vicinity); at the other positions all very quiet, except for rockets and squibs being used by the Chinese in the Hanlin and N.W. of the Fu. 4.30.—The big gun at the Fu fired three shots; it was not heard again during the day. 5.30.—Heavy rain began falling, which lasted till 2.30.

11.30.—The Canal water rising and becoming a danger to our barricade. The French engineers consulted how to prevent it.

2.—1-in. Chinese guns, firing from the Ha-Ta Mên, fired about 13 shots, one of which landed among the Chinese at the Ch'ien Mên.

3.45.—Big gun firing more frequently from the Ha-Ta Mên. Our Union Jack cord was cut by a bullet, but the flag was soon nailed to the top of the mast.

5.—Five flags planted behind the French Legation. They imagined they would be heavily attacked, but all night nothing at all happened, and all to-day and at night the Fu was unmolested. 8.30.—A little sniping S.W. The whole day had been very quiet up to 9.30, when a furious fusillade began against the west defence. (3 p.m.—The Chinese have just been shelling the Students' Quarters. I was going into a room when a shell entered, and I got a bit of a knock on my knee—luckily I was not right in the room. Poor David

* A plan of this fight is given in the Appendix.

Oliphant has just died from a wound got this morning—full of life and joking with me this morning, and now gone; it does bring home the reality of this ghastly business.

* * * * *

—To continue diary.) Heavy firing against the American defence; it lasted for a long time, bursting out heavily at intervals. Nothing was reported from the Hanlin, except the Chinese firing rockets and golden balls. The flash light was seen in the same place as two days ago, but at a distance of 15 to 20 miles, clearer and more movement, very bright at 2 a.m. An unsuccessful attempt to burn out the Japs in the Fu, otherwise they were not attacked.

July 4th,—6.30.—All quiet. 9.45.—The firing heavier N.E.; first shell to-day fired in the Fu. An Italian shot through the heart. 11.—The firing almost ceased, except for the big gun, which continued firing at intervals. 11.45.—The Italian gun placed at the Hanlin defence and fired at N.W. of the Fu with effect. 2.30.—Occasional shots from the big gun at the Ha-Ta Mên. 2.45.—The firing ceased, absolute quiet for half an hour when the big gun began again at the Fu. 4.30.—The big gun not heard again; all quiet, and all through the night, except for a short but heavy fusillade S.W. at about midnight. The American Copy of the Declaration of Independence was shot through, and brought in here by Mr. Conger. In the evening Sir Claude sent a small Chinese boy to try and find the troops. Sir Claude gave me the note to read—contents as follows:—

“Since June 20th we have been besieged by Imperial troops who have four or five guns, 1 Q-F., 1 1-in., 2 3-in., and 2 throwing 14-lb. shells, chiefly used at barricades; the enemy enterprising but cowardly, Chinese Government, if any, doing nothing to put this down. All their positions very close to ours (our positions then described). We cannot hold out if enemy go on as at present, say 10 days, if they attack in earnest four or five places, haste absolutely necessary if want to avoid horrible massacre. Entrance probably easy; enemy hold gates of City—canal sluices afford easy entrance. We have lost 44 killed.”

A Chinaman trying to cross the North bridge this afternoon was shot from our Big Gate ; he is the first since the siege began, who has tried to cross.

(Now at last I have got up to date and am writing on July 6th, 9 a.m. All quiet, still no signs of relief, but we all mean to stick to it, as it is a question of relief or death, but one doesn't think of that at a time like this. Well ! for yesterday's log.)

July 5th, 6.—All quiet. 8.—The big gun firing from the Fu at intervals. It sounded as if it had come nearer. 9 to 9.30.—Absolute quiet; not even the big gun. 9.30 and all day onwards, very little firing, sometimes only the big gun at intervals. 10.30.—The Italian gun sent to the Fu to destroy a Chinese barricade ; it did not do much good. Four cases of Jap fireworks found at Kierulf's store. The Chief sent me over to the Russian Legation with messages, and I helped Dering to get corn from a shop in Legation Street. Chamot's Hôtel de Pékin was heavily bombarded all day from the Ha-Ta Mên on the North ; the Hotel is exactly opposite the German Legation. 11.45.—Capt. Poole whistled the retreat from the Hanlin, where fellows were cutting down trees, and twice told them to leave, as sniping had begun. Poor David Oliphant thought he was under cover, and stayed, but three minutes after was hit by a bullet, which, entering his side, passed right through the liver and came out, causing him awful pain ; poor fellow ; he died at 3, and was buried at 6.45. I was asked to be a bearer, but I could not trust myself to go. He was a *real* friend to me, always cheerful and ready to help, when I was getting better coming daily to explain despatches. His poor brother, to whom I had a long talk, has handed all his notes, etc., for work over to me. No more golf together ; he always, when one asked him, gave that sterling help that can only come from a sound friend. He is a terrible loss to us all ; brilliant at work, and to be depended on for every kind of duty.

The Chinese built a barricade outside the Hanlin, and erected a gun on a scaffolding in the Imperial City, which commanded our Students' Quarters, a good old cannon firing solid shot about the size of a big cricket ball. Col. Shiba gave the Relief Column another 14 days from to-day. 2.15.—

The Chinese gun at the Imperial City began shelling the Students' Quarters. The Chief got very keen, as he could see the Chinese manning the gun, and he got a Martini and fired five shots, when a ball burst through the wall into the room next the one he was in. I was entering to go through to him, and was hit by pieces of brick and smothered in dust, lucky it wasn't a shell, as I might have been hurt. The shot hit the wall at my side a little above my head. 2.25.—The Italian gun brought back from the Fu, and used with good effect from the Students' Library, against the gun which was temporarily silenced; it fired two shots again at 7.30. 5.50.—Gilbert Reed, a missionary, was wounded in the leg, in the road leading from our Legation to the Russian Legation. During the night, at intervals, there was heavy firing. The Japs split open firework bombs, and filling them with bits of iron threw them at the Chinese. I heard big guns outside the City wall when talking to Dr. Poole. Many others, among them Capt. Strouts, also heard them. The Chinese built a barricade in the Hanlin, when they also continually sent up fireworks. (July 7th, 9 a.m.—All quiet, and time to scribble off a little more of my diary, the quietest night we have as yet had, but no news of troops; but I think we can last another month. We expect them at any rate before July 20th. The Chinese seem to be short of ammunition.)

July 6th, 8.30.—The big gun firing at the Fu, and at 9.45 the "ball-cannon" was firing at the Students' Quarters, hitting the Chief's house and falling in the Hanlin. The whole day and night following was practically quiet, except for the firing on the Students' Quarters by the big gun, and after dinner many people were out strolling about "Chancery Lane," and sitting on the lawn. Giles* and I had a long chat together, and it was remarkably quiet. 10.45.—The Italian gun was mounted on a platform in the north stables to silence the two "shot-cannons" on the Imperial City wall. The Chinese barricade, which had been built during the night, was pulled down again by us. 11.30.—Four Customs, a Corporal and five men were sent to the Fu to reinforce Col. Shiba, as the Chinese had made

* A fellow student.

a hole in the north wall of the Fu, and were trying to enter. The Japs and Marines made a frontal attack on the Chinese, while the Customs and Italians fired volleys to attract their attention. Col. Shiba drove the Chinese away from their gun, but could not get at it; a Jap officer was killed and one man wounded. We heard the volleys at 12 and the charge of the Japs; it lasted about ten minutes. In the Imperial City one of the Chinese guns was placed behind folding-doors, half of which were opened and the gun run out and fired. Operations could be distinctly watched, but the Chinese were very careful of themselves, and once, when they saw the Italian gun trained on them, they fired only powder and no shot. Russian shells of the 3-in. gun (which they left behind at Tientsin) were brought to see if use could be made of them, but as yet no use has been found. The American flagstaff was shot away. 4.45.—The Chinese in the Imperial City began building a barricade overlooking the Big Gate, and they loopholed one of the big buildings in the Carriage Park, overlooking the Hanlin position. A Russian Student, who had got drunk, walked outside the French barricade, and right up to the Chinese, when he was shot, and they got in his body; an awful disgrace to all the civilized nations, and best passed over. 9.55.—The big "shot-cannon" still firing, and it fired three more shots during the night. A messenger was sent out, but he returned as he feared he was being watched. 10.30.—A few sharp volleys S.W. In the Hanlin all quiet except an alarm caused by a falling branch, which made the German Volunteers blaze into space. Col. Shiba raised a corps of 30 Chinese armed with captured rifles.

(July 8th, 9.30.—Quiet now, except for occasional big round shot passing over the Ting Erh where I am writing, but what would I not give for a jolly quiet Sunday at home now.)

July 7th, 6.—All was quiet, except for a very occasional shot from the big gun in the Imperial City. 9.15.—The firing in the Fu constant, but not heavy; it soon lessened. 9.30.—The big gun from the north Fu and City wall, from which they were still bombarding the Hôtel de Pékin. 10.15.—The Italian gun was taken to the Big Gate to destroy a new barricade in the Imperial City which might become a menace

to the passage to and from the Fu, as it absolutely commanded the Canal. This barricade has two embrasures, and has been built up on a scaffolding behind the Imperial City wall, over which it appears. I watched the Italian gun from our Big Gate barricade, and it was lovely to see the third shot strike right in the middle of the barricade, scattering the yellow Imperial tiles on the roof of the wall. 11.30.—Heavy cannonading still heard in the distance, S.W. 11.45.—A big round shot, after piercing the outer Wall, entered Sir Claude's dining-room, just below the ceiling. It passed through the room at the same elevation, showing it had been fired with some force. At the time I was in the passage between the outer wall and the dining-room, helping Sir Claude to arrange the magazine. 12.—The Italian gun was mounted in the north stables. Heavy firing in the Fu, which did not last long, however. A notice posted on the Bell Tower, and signed by Sir Claude:

“The officer commanding the Austrian and French detachments reports heavy cannonading in the S.W., lasting from midnight till this morning.”

1.—A little firing from the French defence. 1.10.—Volleys from the Fu. 2.—A fire due east in the direction of the French Legation. The French Legation had a heavy time; it had been the chief target this morning. 3.—Large fire in the Fu; it was finally got under. 4.—Heavy firing N.W.; it was suggested it was Pei Tang, of which we have had no news since the siege began. In the afternoon we started fabricating a gun to fire the Russian shells, and making shells to fit the Italian gun, as now they only have 14 left. An old Chinese muzzle-loader cannon was also found, and taken to see what use could be made of it; it has not yet been tried. To-day 10,000 dollars was given to a Chinaman to go and find the troops and take a message. I saw the man just before he started. 6.—Absolute quiet, except for a big gun firing from the Ch'ien Mên. The Chinese in their hurry to fire this gun shot away part of their own barricades, but it was soon patched up again. The American barricade being a defensive work no sortie or rush could be made to take this opportunity. 9.45.—Col. Shiba sent for coolies; he always

preferred ours to his own in the Fu. Messrs. Hobart and Gamewell also went; Sir Claude also went over to the Fu after he had been all round our defence. 10.45.—The gun from the north Imperial City wall passing over our Ting Erh struck the chapel. I was sleeping in a long chair in the Ting Erh, and was woken up by the noise it made. Giles, Hancock, Flaherty, Kirke and I had a good long chat on the lawn—quite like old peaceful times. During the night there was some shouting in the Chinese City, and distant guns were again heard. The firing in the Fu, and at the French defence became rather more frequent than during the day. The Japs had a rumour that troops were at T'ien T'sun, 12 miles N.W. of the City.

July 8th, 1.45 a.m.—A very heavy fusillade west, it lasted about 15 minutes. 6.—Absolute quiet. At 6.45 I went to an early service at Mr. Cockburn's house.

* * * * *

7.—A flag was planted on the City wall above the German Legation, and the big gun there (Chinese) began firing from the barricade. A fire in the N.E. corner of the Hanlin. 7.40.—The big gun due east of the Fu firing. 8.45.—Absolute quiet, except for very occasional shots from the big gun in the Imperial City. Two guns now mounted on the new barricade overlooking the Canal just opened fire. 10.—The Japs have just complained that one of the Chinese messengers has been shot by an American coming through the sluice gate into the City—a ghastly shame, as strict orders have been given not to fire on unarmed Chinese, but the Americans have no discipline and do as they like. This brings me up to 10.10, when I am writing and must wish you good-bye for the present. * * * (July 9th, 9.15.—Not a shot being fired, so I am sitting at my little table to continue this bulky epistle.) The rumour about the messenger being shot turned out to be untrue, as no American had fired from the City wall. 10.15.—A big fire in the Fu. Col. Shiba sent for reinforcements—three Students, three Customs, and six Marines sent. The firing became much heavier; the position to-day in the Fu was

very critical, but dear little Shiba holds on, although they are practically burnt out. Dr. Morrison considers it the worst day we have had since the siege began. 10.45.—I went over to the Russian Legation to get 10 men for the Fu. They sent them, but as they were found not to be immediately wanted, and the Russian barricade is an important post, they were sent back with an order to hold themselves in readiness. It was reported from the Fu, that the Chinese were hiding behind the fire they had made, and could not be got at. The French were asked for reinforcements, but being hard pressed could not send; the Chinese had a gun so near the French defence, that when fired it broke by vibration the glass in the French Legation. 11.15.—The firing lessened all round. 12.—The Austrian Commander was killed by a shell at the French barricade, he was buried at 2, diplomatic representatives from all the Powers being present. The old gun found yesterday was tried as an experiment, and sent a shell through three walls. Up to 3 all very quiet, except for occasional outbursts in the Fu. 3.40 —The first shot fired from "the old gun"* at the Big Gate; the shell passed ten yards over the Imperial City wall, and we wonder where it fell in the City. It burst the ropes that fastened it to its temporary carriage in the recoil; it is now a great pet with the Tommies. 3.50.—Col. Shiba sent for the gun and fired two shots with it; one burst into a Chinese building carrying away their flag, and with the other he used broken bits of iron which scattered among the Chinese. It had the effect of silencing the Chinese fire. 4.—A new fire in the Fu burnt the main buildings and large entrance, the converts there went into the buildings south of the Fu. 4.30.—Ten men sent to the Fu. 5.30.—The Chinese 1-lb. gun firing from due west put two shells into the roof of Mr. Cockburn's house (I forgot to tell you I was watching at the Big Gate when the first shell was fired. After it passed over, the Chinese came out and fired from the loopholes in the wall, our men returned the fire, hitting the holes time after time—very pretty seeing the smoke and dust from the bullets striking). 6.15.—The firing considerably less, only

* This gun was also called "the International."

coming from the Fu and at rare intervals, especially at 6.45, sharp clear rifle shots there. 7.15.—“The old gun” mounted in the Students’ Library. After dinner, quite quiet; the Fu in a critical position. A permanent reinforcement sent of 6 Marines, and next day 2 B.S.M. and 2 Customs. 9.45.—Heavy fusillade attack on the Hanlin; 20 large shots fired by the Chinese from the Imperial City wall during the night.

July 9th, 2.30.—Fierce fusillade against the Fu. 4.—“The old gun” fired from the Library did great damage to the Chinese barricade in the Carriage Park. The Chinese did not return the fire. The vibration broke most of the glass in the Library and cracked the wall (an old walled-up window) in our mess room. 5.30.—Absolute quiet, except for very occasional stray shots, and shots from the Imperial City. (Continued July 10th, 10 a.m.) The quiet lasted all day, and the silence was almost more monotonous than the constant firing. 10.15.—Preparations started for making a search-light. 10.45.—Ten of our Marines sent to replace five Austrians and five French in the Fu, where the Austrians had a small panic and left their posts. They were put on guard in the Hanlin with the Students. 11.30.—“The old gun” began firing from our Big Gate at the Imperial City barricade which overlooked the Canal. The first two shots were too low; I was watching then, but they got two beauties in during the afternoon, one right into an embrasure and the other into the roof of the wall. The gun was sent to the Japs at 7, but returned and used by us during the night. 1.—The firing heavier from the Fu, but it did not last long. 1.45.—A fire N.W. of the Fu in the houses just by the North bridge. 4.45.—Absolute quiet, not a shot all round. Three Chinese captured at the French Legation trying to set fire to it, were cross-examined, and so contradicted themselves that they were shot. The Japs reported heavy fire south, outside the City and much nearer than before. 5.30.—We set fire to houses in the Mongol Market vicinity, S.W. defence.

Notice posted on Bell Tower:—

“A messenger who went into the Chinese City to-day reports that:—

“1. There are no Chinese soldiers to be seen in the streets of the Chinese City.’

“2. Ha-Ta Mén has been closed for ‘many days.’

“ ‘ He left the City by the Tung-Pien Mên and going north entered Ch'i Hua Mên. At that gate Yung Lu's soldiers were in charge, but in Ch'i Hua Mên and Ha-Ta Mên main streets he saw many of Tung Fu-hsiang's troops. Near the Tung-Ssu P'ai lou the streets have their everyday appearance, shops open, and hucksters in the streets. *Peking Gazette* issued daily. Emperor and Empress Dowager in Palace here. Nothing known of approach of foreign troops. Chinese soldiers much afraid of the foreigners. He bought several things in shops and from street stalls.”

7.15.—The Japs reported troops in the vicinity of the City, as they heard rifle firing which they recognised as their nation's troops. 8.45.—The Italian gun sent to the French Legation which is now an absolute wreck and the defence is only separated from the Chinese by a wall. 10.45.—Heavy fusillade attack on the Hanlin. The big gun from the north Imperial City fired frequently during the night. Shrapnel fell in our Legation.

11.15.—The fire lessened, and I heard the cries of a hawker. The cannon shots fired from cannon, July 3rd to 9th, amounted to 1,360. (These numbers were given me by the Spanish Minister.)

(July 11th, 9.30 a.m.—Now three weeks' siege, no news at all from outside, very tired of it.)

July 10th, 6.—All quite quiet. It was exceptionally quiet right up to 9.15 p.m., and at 4.45 in the afternoon there was absolutely not a shot fired all round. 9 to 10 a.m.—Absolute quiet, when the big gun from the Imperial City began firing on the Hanlin.

10.45 a.m.—The Italian gun sent back from the French Legation, where it had been very useful; shells continually passing over the Legation, one burst on the tennis court. It seemed as if they were making the Union Jack on the Big Gate their mark. The Pei T'ang was reported safe; the Chinese had attacked it, but found it very strong. At 1.15 we had in the Fu: 20 Marines, 3 Customs, and 2 Students.

2.—I went over to the Russian Legation to get reinforcements for the Fu; they sent 10 men, and I marched them back in grand form!! Another messenger was sent out* at

* See Reports from Messengers in the Appendix.

noon to-day. Four Marines who were sent to the Fu were led by a Norwegian Missionary, Nestagarde, who volunteered to show them the way right up Legation Street and *under* the Chinese barricade, outside the French Legation big gate. They had to wait 15 minutes, while the French main gate, which was strongly bricked up, was opened; luckily not a shot was fired by the Chinese.

8.15.—Ten men and coolies sent to the Fu; during the night they considerably strengthened our position there.

9.15.—Volleys from the Fu, which continued at intervals.

9.40.—For two minutes very heavy firing, quiet until 10.55, when for a minute another outburst in the Fu. Capt. Strouts sent me to tell the Italians, who were replaced by our men in the Fu, to wait at the gate. One of our men asked: "Where are they going to put 'em, Sir?" I said: "In the Hanlin." "Are they going to chain 'em up?" "I don't know." "'Oo else is in the 'Anlin?" "The Students." "Oh, the Students is there, is they? then that's all right." Last night 20 Chinese captured at the French Legation. Three were shot, then the French corporal saying it was waste of ammunition (which is very short), killed 15 himself with his bayonet, and two have been kept for interrogation, the result of which I don't fully know yet; so good-bye for another day * * * How I should like to get home and have some quiet and comforts. The heat to-day and yesterday was awful and flies attracted by the dead bodies all round in thousands, all over the place, horrible.

(July 18th, 9.10 a.m.— * * * I had not a moment yesterday. We are gradually being closed in upon, and unless relief come soon we shall be in an awful fix, but I feel confident that we shall come out all right. Our little numbers diminish daily, and the strain on officers and men is great, but we keep very happy, and our mess is always cheerful with our looted champagne and cigars; £1 12s. for 25, quite expensive for out here. I am wondering if you will go to Lords' to-day. I hope you have, but the lack of news must make you anxious at home, and we know nothing at all from outside. I hope the relief party bring up a mail; we have had no news since June 10th.)

July 11th, 8.—Sniping was going on in the Hanlin, and shots from the big gun in the Imperial City still passing over our Legation; otherwise all was quiet, and at 9.30 there was practically no firing at all. 9.30.—A messenger was sent out, but at 12 the following notice was posted on the Bell Tower:—

“Attempted to send messenger, out of sluice gate this morning. Chinese sentries fired on him immediately on his exit. The messenger ran back, without being wounded, however.”

To-day and yesterday the Russian Lieutenant, Baron von Rahden saw Chinese soldiers outside the Russian defences leaving the houses as quickly as possible, carrying away rice, &c. He heard big guns and volleys in the south; it was presumed to be Ching fighting Tuan, but nothing certain known. 11.—The firing a little heavier from the Fu, but no regularity. 1.15.—The firing began again from the Fu, after a silence of nearly an hour, but was not very heavy. At 3.10 Nigel Oliphant was wounded in the leg in the Fu; it was not dangerous. Poor fellow! since our Oliphant's death he has been most reckless. 5.—There was again absolute quiet. To-day one Jap killed, two wounded, a Marine wounded, and two civilians. 7.—Capt. Poole, Russell, Bristow, and three Marines, covered by fire from the Italian gun, broke up the newly-made Chinese barricade, and cleared the Hanlin up to the main gate; a flag had been placed behind the barricade. 9.25.—Big guns heard at intervals, not known where. 9.30.—Two rockets sent up in the Hanlin. The temperature to-day in the shade is 102°.

July 12th.—During the night the Chinese built a new barricade in the Carriage Park, just under the wall which separates the Carriage Park from the Hanlin, also placing sandbags on the Wall itself, and mounting a flag—abominable cheek! 4.—Big guns began firing from the Fu, at intervals. 5.45.—Sharp firing from the Fu, and a little in the Hanlin. 6.15.—A fire in the Fu. A man was caught just outside the French Legation in company with some Boxers. A flag, spears, and arrows were also taken. He was examined by Mr. Cockburn, and I took him over to the American

Legation to be examined there. He was a coolie, pressed into the service by Chinese soldiers, and did not know much beyond gossip from the houses. He said he was given two tiao (6d.) for each body he carried from outside the French Legation to Ch'i Hua Mên. The soldiers who got them for this work were paid by Yung Lu. Tientsin, on account of the arrival of foreign troops, was in great disorder, and had been burnt on June 16th. Taku was taken, and 100 men-of-war (foreign) were there. Trade was going on in the north City, none in the south. The Boxers and soldiers yesterday frequently fought in the streets over loot, which the soldiers wanted to sell and then to buy ammunition, but many of Yung Lu's troops after getting hold of the loot had deserted. Tung Fu-hsiang was still in the City; affairs were managed by Yung Lu and Tuan. Ching had nothing to do with this affair. Boxer headquarters were at Tuan's palace. Pei Tang was attacked with guns, but was still holding out. The Chinese dare not use their biggest guns in the City as they are too powerful and shoot too far. An edict has been issued authorizing the use of small cannon—those were 150 years old. 9.—Shells passing over the Legation from the east. The morning and afternoon were very quiet, except for occasional outbursts. 12.30.—The "old gun" mounted in the Students' Library; it had been used with no effect from the north stables. At 2.30 it was taken to the Hanlin and used against the wall where the sandbags had been placed, but without effect. 5.20.—Sharp firing from the Hanlin, following the action of the American gunner who climbed the wall and seized the Chinese flag. A Chinaman clung to the staff, but the end of the tug-of-war was we got the flag. 5.30.—The Chinese opened fire from the loopholes in the barricade overlooking the Canal. The Italian gun mounted in the Students' Library. 6.15.—The firing a little heavier from the Fu. The French made a sortie and captured a flag, which drew a heavy attack on the Legation, four being wounded. 9.35.—Sharp fusillade from the Carriage Park on the west defence. It only lasted 3 minutes, and was followed by absolute silence. 10.45.—Sharp firing in the Fu again, soon followed by silence.

July 13th, 4.—At the Hanlin a short sharp fusillade. The Chinese built a new sandbag barricade in the Carriage

Park. The defending forces in the Fu had to surrender two barricades; four cannons were firing on them, and shelling was very heavy.

(Sunday, July 15th, 9.30 p.m. * * * It is with a very heavy heart I pick up my pen to write to-night. This evening, at 6.30 p.m., poor old Warren was wounded in the Fu; he has had a part of his nose, the cheek-bone, and lower jaw shattered, and it fell into the wind-pipe. Dr. Poole says that he is now dying. We have been constant companions daily; I share his rooms, clothes, and "boy"—everything in fact, and we have had constant jokes about leaving each other loot if anything happened. Every day after breakfast and dinner we have had our walk together, and always enjoyed looted champagne and cigars, and now, poor old chap, he is lying in the hospital and the Doctor won't let me see him, as I can do no good, he being unconscious.)

Now I will go on with my diary. 6.—Big gun firing from the Fu, and in the Hanlin some individual shots. 8.—All very quiet up to 8.30, when shells were constantly passing over our Legation. In the Fu an Italian had his head completely blown off by a shell. The Marines gave up all their spare blankets and sheets to make sandbags; a German badly wounded. 10.—Again all was quiet, except for occasional shots in the Fu. It remained very quiet, only rare shots being fired up to 6.

(July 20th.—Up on the Students' Verandah with Giles, as we are still enjoying the temporary peace. I had to stop the other evening, as I was told at 9.30 poor Warren had died, and I could write no more.

* * * * *

Now I have the room alone, and almost feel as if I must wait for our daily walk. But I must go on as I am far behind now.)

July 13th (continued).—The Chinese made a hole in the Carriage Park wall, and a shot entered the room where the Japs are quartered, in the Students' Quarter, passing over the body of a Jap lady who was resting on the bed, without

hurting her, however. At 6 very sharp firing from the Fu. 6.15.—Three Marines sent there, at the same time there was a very sharp but short fusillade against the west defence. 6.35.—Another sharp fusillade in the Fu, the big gun was firing frequently from the east. The attack in the Fu seemed to be a feint while the main attack, the most vigorous yet made, was directed against the French and German Legations. At 6.45, the firing east was very heavy indeed, and there was continual shouting; the general attack was rung. A house in the French Legation which had been undermined was blown up, and two Frenchmen killed; it was followed by a huge fire, but the French stuck to their barricades, and many Chinese lost their own lives in the explosion. By 7, the firing though sharp, was slightly less. Sir Claude sent me over to the Russian Legation for reinforcements and I came back at the head of the ten men at a double, feeling very proud. They were at once sent to the German Legation, where they arrived just in time to make a bayonet charge with the Germans, and drove off the attack, the Chinese having actually ventured into the open. The Chinese made an attack past the German Legation in Wall Street, against the American east defence; the Americans were at the time changing guard, and so were in double numbers, and met the attack successfully. The total Chinese loss was put down at 100, but I should consider this a gross exaggeration. At 7.15 the firing again became heavier and increased still more at 7.30. when the Austrian gun was taken to the north stables, where it was held in reserve. 7.40.—Another short, sharp attack on the west; three Germans brought in wounded. 8.30.—The firing much less, but it lasted up to 10.30, when the shots only came very occasionally. The big gun began firing at intervals from the north.

July 14th, 2.30.—Chinese bugles quite close in the S.W., followed by a fire in the German Legation, when the Chinese completely set fire to the Legation stables, and planted a flag there. The Germans attacked and captured the flag, driving out the Chinese who were there. 5 to 8 30.—Very heavy rain fell. 5.30.—A message came from the Fu saying our position there had been greatly strengthened during the night, and asking for permission to blow down

a wall (did not state which. The Chief and Strouts somewhat vexed to be woken at 5.30 to read so vague a message) by the Chinese barricade, before the Chinese opened fire from it. All was quiet at 5.25 and all day, except for occasional shots from the Fu, and at other recorded times. At 9 the big gun began firing from the north, and at 10 a shot entered my room, but did no damage to my things, just not carrying as far as "The Soul's Awakening." Mrs. and Miss Bredon were in the room asleep at the time, but neither was hurt. At 11 our "Old Gun" was fired from the Students' Library, and knocked away a portion of the Chinese barricade in the Carriage Park. 11.30.—One of our messengers returned. (I will give you details later.) 3.—The "Old Gun" was sent to the French Legation, where it did good work. The shells, hitting the top of the Chinese barricade, and bursting, scattered the Chinese. Col. Shiba reported the Chinese were retiring a little from the Fu. 2.—The Italian gun sent to the Russian Legation. All afternoon very, very quiet, except for occasional shelling in the Fu. 7.30.—An abortive expedition in the Hanlin under Capt. Poole, who wanted to see what the Chinese were doing, but did not find much. 9.10.—The firing somewhat sharper from the Fu; it did not last very long. The "Old Gun" brought back from the French Legation.

July 15th.—All very quiet during the night; the Chinese heard working hard in the Carriage Park with picks, &c.; a Marine dangerously wounded in the Fu. After breakfast I had my usual walk with Warren, and that just before he went to the Fu. 8.30.—Absolute quiet, not a shot all round, but at 9, big guns began shelling the Fu. I was sent with a letter to the German Legation and sat and had a chat there with two of their Marines; they had strengthened their position, and had not had a shot at them all night. The Italian gun was mounted in the N.E. of the Chief's house with our Nordenfelt and fired on a loophole made by the Chinese in the Fu N.W. wall, just across the Canal. It destroyed a part of the barricade and silenced the snipers. 11.15.—Capt. Strouts gave an order to send 15 additional Marines (nine already there) to the Fu to-morrow. The East Hanlin was badly damaged by round shot fired from the Imperial City wall; no one was hit. 3.10.—Five men sent to the Fu; very

sharp firing from the N.E. Fu, which did not last long, and was followed by bugling. I went into our Big Gate barricade and had a look. The Chinese ran out their gun on the Imperial City wall, the stand-by was called, and we saw the flash of the gun, and the shot went whizzing over us. Firing from the Mongol Market. 3.30.—The Russians made a successful little expedition and pulled down some houses outside their position. Heavy firing in the direction of the Pei Tang. 6.30.—Poor old Warren brought in wounded; died at 9.30. Our favourite song had always been “Swift, swift the bullet!” sung like we at home always used to sing it, and we had many a good laugh over it, but I cannot bear it now. I have undertaken the arrangement of all his affairs, and am writing to his father. I was put on the active list, and left orderly, so my notes will not now be so perfect. I at once volunteered for the Fu, but Capt. Strouts said “No, I won’t have you go to the Fu,” and repeated it again next morning after breakfast in our mess just before he went himself.

July 16th.—At 8 a.m. he was brought back mortally wounded through the groin; he died at 11. His loss is irreparable, since, as Commander, he exercised a tact, cheerfulness, and sense of what posts were in truth most threatened, and this no other man could accomplish; a splendid officer all round. It does seem cruelly hard he is taken before he can reap the rewards of our little Peking war of defence which he deserves so well. Dr. Morrison was with him, and was also wounded, but is out again now. I went through poor Warren’s papers. 8.30.—I joined our post in the Hanlin (centre post).* 9.—The firing heavy from the Pei Tang. 10.50.—The firing N.E. a little heavier, although not a shot was fired at us all day from the Imperial City. 11 to 1.—I was on watch alone at the post opposite the Hanlin main gate, seated on the top of a stone barricade behind loopholed sandbags, watching the Chinese barricade to see when they opened their iron gate to fire. My report was a cat on the Imperial City wall, and a dog in the Hanlin, also a fire scare. I saw what I thought was a man tied to a board, and put out in the Chinese embrasure. Mr. Cockburn and Capt. Poole also thought it was. Grand excitement! Heaps

* For a plan of the positions in the Hanlin, see Appendix.

of Tommies and civilians came to look! A strong telescope was brought, and it turned out to be a new Chinese gun-carriage just run out, but the gun was pointing west, and not at us. 5 to 7.—On watch. An old dog came in at the Main Gate and sat in the Hanlin ruins, and twice pricking up his ears and sitting up gave me the “know,” and I saw on each occasion a Chinese pass the barricade outside the Hanlin, one ran and one walked, but I had too great a respect for the kick of my Martini-Henry to fire. 5.30.—The firing heavier from the Fu. 6.—The funeral of Capt. Strouts and Warren, who were buried together. I was asked to be a bearer, but did not go. All the Foreign Representatives and Officers went. While the funeral was going on, three shells passed over the Legation. At the same time, a white flag was brought in by our messenger, who came in before, (he had been beaten again).* He brought a letter to Sir Claude from the Yamên, who pointed out that no guns had fired from the Imperial City all day, and they were trying to obtain a cease-fire in the Fu, also bringing a secret cipher message, undated and unsigned, to Mr. Conger from his Government:—

“Communicate tidings to bearer,” nothing else. The note said: “Firing has been practically nil all day” (which was true). “Only in the Fu has there been sniping of any consequence” (not quite true, as shell had been fired).

11.35 p.m.—There was firing from the Carriage Park, attracted by Nestagarde, (who has practically gone off his head), making a row in the north stables. 12.—A little firing from the Wall. An American was killed and one of ours wounded. 30 Marines sent to relieve the Japs in the Fu; the latter had, out of 25 men, 8 killed and 13 wounded, but five of the wounded are still fighting—they are splendid fellows. 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., July 17th.—Hancock and I together on watch at the main gate of the Hanlin; for 10 minutes or so I felt drowsy and he kept me awake. We saw nothing—gorgeous moon.

July 17th.—(July 22nd, 8.45 a.m.—A quiet Sunday. The Chinese have kept to their peace, but watches are as strict as ever, and we expect an outburst any time. I must get to

* See Reports from Messengers in the Appendix.

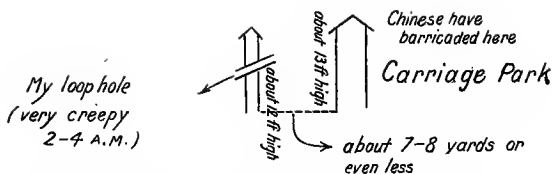
my diary at once, as I may not have time to finish, and I want to get it off as soon as communications open.) 5 to 7 a.m.—On watch. Hancock was very drowsy so I smacked him, and called quits for last night. Nothing much happened, only at 6 a big gun fired from the East. 8 to 10.—On watch again. At 10.30 I took Warren's despatch box and diary, and handed them over to Mr. Cockburn to look after. 9.—There was absolute quiet except for street cries, and very occasional shots. A ditch was dug behind the Hanlin defence, as a counter-move to the mining, and another was also dug behind the Students kitchen and library. A Boxer and a soldier, prisoners, both said that the Chinese were undermining the Hanlin, but I think the answer was more or less pressed out by the people, who talked to them, and not in any way official. Two soldiers brought a message from Yung Lu, and his card; one was sent back to bring an officer of some standing. They said Yung Lu was endeavouring to stop the firing, and in the afternoon at 6 it absolutely stopped all round. Many laid down their arms in the Fu, and wanted to come over to us, but Col. Shiba would not let them in. The Chinese losses were reckoned at 1,500, and ours 144. Capt. Percy Smith and others went round the barricades, and chatted to the Chinese, giving them cigarettes, and quite friendly relations were re-established. A Frenchman, called Pellet, went up to the Chinese barricade in Legation Street to chat; they gave him tea, and offering him a hand took him inside their barricade. He was taken to the Yamên, not blindfolded, and the Secretary tried to pump him about our food, etc.; he was discreet, and after a good meal was sent back. The Chinese went on with their barricade in Legation Street, opposite the Russian Legation, so our "Old Gun" was sent over, and blew the top off, but since then no hostile actions have been taken on either side. An old bugler of Sir R. Hart's band came in. He had been struck by his officer, and was annoyed, his ear had also been cut off, and he said he knew foreign doctors were good. He told us Nieh, in command at Tientsin, had been disgraced and had committed suicide, and that the foreign troops had won a big victory between Tientsin and Taku, and had occupied Tientsin; that Tung Fu-hsiang and the Boxers had gone out

to resist a further advance on Peking, although people are now saying that Tung Fu-hsiang has fled S.W. In the Fu the Chinese removed their banners and put up a white flag. The whole night it was very quiet. Distant firing was heard S.W., W. and N.W., and large bodies of Chinese left the City with all their carts, etc., the noise of their bugles continuing far into the night. We were off duty at 2 p.m., and I slept on the verandah. The Marines have got a jolly little monkey from Su's palace; he is very friendly and climbs about all over one, although a little timid. There are now all sorts of conjectures as to where we are going when communications are re-opened; they say the Legation in Japan—it would be fun. I wish they would give leave to go home.

July 18th.—In the morning I made a small wooden cross for the grave in which Strouts and Warren are buried, and put it up with Sergt. Murphy, and the Marines have made the grave look most beautifully neat and tidy.

At 10 I went out on to the outlook behind Mr. Cockburn's house, and looking across a desolation of burnt houses and stone barricades, saw the roofs of houses all round crowded with soldiers sitting about fanning themselves, very picturesque in their red and blue and orange clothes, waving their hands and as friendly as possible, although two stray bullets did pass over our heads. I forgot to tell you yesterday at 6 a messenger came in from S'un saying during the trouble we had been offensive, and had not only been strictly defensive. "Did you not make attacks on the Boxers, causing suspicion and alarm, even now some riotous rebels (Americans) are firing from the wall; how can the Chinese avoid wishing to take reprisals?"

2 to 4.—On guard in the West Hanlin. The Chinese were on the wall of the Carriage Park less than 10 yards from our outpost (where I was), viz.: a small temple. They were smiling and chatting, but our orders were strict not to talk to them. They were all over the roofs of the outlying houses in the Hanlin. We put up notices in Chinese, saying that any Chinese building, or issuing from, the barricades will be fired on.



A notice was put up on the Bell Tower:—

“A message has been received by the Japanese Minister stating a mixed force of 24,000 Japanese, 4,000 Russians, 2,000 British, 1,500 Americans, 1,500 French, and 300 Germans are to leave Tientsin on or about July 20th (I hope they did, the slackers) for the relief of Peking. Tientsin was not captured by the enemy.”

Two or three days ago M. Pichon burnt all his diplomatic papers; Mme. Pichon rushed about stamping on bits that blew away and burnt them again,—a fine scene. Dr. Morrison offered Strouts 5,000 dollars for them if he could get them, as Strouts had to be present at the burning, and 50,000 dollars for the Russian, which were burnt a day or two later (after poor Strouts was killed). 4.15.—An underling of the Yamên and five others came. They were made to sit outside the Big Gate barricade and discuss. They talked of opening a market, but Sir Claude was very haughty with them, as they were in no position to discuss with him. The equivalent would have been one of us being sent to parley with Li Hung Chang or Prince Ching. 8 to 10.—On watch again, horrible; a thunderstorm and very vivid lightning. The Chinese sent up two rockets and three golden balls, otherwise the quiet lasted all night. I slept in the Hanlin on my padded curtains, hot, and dressed in my clothes as usual. Oh! for the comfort of bed and pyjamas, now a dream of six weeks ago!

July 19th, 2 to 4 a. m.—On watch in the Red Temple; lovely moonlight, which dissolved into daylight, and shadows became less. 8 to 10.—On watch at the West Hanlin barricade under the Carriage Park wall; had a long talk to Corporal Johnson who came of his own free will to chat with me, and told me the history of his five brothers and

two sisters; most of these Marines know Walmer well, and we have long talks about it. After getting off watch, Mr. Cockburn, Russell, and I went over poor old Warren's papers. We heard that yesterday there had been a street row, the Boxers having beheaded a man who sold eggs to the Japs, and being in turn set on by the Chinese soldiers. 9.—Despatches came in, and we heard that 15,000 men had left France and that the Germans had occupied Shantung. All our defence works were still being carried on hard, and the Japs went on undermining in the Fu. I went to the Hospital and had talks to some of the Marines, Oliphant, and Capt. Halliday, who gets on very slowly, as also poor Townsend, who is most despondent about himself, although the doctor says his leg is getting on well. I had a knock up at cricket with some Tommies at the Big Gate, and a bath!! after it—glorious. After dinner, the Chief met me and said, "Hullo! Mr. Hewlett, it is quite strange to see you now," and asked me to go and have a chat in his study. He was very kind and nice, and said we should probably have a year clear after this was over, and talked over the troops who were coming, etc., and other things. I slept on the verandah, and so ended another quiet day, and all night was also quiet.

July 20th.—To my great joy, I saw little "Memory" brought in, and saved him being killed for food. He had got very untidy and thin, but I am glad he is alive, and think now he will be saved. After that I sat myself down to write up my diary and mail. 8 to 12.—A market was opened of eggs, melons, cucumbers, and other vegetables, but all was bought up at 9.50. It was on again from 3 to 8. The Chinese built a very strong earthwork on the Imperial City wall, overlooking the Hanlin. 2 p.m.—We were back on duty in the Hanlin. 2.45.—We heard the Chinese working at a trench close to our mine in the Carriage Park, but no one could locate it. Sir Claude stopped ours being made "in these times of peace," and we placed Chinese to listen in ours all night. 4 to 6.—On watch—nothing on. Fresh vegetables at 6 were given to us! 10 to 12.—Again on watch. The Chinese threw over some stones, and threw up a golden ball, otherwise all quiet.

July 21st, 4 to 6 a.m.—On watch in the Red Temple. I couldn't make the Chinese keep down from their sandbags, although they popped down when I presented my rifle, for a time only, one putting his hand up over the barricade and waving to me—awful cheek! They would have stayed up altogether had they known I respected the kick of my rifle far too much to “ease off” unless absolutely necessary. The Chinese continued to build a barricade in the Hanlin opposite our main look-out. Col. Shiba presented each member of our mess with an egg, a great luxury. I almost (not quite) enjoyed it as much as the “typhoid” egg.* One Jap in the Fu has been wounded five times in the head, but went on fighting till he got malaria. All quiet day and night, but the heat terrific, flies in billions, mosquitoes in thousands, no comforts, no ice, but all are very jolly. Giles and I had a long talk on the lawn. I slept on the verandah; three messengers sent out during the night. †

July 22nd.—I went at 6.45 to an early service, held in Mr. Cockburn's drawing-room, and now at 10.30 I am finishing my mail up to date. Tell Mr. Bowen, ‡ when I have leisure, the Modern Side will send its report to head-quarters.

(July 26th.—Just a moment or so to go on with my letter, but it is “brillig,” and I find it hard to settle down, but being such a good son, I pluck up courage.) To continue July 22nd.—At 2 I went back to the Hanlin to watch. I was on watch at our barricade, 6 to 8 p.m., good old Corporal Johnson coming and chatting with me the whole time, so the watch passed quickly. Just after I got off it began to pour with rain, and exceptionally vivid lightning. I had a very bad night from the heat, damp, and mosquitoes, on a chair in damp clothes—horrible.

July 23rd, 12 (midnight) to 2.—On watch with a Marine in the Red Temple, very creepy, and pouring wet; even my aqua-scutum was no protection. We got under what cover we had, but now and then he had to go and look at the loopholes in the North wall. I kept to my one on the west, and

* This alludes to the writer's food during his attack of typhoid fever in May.

† See Reports from Messengers in the Appendix.

‡ Assistant Master on the Modern Side at Harrow.

kept feeling to see if he was there. We had three alarms, one a great crash of falling bricks; he said, "They are just outside, sir." "All right," said I, "you go ahead, and I'll keep behind you, and secure our retreat!!!" So he splashed through puddles and mud to look out of the north loopholes, and I stayed at the corner nearest our retreat to the main line of defence; however, nothing happened. At 2 without a chance of a change turned into rest (?), and at 6 went on watch again to 8 at the barricade. I only went out every 10 minutes or so to have a look, and all was quiet. We were taken off the Red Temple look-out, and kept to the main defence. At 7.30 the inside portion of the wall of the room we sleep in, in the Hanlin, loosened by the rain, came down, burying bedding, rifles, revolvers, and ammunition in a mass of filthy mud and bricks. At 8.30 the rain stopped, and the Tommies rowed up and down the Canal on planks; it was again quiet all day, but very, very hot. 1 to 2.—I was on watch at the barricade and then off for a spell. I went and had a chat to Rose, who has had bad malaria the whole siege, but is getting better now. Two messengers were sent out; I slept on the verandah and in Russell's room after 1.30, but had a bad night, the heat being atrocious.

Leo's birthday, July 24th, which I did not forget.

Last night there were a few shots from the Chinese in the Hanlin and Carriage Park, probably more out of funk than offensive. At 8 Kirke and I went over to watch in the Fu, where it is delightfully cool. The defences are beautiful, little forts and barricades and death traps, the Chinese about 70 yards away from where we were on watch, their barricade very fine, and three huge flag-posts, but the mass of ruined silks, etc., and burnt-out houses is deplorable. At 11 a coolie was killed in the Fu building barricades, and an Italian wounded, but our Marines returned the fire and killed three Chinese. Otherwise it was quiet all day, although rumours were rife that the Chinese intended attacking in the evening. A Chinese soldier who is now turning an honest (?) penny with the Japs, said their officers had threatened to kill any men selling things to foreigners; also that two of our messengers had been captured. In the British Legation orders were

given for an extra guard to be placed and very strict watch kept on the west defence. The Chinese soldier said the Relief Force on July 18th had beaten the Chinese at Yang Ts'un and 150 wounded of Tung Fu-hsiang's troops had been brought into the City, Tung Fu-hsiang himself having also returned. The *Boxers* yesterday had attacked the Pei T'ang. 2 to 4.—On watch with a Chinaman, and had a long talk to him. Another messenger was sent out. 7 to 8.—Again on watch. Giles and Bristow came over to relieve the Customs.

July 25th.—I had a splendid night's rest, except for the short alarm which occurred at 1 a.m.; a short, sharp fusillade. Colonel Shiba told us to stand by, but it only lasted 10 minutes. The Chinese also fired at the south stables, and in the Hanlin constantly sent up rockets. From 4 to 6 and 7 to 8 again on watch, and then returned. I "slacked" all morning and in the afternoon slept from 3 to 7. I got to bed at 8.30 and except for mosquitoes, and feeling I couldn't get to sleep at all, and the irritation caused by my arms (a mass of bites), I suppose I slept well. The Chinese soldier told Colonel Shiba a big battle, lasting from noon to midnight, had been fought near Ho Hsi-wu, in which the Chinese had been worsted on July 24th. Ho Hsi-wu being taken on the 25th. During the night there was some firing from the Hanlin and Carriage Park, but the quiet and heat still continue oppressive.

July 26th, (I write July 27th, at 5.15, all quiet)—At 2 p.m. back to the Hanlin, and on watch in the Red Temple from 2 to 4. 6.15.—Colonel Shiba reported that the Chinese were moving the guns from the Fu to the East City. It was also rumoured that the Chinese had placed guns on the East City wall. The soldier who tells all this news has a promise of 500 taels (£75) if it turns out to be true. He (the Chinese soldier) reported that the Chinese intended making a final stand at T'ung-chou and that Tung Fu-hsiang with 4,800 men had gone there as a reinforcement. I was on watch from 8 to 10 at the barricade. Vivid lightning. Nothing happened, but some bricks thrown at us, and some rockets fired.

July 27th, at 2 to 4 a.m.—On watch in the Red Temple. A brick nearly hit me and gave me the jumps. A beautiful cool day all day. In the early morning there was a good deal

of shouting in the South City. 8 to 10.—On watch at the barricade. At 1.—Drury caused the Chinese to heave bricks by babyishly throwing a bottle over into their barricade, it was silly to make them more jumpy than they are—they also fired. 2 to 3.30.—A long talk to Rose, who is getting better. Capt. Poole says he thinks we shall get the China medal, Peking clasp, as well as the Tommies. The Chinese soldier reported that 200 carts and 6,500 soldiers (among whom Tung Fu-hsiang's 4,800, re-called) were in the Palace, which all points to the Emperor and Empress-Dowager preparing for flight. Col. Shiba also reported the Chinese were leaving the Fu, and now I must end as I am off to collect my washing, etc.

(July 30th, 9.40 a.m. —No certain news of relief, but the Chinese showing more activity, naturally many rumours and no possibility of verifying them, but I had better continue while I can. Giles and I are getting photos together and hope to get quite a good collection, some have already been developed and have come out excellently.)

July 27th continued.—The Empress-Dowager sent a present of ice, melons, etc. ; it seemed a quaint thing to do when we are all boxed up here, waiting for an avenging force, but the whole situation is so strange ; however, it is a blessing to have had a fortnight's more or less peace and quiet ; a special present was also sent by the Tsung-li Yamên to Sir Robert Hart, asking him to act as a go-between with the Ministers as he had served China so long ; but Sir Robert was not inclined to help, as he has lost all his possessions, including Gordon's letters which he especially valued, and his life's work seems almost ruined. Somebody saved his diary for him, but excepting that, house, library, and everything has been burnt to a cinder. In the evening we had a game of cricket at the Big Gate—the Dr. and everyone joining in—a very merry evening, and after dinner a good night's rest in Russell's room, as it was a nice cool evening, only 86°.

July 28.—A messenger returned from Tientsin with a message from Mr. Carles ; great excitement, as he is only the second in, but you can imagine our disappointment when we read the following : “ Yours of July 4th, 24,000 troops

have now landed and 19,000 here. Gen. Gaselee expected Taku to-morrow, Russians hold Pei Ts'an. Tientsin City under foreign government and Boxers' power here exploded. Plenty of troops are on the way if you can hold out with food. Almost all the ladies have left Tientsin." It was all far too vague and gave us no idea if the troops had left Tientsin to relieve us, when they had left, or if they had not left, when they intended leaving.

At 8, Drury and I went to the Fu. I was on guard 2 to 4 at the N.E. outpost; to get at it I had to crawl under a tunnel; we watch the Chinese barricade (which is 30 to 40 yards away), in a piece of looking-glass placed at the proper angle behind our loophole, so as not unnecessarily to expose ourselves. After I came off guard I went all over the defences which are wonderfully interesting, a network of trenches to get from post to post in order to keep properly under cover, the Japs still working at them—the guard now in the Fu are British, Italians and Japs with Students and Customs. The other day two Marines, two Students, and a Frenchman went over to the Fu. Capt. Poole asked one of the Corporals who had gone. He said, "There was two Marines, two *gentlemen*, and a civilian!" Col. Shiba's mine in the Fu came up under the front of the Chinese barricade, so he had to give it up. The Japs now send up fireworks every night. All day there was distant heavy firing S.E., and also some reported from N.W. We were afraid the Pei t'ang were having a hot time of it again. We heard that Nestagarde, who had gone rather mad and had slipped away three days ago, had been captured, and a message was sent in saying the Boxers wanted him but Yung Lu had shut him up; he was sent in bound next day. I think it was wonderful he had not been shot for a spy. 5 to 6.—On watch at the N.E. outpost. Just after I left, showers of bricks came over at us from the Chinese positions. 8 to 10.—On watch with the Marines near the main entrance. There was bright lightning, no thunder, and the rain held off. We still heard the distant firing. Just near my loophole is the body of a poor convert who was shot when helping to put out the fire of the main buildings in the Fu (the main *entrance* was not burnt on July 8th). It is nearly

a skeleton now, but one soon hardens to horrors, and at times I find myself longing to get a shot at a Chinese, forgetting it *might* mean killing a man—I don't yet think I should like to bayonet one. I had only a fairly good night. My arms are so bitten (I have counted over 60 bites on each), they irritate when I want to sleep.

July 29th, 6 to 7.—On watch N.E. position, and at 8 back to the Legation. I slept well from 9 to 3. At 4.45 the Chinese began building a barricade from the houses N.W. of the Fu, and by this morning had it completed right across the Bridge, so now troops can move over the North Bridge, and we can't stop them. The North Bridge was impassable for them before, as our north stable and Big Gate barricade commanded it. The Italian gun was taken to the north stables and fired at the barricade, but did no good. During the night, which I passed on the verandah, firing became slightly more frequent. Various rumours* were posted on the Bell Tower, from coolies who had wandered in the City and outside north, but nothing certain :

“1. 20,000 Russians from Shan-hai-Kuan marching on Kalgan.

“2. Relief Force defeated at Ma-kou (26 miles S.E. of Peking) and retreated to Anping.

“3. About July 27th Yang-ts'un absolutely destroyed by foreign troops, who were steadily advancing.”

Now I must bid you a short *au revoir* till I can sit down again to write. I am on duty in the Hanlin to-day.

(August 1st, 5 p.m.—Just been let off for a day, so we are having a jolly rest, and I take advantage of it to continue the log. I hope you are not sick to death of it. I am going to write it in book form for my own amusement, and put in photos. Giles is sending all our photos to his father, and he will secure the copyright and get them into some paper. I have left all to him as he does the developing, in exchange for this I have given him most of my notes. He has ten dozen and I six, so we will get a nice lot between us.)

July 30th.—Plenty of vague rumours* regarding the advance of the Relief Column posted, but no certain news, and these rumours are too sickeningly wearisome to put them

* See Rumours from outside sources, etc., in the Appendix.

all down. At 2, to the East Hanlin—very hot. 2 to 4.—On watch at a loophole facing a small alley which had a barricade at the end of it, about 50 yards away from our position. Col. Shiba's informant had to go to Tung Chou with guns, but must have got off somehow as he was back next day; the big guns were removed from the Ch'ien Mén, and two Chinese flags. At 7 I took a bit of Drury's watch and let him go to dinner. Some Chinese ran across the front of their barricade and waved a flag behind it, evidently to draw our fire. They did not draw mine, although I sat finger on trigger ready to "loose off." 8.30 to 10.—On watch again. Corporal Johnson came and chatted. Nothing happened, except that they were firing rockets with some accuracy into our position. The Hanlin defences are most beautifully strong now, and every line of retreat thoughtfully worked out and rippingly loopholed. At 9 two messengers came in and reported troops at Chang Chia Wan, 14 miles away. They were sent out again with letters, and told to bring answers again.

July 31st, 2 to 4 a.m.—On watch. Corporal Johnson on patrol with another man came to have a chat, and sat out the whole watch, which made the time pass. At 2.45 the Chief came round on his prowls. Plenty of rockets poured in. Johnson had come from the Red Temple where the Chinese were heaving bricks hard, and had destroyed one of our supports in the Temple, Hancock on watch. He said: "In West 'Anlin 'eavin' bricks somethin' 'orrid; just broken the small wall between our man and your gentleman, but do you think 'e ran, not 'e, 'e just said: 'Wait till oi put my back against it, and you build it up,' lucky it wasn't a Rooshun; 'e would still be runnin'." Hancock told me old Johnson had exaggerated his extraordinary amount of pluck. 8 to 10.—On watch again, and heard distant guns S.E. More rumours from Ccl. Shiba's informant, and a despatch stating Yuan Shi-k'ai and his foreign-drilled troops had rebelled and joined the Germans, who were now marching on Peking.

Fifteen liang (a body of 500 men) expected at the Nan Hai-lyn (the Hunting Park, near the station) and to camp the night on the way to Tung Chou. We heard in the evening they arrived at seven, and were sent at once to Tung Chou.

In the afternoon Giles and I went to the American position on the wall, and to the Russians in Legation Street, and took photos. In Legation Street the Russians have a very jolly barricade and a fort mounted with the Russian flag, watching the Chinese in the Russo-Chinese bank 50 yards away. Nowhere are any positions so near as our Red Temple. On the Wall the position is wonderfully interesting; towards the Ch'ien Mên the Russians are in the captured barricade 35 yards away from the Chinese, who have a fort about 20 feet high and five flags, and behind them are the Americans guarding the rampart and retreat to the American Legation. Up

the rampart are walls like this



to prevent your being picked off going up, and across to the American Legation. Wall Street is a trench and earthwork. But to go back on to the Wall. Towards the Ha-Ta Mên you walk stooping behind a wall to another barricade, which is 60 to 80 yards away from a Chinese one (captured from the Germans) mounted with three flags. Looking down towards the German Legation one sees two Chinese flags planted almost in the Legation. The whole wall position is most interesting, and I love to look at the hills and race-course Pagoda again, and long to get out; but the Chinese City is a horrid desolation, burnt and ruined, also the outer Ch'ien Mên guard-house. I saw people selling things in the Chinese City, the other side of the Canal, who stopped to have a look up, the houses there also being loopholed, and Boxer barricades enflading the Canal. The Chief gave us orders in case of an attack, which was expected; however, I had a good quiet rest.

August 1st.—All morning a talk to Rose. Col. Shiba's informant told us our troops had been driven out of Chang Chia Wan, and retreated to An-Ping. We think it means the advance guard finding Tung Chou too strong has fallen back on the main body. No watches to-day, and another twenty-four hours' rest given to the B.S.M. corps. 3.15.—A little outburst from the Mongol Market. Sir Claude has kindly given me leave to ask for all the notices from the Bell Tower, as they are finished with; it is awfully kind of him, as they

will be a tremendous help to me afterwards. Now I will say good-bye for now ; you have all begun the quiet, jolly summer holidays ; was there a match* at the Mays yesterday ?

(August 2nd, 11 a.m.—Just going to write up. Some feel dumpy after yesterday, but the mess continues happy.)

August 1st continued.—After I left off, Kirke and I went and saw a fire in the Hanlin N.E., not very large. The Chinese have been tremendously active in the Hanlin all day and new barricades have been advanced against our east and centre defences, with what object it is difficult to say ; rather a funny farce is, that the Chinese have hung out their notice of June 20th, *re* protecting Ministers, etc., just under a loophole in their barricade on the North bridge from which they are now actually firing. At 6 a messenger came in from the Japanese Consul at Tientsin, with the following : “ Your letter of 22nd received, departure of troops from Tientsin delayed by difficulties of transport, but advance will be made in two or three days (the letter was dated July 26th), will write again as soon as the estimated date of arrival at Peking is fixed.” There was also a telegram for Sir Robert Hart, but we could not get much from it and the cypher had been lost. This message from the Japs proved Col. Shiba’s informant to have been somewhat of a “ Mr. Jones,” although I must say it had been a cleverly concocted tale. No more news, the firing became at times quite heavy during the night and the usual Chinese firework displays. Before I forget, two errata, Yün Ting Mên ought to Yung Ting Mên, Hsün Chih Mên ought to be Shun Chih Mên, all through my letter.

(Sunday, August 5th, 3.30 p.m.—Just had tiffin and a hot sun has dried my soaked boots, shirt, back, and trousers, and I feel “ comfy ” again. We have hopes of getting six months’ home leave and I am dreaming of a Christmas at home—but I must get to the diary as I have a lot to write and may be on duty again at 8 to-morrow. The rainy season seems to have come ; no news of relief, although we have rumours of a big Chinese defeat. The strain is now telling on some ; personally, I am gloriously fit and in excellent spirits, but should not mind a change from Chinese rice and horse flesh

* An annual cricket match which W. M. H. used to get up.

—we have only the latter for 10 days—"Memory" still lives, but his turn is soon coming now; he and Kirke's "Mirage" are the only Students' ponies left, he is quite tame but miserably thin, poor beast.)

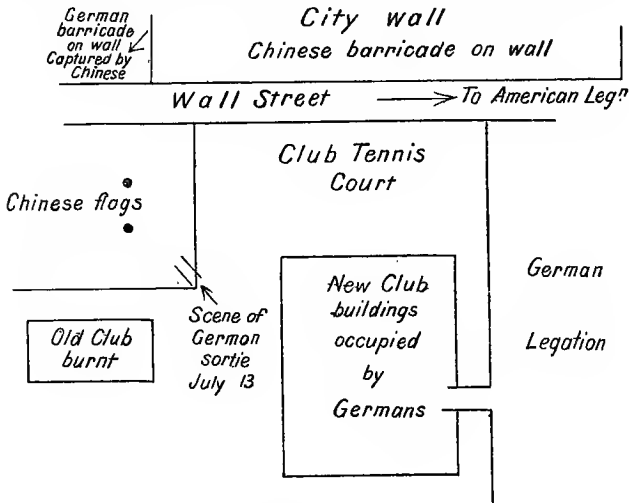
August 2nd.—We annexed the houses due west of the south stable quarters, bordering on the Mongol Market, putting a guard in them, and thereby taking away the fear of being mined from there, as the south stable is the only place which is not defended by a 10 to 15 foot trench. Many silks were found in the houses and temple thus occupied. At 2, back to the Hanlin and 4 to 6 on watch. A messenger came in with letters to the U.S. Minister and news from Tientsin (on another sheet).* 10 to 12.—On watch. Corp. Johnson came and had a chat, which always relieves the dark watches, and the Chief came past on his rounds; a rocket was fired and fell right into our position. The firing at night became quite frequent.

August 3rd, 4 to 6 a.m.—On watch at 8, a fire began in the houses N.E. Hanlin, 40 yards from our east and 15 yards from our north stable position, the house fell in when I was on watch and disclosed a large barricade the Chinese had built behind. 10 to 12.—I was on watch in a scorching sun. In the afternoon Giles and I went and took photos in the German and French Legations and Hotel de Pékin. The German First Secretary's house upstairs was a complete wreck, showing how terribly they must have suffered during the shelling from the Ha-ta Mên. We saw the old Club a complete wreck, and burnt out, and we went up to the top of the new Club buildings and saw the Chinese only separated from the Germans by a wall, and that with a breach in it and unsupported. They had two flags with the character "Chang" on them.

When we were upon the walls of the new Club buildings, a Chinaman came out and said "Yao shen-ma" (want what?) I said, "Yao chao hsiang" (want to photo). He said, "Yao K'ai ch'iang ma" (want to open fire?) I repeated what I had said and a lot came out to be photoed, asking us also to photo their barricade which was lined with

* See Appendix. Extracts from Messages, &c., from Tientsin.

men on the City wall, and not a shot was fired; in fact, the Germans said the utmost quiet and friendliness had been shown ever since July 17th, showing they seem to be more in hand there than elsewhere, the firing everywhere else being constant.



In no places are the defences as good as in our Legation; those in the Fu being abominable, and we had to run from place to place to avoid exposing ourselves. There the Chinese now occupy the Minister's house and are about 25 yards from the French defences. The Hotel de Pékin was a shocking sight in the top storey, the whole being a complete wreck. The Chief had a wire from Lord Salisbury asking for news, sent in by the Yamên, and the Chief wired back the killed and wounded, so I feel comforted to think you know I am safe, but I can't feel sorry enough for Oliphant's and Warren's poor people. Edicts were issued appointing Yung Lu to escort the Foreign Ministers to Tientsin, and awaiting the latter to fix the date; also saying the Tsung-li-Yamên were protecting foreigners in Peking and were willing to send wires *en clair*. I had a very good sleep on the verandah.

August 4th, 2 p.m.—To the Hanlin and from 6 to 8 on watch. Giles came and chatted. Many of Yung Lu's troops came to the Fu and said they were waiting to escort us to Tientsin. Rumours of a large foreign victory at Ho Hsi-wu. 8.30.—Pouring rain. It fell in sheets, such as one never sees at home. It stopped at 10; the lightning was brilliant. In our compound it was ankle deep when I went to watch; and I had to sleep with feet soaked, back soaked and bedding damp, but hot coffee and later whiskey and my blanket lightly rolled round me gave me some warmth and comfort; but it was misery, and I had to wait until to-day's sun to dry my clothes on me and dare not remove my boots, the only pair I have left, except my cricket boots, the rest having gone in the awful muddle of every one flocking in. I don't know what compensation we shall get. but my losses are not a few. The inner Red Temple wall fell in and there was pretty heavy firing, hitting all over the building we were sleeping in. A Russian was wounded, looking over the barricade; he died to-day. The French said they saw the Chinese soldiers hiding their uniforms.

August 5th, 12 to 2 a.m.—On watch. Bricks falling outside and sandbags bursting inside, a light moving about in the Chinese barricade, very dark, in fact a creepy midnight watch. 1.30.—The firing was fairly heavy and I could see the flashes followed by the sharp crack when the bullet struck the barricade or houses behind. It is funny, but I don't feel in a funk a bit now, it gives you a ripping thrill and quite a keenness, especially after the ghastly stillness and straining one's ears to hear where and how far off bricks are falling outside. The firing last night and during to-day has been chiefly against the new Mongol Market picket, but no regularity, bursting out at intervals. The Yamên sent a message to say the firing was nothing, but was "as the bell of the evening and gong of the morning watch." Sweetened for us by bullets! Clammy and miserable, I was jolly glad to get off watch, but slept very badly.

6 to 8.—On watch, when the sun dried me a bit. Talked to the Signaller.

12 to 2.—On watch. Talked to Johnson. We watched a man putting up matting in the Chinese barricade, but left him

alone. The Yamên have just sent our carts (5 p.m.) to go to Tientsin, they seem keen on our clearing out, but only the French Minister is inclined to trust them. Three wires have come in, just off to see *re* what.

(August 7th, 9 45 a.m.—Wires not published.)

August 6th, 2 a.m.—For 20 minutes a very fierce fusillade, chiefly from the Mongol Market, and against the Russian barricade, in Legation Street, also in the Hanlin. None at any other defences. It was accompanied by yells of Sha! Sha! (Kill! Kill!) and we thought with affection on our proposed escort to Tientsin. The Pei-T'ang was also attacked, and many Chinese bugles heard. Outside the Chang-yi Mên there was a short cannonade. The Yamên sent to know why we were firing; we explained we had not fired, and they sent an apology stating some of their men had taken fright, or some trivial explanation. During the day it was very quiet. At 2 p.m. I was ready to go on watch, when we were told we had 24 hours off. I rushed to bed and slept till 5. At night I slept on Giles' bed, as he was on watch, and had an excellent night.

August 7th.—Pony meat was running out, and poor little "Memory" was sacrificed. I took leave of him just before he was shot, he might have known what was going to happen. At 5.30 a.m. very heavy volleys and big guns heard south and S.W., but we give up now believing it is the Relief Column; they seem a bit of a myth. Stray shots are going about to-day, mostly from the Mongol Market. Here is a census of people now in our Legation, 1.8.1900:—

Soldiers (British and others)	...	73	
General hospital, wounded...	...	40	
		—	113
Legation residents, Foreigners, men		191	
" " " women		147	
" " " children		76	
		—	414
" " Chinese men		180	
" " " women		107	
" " " children		69	
		—	356
			883

At 1 there was an auction of confiscated Chinese goods, on the lawn. It has not been stated to whom or to what object the money is going; I hope to the Foreign Guards. Another Japanese wounded in the Fu. The Yamên with their usual politeness sent condolences on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. 34,000 dollars were found in the Fu, and 4,000 of them brought into the Legation. A portion is going to be devoted to striking a small memento of the siege. A notice was put up on the Bell Tower inviting designs for it, but as yet no good designs have been sent in. At 2, I went back to the East Hanlin, and was on watch from 6 to 8. We had a very good dinner; green peas (bottled), maize puddings, and "fizz." It was an awful night, hot and damp. At 11.30 a pretty heavy fusillade all round the Mongol Market, Carriage Park, Hanlin and Fu. I sat up but did not have to stand by. It lasted about a quarter of an hour, the bullets striking all over our sleeping abode.

August 8th, 2 to 4 a.m.—On watch. Kirke who was doing patrol came and chatted, a little firing and constant sniping at our patrols in the West Hanlin from sandbags on the Carriage Park wall. 10 to 12.—On watch. Sergeant Preston came round and had a good long talk; they are a very jolly set of men we are working with in the Hanlin. An Imperial Decree, a copy of which was posted on the Bell Tower, stated that Li Hung Chang has been given full powers to make proposals of peace by telegraph with the Officials of all the Foreign Powers. Colonel Shiba reported a messenger came in, and said that all the Chinese troops in Peking, with the exception of 5 battalions (1 battalion = 500) of Yung Lu's troops have been, or are going to be, despatched in great haste to meet the foreign troops. He does not know where the latter are, and adds another 50,000 troops have been landed at Taku. The notice is signed by Sir Claude. During the night three fusillade attacks, all very brisk, at 11.30 p.m. and next morning at 2 and 3.15 a.m.

August 9th.—Chinese soldiers returned to the Fu and planted Flags. At 2.0 back to the East Hanlin. At 7.0 the Nordenfelt from the west defence fired on the Chinese in the Mongol Market vicinity and silenced their fire. The Chinese barricade there was also on fire. Since we occupied the

Mongol Market position, the firing from the Chinese has been constant in that quarter day and night. 7 to 8.—I chatted to Rose, who was on watch.

August 10th.—On watch 12 to 2. I talked to Preston, and Barr, who was on patrol. At 3.0 a tremendous fusillade all round the Mongol Market (where the Boxers advanced and a sword was captured from one), Carriage Park, Fu, and Hanlin. We had to turn out and go to our posts. Porter fired at some flashes he saw, and drew a tremendous fire on our barricade, the bullets cracking all over it, and bits of bricks falling on to the shelter where I was looking out of my loophole; it only lasted about 20 minutes, when I turned in again. 7 to 8.—On watch. I ought to have gone on at 6.0, but Rose never woke me up, and found his watch (4 to 7) had gone so quickly that he would not believe it was 7. At 7.25 I saw a Chinaman get upon his barricade and expose his head and shoulders to arrange a straw mat. I covered my left eye with my handkerchief, got a very careful sight (he was only 40 to 50 yards away) and put the rifle in the loophole firmly. Just then a second appeared, and I got my first shot in. I could not see through the smoke. I devoutly hope I hit him; it is a lovely sensation to know you are sending a bullet at one of these brutes, and I was only sorry I was not using smokeless powder to see him fall. You must think I am getting horrid, but one cannot daily see the babies in the Legation dying, their poor little faces getting that quiet and resigned look almost past fretting, without feeling bitter against these beasts of Chinese. The Chinese knocked off for about five minutes, and then finished using poles to move the mats about. 12 to 2.—On watch again, and after tiffin, Giles and I got some more photos on the wall and at Chamot's. Two days ago, the Ministers asked the Yamên for provisions for the converts in the Fu, who are supposed to be starving. No answer sent yet, so 9 dogs were killed in the Legation for them; some are in a very bad way, but as a whole, I don't think they are as bad as rumour says. The Yamên sent an apology to the German Legation for two shots fired at them during the night, and said the leaders had been severely punished; no apology for the jolly little fusillades from which we have suffered, but perhaps they

apologized to the Germans, as all Yamên messages come through the German Legation, and they must have Baron von Ketteler's death on their consciences; still Chang and Sun's banners have been removed, and instead they have planted the "hsiang hung" (bordered red), the 5th grade of the eight banners under which the Manchu Bannermen are placed. At tea time came our glorious news:—

1. Following received from Lieut.-Gen. Gaselee, of the British Detachment of Allied Troops:—

"Ts'ai-Tsung, August 8th, 1900.

"Strong force of Allies advancing—twice defeated enemy. Keep up your spirits."

2. Following just received from Gen. Fukushima by Col. Shiba:—

"Camp at Chang Chiang, 2 k.m. north of Nan
"Ts'ai Ts'ung, August 8th, 1900.

"Japanese and American troops defeated enemy on 5th inst. near Pei Tsang, and occupied Yang Ts'un on the 6th. The allied force, consisting of Americans, British, and Russians left Yang Ts'un this morning, and while marching north I received your letter at 8 a.m. at a village called Nan Ts'ai Ts'ung. It is very gratifying to know from your letter that the foreign community at Peking are holding on, and believe me it is the earnest and unanimous desire of the Lieutenant-General and all of us to arrive at Peking as soon as possible and relieve you from your perilous position. Unless some unforeseen event takes place the Allied forces will be at Ho Hai Wu on the 9th, Ma I'ou on the 10th, Chang Chia Wan (15 miles away) on the 11th—(that is to-day)—T'ung Chou on the 12th, and arrive at Peking on the 13th or 14th"—and we jolly well hope they will; only pony meat left for four days and tobacco almost run out—an awful state of affairs.

Dering and I took the news to the Wall, and great joy all round. I watched through glasses Chinese soldiers going in and out of the Ch'ien Mên, and carts going out in great numbers, and people moving furniture, very interesting to watch, and the bright Chinese uniforms most picturesque in the

brilliant sun. I took Giles' place in the Hanlin from 8 to 10, as he was developing photographs; at 9.30 a very heavy fusillade from all the old "inimical" spots, and we had to stand by; Giles came rushing round, but it stopped in 10 minutes, and I got back to the Students' Quarters just before a soaking rain began, the night awfully damp, heat, mosquitos, no comforts, arms agony, no sleep, all heat and irritation.

August 11th.—A notice posted on the Bell Tower from :—

“American Consul, Chefoo, July 21st.

“All communications north of this, pass through this office. So far as I know, excluding Navy and Army, no Americans have been killed, and little loss of property south of Tientsin. All trouble confined to Peking and Taku. The high officials doing their best to keep order. Very large force of all nations at Taku.”

At 2, back to the East Hanlin. Sniping all day from the French Legation and Fu, and little outbursts of very heavy hot firing. 4.30 to 6.30.—Rain fell—not enough to delay the advance of the Relief force. The Yamên sent in an offer to open a large market of meat, etc., an agreement for daily wants to be arranged. 6 to 8.—On watch; at 7 the firing from the Mongol Market was very heavy, and all had to stand by. Outside our post I could hear the Chinese talking very loud, and the camp fires were much larger than usual. In the Mongol Market, where our posts are now only 10 yards apart, they could hear Officers urging “Sha! Sha!” (Kill! Kill!) and the men “Pu hsing” (impossible, or “no can do”), to which the Officers “tsemmo pu hsing in” (why impossible) “womên to, t'amên shao” (we many, they few) but no attack was made. At 11, we again had to stand by, the firing in the Mongol Market, Fu, and our post being very heavy, but just the same aimless fusillade; very annoying having to get up and go to posts just an hour before going on watch. We could hear the plucky Italians (who used to run away, as did the Austrians), shouting Bis! Bis! and cheering loudly.

August 12th.—On watch; very few shots were fired, but there was firing away at the Pei T'ang all night and very heavy at times. I wish we knew how they were getting on. 6 to 8.—On watch; and for half an hour heard volley after

volley from the Pei T'ang. Outside our post the Chinese had put up a big umbrella on their barricade, but soon moved it for a piece of red cloth. I had a chance of firing, but unluckily had just withdrawn my rifle from the loophole when the man exposed himself 7.15.—The firing had considerably lessened; during the night the firing had been all round the defences, and a German was killed; an Austrian, Frenchman, and a Russian wounded; a Frenchman and a Russian died in the hospital. 10.30.—A big gun from the S.E. firing, it sounded as if it was from the Ha-Ta Mên. Horrid to have big guns at us again. I suppose they have been withdrawn from the front. A coolie came in and said there had been a big fight at Chang Chin Wan; 3,000 Chinese killed, as the foreigners had been quite too mean and had attacked the entrenchments on both flanks and only made a feint attack in front. Carts were continually heard passing along the road outside the Hanlin. A prisoner the French took, repeated the coolie's tale, and said Tung Lu had committed suicide and soldiers were flying into Peking. 12.30.—A Union Jack was hoisted in the north stables and in the afternoon the White Ensign of H.M.S. *Orlando* on the main building in the Hanlin, but to-day (Aug. 13th), at 10 they were taken down as a flag of truce was expected. The flags, when hoisted, drew a little firing from the Chinese. I was on watch from 12 to 2, practically no cover, a broiling sun, heat awful. 1.30.—The firing was frequent from the Wall and the Mongol Market. At 3.15 it became very heavy indeed from the Mongol Market and the Fu, but it died down at 3.45. Chinese soldiers, coming from the east, were continually passing over the North bridge. In the Mongol Market a Chinese barricade fell; at once the Nordenfelt and all our men at the loopholes opened fire and killed a Chinese officer and 27 men. The Americans on the Wall reported that the Chinese were hurrying back into the Ch'ien Mên. 5.55.—Very heavy firing from the Mongol Market and our Nordenfelt was working hard afternoon and evening (at 11 it had fired over 400 rounds). The Austrian gun was mounted in the south stables to overlook the Chinese positions in the Mongol Market. 7.20.—Again a hearty outburst from the Mongol Market lasting about 15 minutes. A

Frenchman, Capt. Le Bruce, walking over a barricade was shot straight through the head. 11.30.—Very heavy firing all round. Kirke and I slept on the lawn in basket chairs, so as to be near to stand by. We stood by a quarter of an hour, and again at 1 and 4. It was the hottest firing we have ever had, a big gun going from the Ha-Ta Mên; the Chinese round us using nickel bullets which pierced the walls (mud and bricks) of the Chinese houses in the Mongol Market; and now, for the present, I am off on watch, so good-bye.

(August 14th, 7.15 a.m.—In the East Hanlin. Gorgeous! I can hardly sit to write. We are listening to the rattle of the Maxims and guns of the Relief Column and wondering if they will make their way in to-day; we have heard the guns since 2, heavy and sharp, and know it is our Column, and we have signalled and been answered. An awful night last night, no sleep and six heavy attacks, but I must go in order. I hope this mail is really drawing to its close.)

August 13th.—A coolie sent out by Col. Shiba came in and said the Chinese outposts at Ma Chin p'u and the Nan Hai lyn had withdrawn, and all the troops on the City wall; also that all the gates were blocked up. The Chinese were expecting the foreign troops any time after 12 to-day.

The Yamên sent in a most insolent message about the men killed in the Mongol Market, and said they were too busy to come in at 11 as arranged. Sir Claude went round the posts, stating this fact, and ordered an exceptionally strict watch to be kept. The quiet which had lasted all morning was disturbed at 12, and at 4 the firing was more frequent, chiefly at a barricade we were erecting in the Mongol Market for the Italian gun and "Old" gun. At 2, back to the East Hanlin on duty. 4.15.—Thunder or heavy guns from the east, only lasted 20 minutes. A shot came through the loophole where Rose was on watch, and sniping was frequent from the Hanlin. 6 to 8.—On guard. As I was changing guard with Rose he was hit very slightly by a bit of a bullet which broke the brick in the loophole. An order was given not to fire unless snipers were very persistent or the firing from the Chinese heavy. The Yamên sent in a despatch to say that orders had been given that any

man sniping at us would be court martialled. This followed on a note from the Ministers saying if any woman or child was hurt, when our troops came, they would hold the Yamên responsible and treat them as common criminals. I met Sir Claude in the afternoon, and he came and patted me on the shoulder and said, "Well, my son, I hope you are keeping up your valuable notes; if you (Maxims east going hard, ripping!) want anything I can give you, remember you have only got to come to me." During the late afternoon sniping all round was incessant, and at times there were outbursts of more combined firing. 6.45.—Thunder and vivid lightning. The round shot gun and a 1-lb. gun, mounted on the Imperial City wall overlooking the Canal, were fired during the night, one shot entering Sir Claude's bedroom. Sir Robert Hart had a message from Shanghai saying all his wires had got through; he also had another jolly bit of "gup," that it was a Shansi general who was shot in the Mongol Market. He had sworn to wipe us out in five days, and he was killed on the fifth! Towards 7, it was very quiet, a few occasional shots, two or three hit the barricade.

At 7.45 an excessively heavy fusillade, and an order to stand by given; it was a glorious scene, the big gun on the Imperial City wall and flashes all along the Chinese barricades, all lit up by the lightning; bullets hitting all over the place, the cracks being deafening. I was hit by a splintered brick—nothing—but it is a ripping sensation and most exciting—one feels ready for anything and loses all idea of danger; but we never fired a shot and the Chinese never left their barricades.

At 8.15, Kirke and I went to dinner, but at 8.45 had to rush back again for the very hottest fire we have ever had. We again were called out at 11, 1, and 3.15, when the general alarm was rung; not a wink all night. The firing was just as heavy all round, and I fancy we were feeling the impotent rage of beaten Chinese troops.

August 14th.—At 2, as I went on watch from 2 to 4, I heard the welcome sound of Maxims and big guns, it was ripping, and we feel an end is at last coming to two months' watching and waiting, although it has been a splendid experience. The Japs signalled and were answered. At 4

I saw the Jap ladies making a flag. The American gunner had his arm broken firing the "Old Gun" in the Mongol Market, and a Marine was wounded. Sniping is still going on very little, but we still hear the noise of fighting in the east. I hope we shall be relieved when I pick up my pen again. *Au revoir.*

(August 18th, 8.15.—We are! All joy! I must go on with my diary or I shall miss the mail. I hope you won't have to pay more than £1 for my letter; I had to send it, stamps or none. I hear we shall get home leave when not wanted as interpreters for the Army.)

August 14th (continued).—The firing east much nearer, and the heavy guns firing continuously; bets on whether we shall be relieved to-day! 11.15.—The firing is still very heavy and working north. Heavy volleys and firing in the Mongol Market and S.W. defence, and sniping at us from the Hanlin. 11.30.—Great shouting in the road south of the Hanlin, and the rumble of carts moving off. 2.40.—I was asleep in the Hanlin, when I was woken up by Giles to say we were relieved and that the 7th Rajpoots had entered the Watergate. I ran round and saw the welcome sight of the big Black men pouring into the Legation. Sniping hard in the Hanlin, but the Mongol Market was soon cleared by the Black men, and the Chinese evacuated the Mongol Market, Hanlin, and Carriage Park. I went and saw the Americans pouring in at the Watergate, artillery, infantry and cavalry. The Americans on the Wall rushed the Ch'ien Mên: it was a gorgeous sight to see our Sikhs and R.A. with Maxims at the big Guard House firing at the Imperial City and many Chinese were killed. After we had cleared a place, the Russians planted their flag at the Imperial City gate and were joined by the Americans. The Chinese advanced on the Wall from the Hsün Chih Mên. I went with the Americans and under cover of our Maxims we built a barricade, but the Maxims soon cleared the Chinese away. The Temples of Heaven, Sun and Agriculture are all occupied, and the whole of the Chinese City. I escorted a company of R.A. to the Temple of Heaven and messed at night with them; it poured but I was under cover. The R.A., the Wei-hai-wei regiment, the Sikhs, the R.W.

Fusiliers and the Marines are there ; a glorious sight, ripping horses and big guns.

August 15th.—I went into all the forbidden places of the Temple of Heaven, the buildings are magnificent, huge grounds and lovely grass ; the mess opened all the delicacies for me and were awfully jolly. 9.—I went back and was ordered by the Major to fire at the Chinese looting shops, and to disperse the crowds, but not to hit them : I longed to fire into the beasts who have kept us shut up so long, but an idiotic spirit of mercy pervades everyone. I think it is being overdone, except that we are looting all the silks, furs and silver, which is being put up to general sale. I can get no private loot, as being the Chief's orderly and interpreter I may not leave the Legation, but I am not forgotten by pals who bring in stuff *en secret*.

From the Ch'ien Mên they were shelling the Hsün Chi Mên. In the afternoon I went and saw the ruins of the City ; a horrid sight ; all round us barricades ; nowhere could we have made a sortie without getting into a trap ; they are wonderful pieces of work, and most wonderful of all are the scaffolds on which the guns in the Imperial City were mounted. We also went into the Imperial City, which now has been occupied, up to the wall of the Forbidden City. We saw heaps (at least 30) of dead Chinese, and I am sorry to say I never even shuddered ;* we bagged umbrellas and fans from a Chinaman, and he kow-towed ;

* A letter, dated 25th August, thus describes a ride taken on August 18th : " We saw streets half a mile and more from our defences barricaded, showing what a funk the Chinese were in, of our making sorties, but the most extraordinary thing is their 'Arsenals, crammed full of all sorts of cannon and Maxims and rifles, brand new and *unpacked*, millions of rounds of ammunition, and all unused ! We might have been pounded into nothing, but all through the siege there seems to have been the hand of a loving Providence protecting us and bringing us safely out of our great danger. . . . We had to return as the smell of the dead Chinese all about the streets was too awful and our ponies would not pass them, although the sight, I am ashamed to say, never revolts me ; don't think me horrid. We have seen women and children growing sick, we have seen our dearest pals shattered in the face at barricades, their places are empty, and now our turn has come."

they are now grovelling curs, and probably 14 days ago were Boxers or soldiers.

I was present at the occupation of the Board of War; the Japs had already occupied the Board of Revenue; they found the prisoners of the Board of Punishment had all been released. I also went into the Carriage Park; gorgeous silks and gear for Imperial processions; but I cannot describe it all.

August 16th.—I went into the Imperial City and entered houses; the people are all grovelling. I got some fruit for myself and brought back seven chickens for the mess; great fun. Organized bands of soldiers sent to loot and bring all the stuff for sale, and equal distribution with a lot of curs who never raised a finger to touch a gun during the siege, and have got now cartloads of silver and silks and furs. I entered a Llama Temple with the Chief which had never been entered by Europeans before; the priests were absolutely cringing curs again, and it made me sick, knowing the conceit of the priesthood here, and how they usually receive foreigners. We also occupied a Government silk store.

August 17th.—I looted a pony which was loose in the Canal and which belonged to the force of 100 odd Chinese Cavalry. My boy and Chang San came back, having had an awful time, the old man quite white, and both half starved, never having dared to leave their houses. Baron Ketteler's body was found in a coffin in a street off the Ha-Ta Mên main street, un mutilated, but riddled with bullets. Teachers, boys, and Mafus all coming grovelling back.

August 18th.—To-day the Japs occupied Coal Hill, and we have a picket there. They also (on the 16th) relieved Pei T'ang, which had an awful time; many mines exploded under it.*

Now I must end. How I thank a merciful Father I am living still; it has been a heavy time.

* In the above mentioned letter W. M. H. writes: "The dead all over the streets round the Pei T'ang were too awful for words; round it were four huge exploded mines causing the deaths of over 200 converts; it is wonderful how they held out with their little guard of 45 Italians and French and some armed Chinese, but here, as round the British Legation, the cowardice of the Chinese saved them; they were relieved at 4 a.m., on August 16th, by the Japs, the French following when all was safe. There is not a stone of the Pei T'ang West front unhit, it is a standing ruin as far as its architecture goes."

APPENDIX.

REPORTS FROM MESSENGERS.

(DIARY, PP. 40, 48, 53.)

July 15th.—A messenger sent out on the 10th July by Mr. Tewkesbury with a letter for the troops, returned yesterday. He is the gatekeeper at Nant'ang, and a Roman Catholic. He says he was arrested outside the Ha-Ta Mên and taken to Wo Fu Ssü (temple), and his letter taken from him and he himself beaten with 80 blows. He was taken to Tung Lu's headquarters in the Imperial City. Here he found a man, by name Yü, who formerly knew him as gatekeeper. He was there given a letter purporting to be written by "Prince Ch'ing and others," and addressed to the British Minister and told that men would wait at the Watergate to-night for an answer.

A translation of this letter is annexed.

A reply has been sent to-day, declining on the part of the Foreign Representatives, the invitation to proceed to the Tsung-li-Yamên, 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.

CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Translation of a letter sent on July 14th, 1900, to Sir C. M. MacDonald, British Minister :—

For the last 10 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

expectation, the foreign soldiers made renewed attacks, causing alarm and suspicion amongst soldiers and people.

Yesterday the troops captured a convert named Chin Ssü-hei and learnt from him that all the foreign Ministers were all well, which caused us very 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 staffs 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-Yamên 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 doubt and fear 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 the original messenger deliver your reply, in order that we may settle in advance the day for leaving the Legations.

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.

Compliments,

PRINCE CH'ING AND OTHERS.

6th moon 18th day (July 14th, 1900).

A messenger was sent out on morning of July 20th by Mr. Tewkesbury.

He started with a Chinese soldier, who had come up to the East Gate of the "Fu," to sell vegetables. On reaching

T'ai Ch'i Ch'ang they were pursued by a Chinese military officer; they escaped, and the messenger made his way to the Ha-Ta Mên Great Street. He then took a closed cart to the Stone Road Gate, thence by boat to the Tung Pien Gate, and by donkey to Lui Li Ch'ang, where he purchased without trouble the *Peking Gazettes* of the current Chinese month. While on his way back, he remained for a time on the bank of the Canal opposite the Canal Gate, intending to return by that road, but saw the Chinese fire on and kill an old man (ragged) who was attempting to go in that gate, so decided to come back by the road, which he had already just passed over safely. He returned in safety about 4 p.m. July 20th.

He reports that Boxers are to be seen everywhere, except near the Ha-Ta Mên, where they (Boxers) had killed three Chinese soldiers. In general the Boxers and soldiers seem to be on good terms; THAT THE SOLDIERS SAY some 3,000 or 4,000 of their number have been killed by us—after an attack on the French Legation (by mining); that 20 carts were used a whole day in carrying off the dead bodies—reports that Tung Fu Hsiang has left with half his force, saying that he is going to meet the foreign troops, but in reality running away to southwest; reports three foreign cannon mounted on Tung Pien Gate; soldiers tell him that they are to leave their positions about us in two or three days. Pei T'ang reported all right; attacks still continue there, because they have not begged for the stopping of firing there, as we have here. Messenger purchased some food supplies, but did not dare to bring them in; says soldiers report beheading of three soldiers for selling us supplies, &c., &c.

[N.B.—That much of the above is merely the report of a soldier's talk to a messenger, who may not be over reliable.]

C. M. MACDONALD.

REPORTS FROM VARIOUS OUTSIDE SOURCES,
RUMOURS, ETC.

(DIARY, P. 58.)

July 29th, a.m.—Foreign troops advance on 26th from An Ping towards Matou. 3 a.m.—12 a.m., were driven back to An Ping by the Chinese at daybreak 27th.

[From soldier of T. F. H.'s bodyguard.]

July 29th, a.m.—Foreign troops of three nationalities at An Ping. Ammunition of Chinese short. Southern rice boats in hands of foreign army.

[From outside coolie sent to Matou by Mr. Souki.]

July 29th, a.m.—Russian troops advancing towards Kalgan.

[From outside coolie sent to Chang-ping-chou.]

July 29th, p.m.—Yangtsun completely destroyed by foreign troops two or three days ago, and army in steady advance. Empress desires Tung and Yung Lu to send her with army to Hsi An Fu. They do not consent. Suggest Li Ping Heng to help conquer us. He is ordered up. Has arrived and attacks Pei Tang.

[From outside coolie who secured *Peking Gazettes* for us.]

July 30th, a.m.—A barricade has been made on the north Yü Ho bridge, which makes it dangerous at present to cross Legation Street bridge. *Use the Tunnel.* 8 a.m.—Only one egg seller; no news.

RUMOURS

FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE EARLIER REPORTS!

(DIARY, P. 58.)

July 30th, 3 p.m.—The T'ungcho candy-seller returns. He started from here on 27th, and was ordered to find the foreign army. First trace of them at Hô Hsi Wu, at noon 28th, in an inn at that village, being told that on afternoon of 26th a company of about 1,000 men, consisting of 60 mounted foreigners and a retinue of Chinese, Catholics, etc., armed with sticks and staves, crossed the river to the east *en route* for Chia Chia T'uan (20 li east Tcho). They had been in H. H. Wu two days. The man then went on to Yang t'sun. A company of Chinese troops at each end of street. Foreign troops, some 6,000, across river. They were purchasing in market in sight of Chinese troops—no shooting. Saw there two Catholic priests—introduced himself—asked for letter to Peking. They told him to tell the foreigners that Li Hung Ch'ang had gone to Peking, and had been given three days in which to make peace at Peking; if he did not succeed, on 5th August (indefinite) foreign army camp at Ma Chia fû.

July 30th, 7.30 p.m.—Yesterday morning Mr. Souki sent two outside coolies to T'ungcho to inquire in regard to the foreign army, etc. They returned this evening. Report that men in T'cho affirm the foreign army to have fought the Chinese on the 29th (or 28th) just south of Matón. They also report having seen a man from Chia Chia T'uan (eight miles east Tungchou), who says foreign troops have come to relieve the Catholics there, and are distant but a mile or so from the entrenchments—letters having been already exchanged.

Peking gates except Chittuo Mên and Pingtsi Mên ready to be closed. Stone and sandbags at sides.

Many Boxers killed at Pei T'ang. Twelve regiments of Gen. Ma's troops to go to Chang chia wan.

We have given these men each a small letter to Commander of troops, and offered reward for return by to-morrow night with answer.

EXTRACTS FROM THE "PEKING GAZETTE."

(DIARY, P. 5, ETC.)

June 13th.—On the 11th of June the Japanese Chancellor was murdered by desperadoes outside the Yung Ting Mên. 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 2.—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 one 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 K'ang 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 is 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 Ch'ing 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.

JUNE 17TH.—EDICT.

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.)

JUNE 21ST.—DECREE.

Ever since the foundation of the Dynasty foreigners coming to China have been kindly treated. In the reign of Tao Kuang and Hsün 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 relying 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 the 17th, 18th and 19th of June; and gives great praise to the Boxers who have done great service 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.

JUNE 24TH.—DECREE.

Yesterday shops and houses in the neighbourhood of the Tung Tau 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 depute officers to arrest the offenders. Eleven in all, belonging to various divisions, besides 23 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' Yamên 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.

2nd Decree.—Board of Revenue ordered to give K'ang I 200 bags (piculi) of rice as provisions for the I Hê T'uan (Boxers) for general distribution among them.

3rd 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 Hsün) and the Asst. Grand Sec., K'ang 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, Adjt.-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.

JUNE 27TH.—EDICT.

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 27th.—Edicts commanding Yü Lu to retake the Taku Forts, and to prevent the foreign troops from creeping northward; also ordering the distribution of Taels 100,000 to the divisions of troops in the Metropolitan districts, and a like sum to the Boxers assisting them.

June 28th.—A supervising Censor of the Central City memorializes the Throne, requesting the distribution 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 'Tael 2,000 may be allowed for expenses. He states that on the 16th of June 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 the 21st of June an inn in the native City was robbed and nine persons were caught and executed on the spot. On the 24th of June 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 28th.—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 T'uan) 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 1st.—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 2nd.—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 Viceroys 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 8th.—The posts about Tientsin are of extreme importance. Troops to be massed for their defence. The 72 fire 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 9th.—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 12th.—Though Nieh Shih Ch'eng had done much to train the troops, yet on this occasion he had 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 15th.—Tung Fang, Acting Governor of Shansi, in a memorial quotes the following decree transmitted to him by the Privy Council, June 20th:—

A quarrel has broken out between China and foreign nations, and it is extremely difficult to anticipate how matters

can be arranged. The Viceroys 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 coöperation of the Viceroys 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 18th.—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 19TH.—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 warships 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 millions from three provinces have been gathered together for the work, in case of any person stirring up disorder, in less than the twinkling of an eye all is destroyed.

July 28th.—Jung Lu is granted the privilege of riding in a sedan chair, with two bearers, within the walls of the Imperial Palace, and inside the Wan gate.

[A few reports of Yü Lu, and less important edicts, have been omitted for lack of copying material.—C. H. F.]

EXTRACTS FROM MESSAGES, ETC.,
FROM TIENTSIN.

(DIARY, P. 62.)

1. July 28th.—Liu Wu-yüan, aged 16, a native of Shantung, living in Peking, arrived this morning. He left Peking with letters on July 5th, disguised as a beggar. Was let down from the wall by a rope and crept along the moat to the Ch'ien Mên; he slept under the gate, and in the morning walked to the Yung Ting Mên, passed through and went to Ma Chia p'u without being molested. Hearing nothing he went to T'ung Chou and worked his way slowly along main road to Tientsin. At a village near Ho Hsi-wu he was stopped by villagers and made to work eight days, reached Tientsin July 18th; first met Russians, then Japs, and on July 21st met British troops at Pei Yung-Wan (entrance through defence wall half mile from Tientsin city on Peking road), delivered his letters to a foreigner in citizen dress who spoke Chinese. July 22nd.—He was taken to British Consulate and Consul gave him a letter. He was then sent to the foreign outpost at Hung Ch'iao (half m. west Tientsin city). July 23rd.—Left Hung Ch'iao and soon met Chinese troops. He slept the night at Yang Ts'un in a locomotive boiler near the bridge which is not destroyed. That day he saw only Chinese Infantry. The main body was at Pei T'san; he saw no Boxers. The night of July 24th he slept near Ho Hsi-wu and saw a few soldiers and no Boxers. The night of July 25th he slept at Ma T'ou and saw that day a few parties of Boxers in the villages, but none on the road. At Ma T'ou and elsewhere he saw the river was in high flood, few boats moving about but many moored to the banks. July 26th.—The night he slept at Yü Chia Wei, 20 li from Peking. July 27th.—He reached Sha wo Mên at 10 a.m. Roads good. The telegraph poles and wires along the river all gone, the railway torn up everywhere, the rails buried or used for making Boxer swords. He was not stopped at gate though many Boxers and Tung Fu-hsiang's soldiers were there; he made his way to the Ha-Ta Mên and to the Watergate, too closely guarded to

pass by day. He crawled along the moat and entered the Watergate before daylight. The high road to Tientsin in good condition, the crops everywhere look well. The villagers are attending to their farms, but there was a Boxer organization in every village. When he left Tientsin the foreign troops had not advanced beyond the defence wall surrounding Tientsin City at a distance of half to one mile. All Yaméns at Tientsin were occupied by foreign troops, chiefly Japs. All Boxers have left the front at Tientsin, because they were badly punished in battle, so Chinese soldiers despise them. Chinese army is concentrating at Pei Ts'ang, eight miles N.W. of Tentsin. He had one dollar taken from him by the foreign soldiers "in case he should lose it."

2. Received by U.S. Minister, August 2nd, from U.S. Consul Ragsdale :—

July 28th.—Had lost all hope of ever seeing you again. Prospect now brighter. We had 30 days shelling here, nine days siege, and thought that bad enough. Scarcely a house escaped damage. Excitement at home intense, of course. Our prayers and hopes are for your safety and speedy rescue. Advance of troops to-morrow probable.

3. From J. S. Mallory (U.S. 41st Inf.), Lieut.-Col. :—

July 30th.—A relief column of 10,000 is on the point of starting for Peking, more to follow. God grant they may be in time.

4. From Major-General A. R. Chaffee, U.S.A. :—

July 30th.—Arrived here this morning.

5. From E. Lowry to his wife :—

July 30th.—The bearer arrived last Friday, p.m., with news from Peking. The 9th and 14th U.S. regiments are already at Tientsin, and the 6th cavalry is at Taku, on its way up. An advance of several regiments has already started on its way up. Everything is quiet here now. Word came to-day that Boxers were killing Christians at Tsun-hua, Shan Hai Kuan, and many other places. The Russians and Imperial troops have fought at Chin Chon

(near Shan Hai Kuan). Tientsin is full of foreign troops, and more are coming in all the time. The railway is open between here and Tang-Ku. Many ladies and children went back to U.S. on transport *Logan*. All property at Pei-Tai-Ho is destroyed.

6. Another telegram says:—

July 29th.—Have been trying to reach you since June 21st. Foreign settlement was relieved June 23rd. Seymour relieved June 24th.

Captured East Arsenal June 26th.

Captured West Arsenal July 10th.

Captured Tientsin City July 14th.

Will advance in two days, column 10,000—English, Americans, and Japanese follow in a few days, 40,000. Hold on by all means. First column will support and divert enemy from you. There will be eight regiments U.S. infantry, three cavalry, and two batteries; U.S. marines, 500. Infantry will be in first column. Enemy strongly entrenched 17 miles north, and at two points further.

LETTER FROM W. M. HEWLETT.

(DIARY, P. 11.)

British Legation, Peking,

June 10th, 1900.

Well, now for the events of a most exciting week. I tell you all the "Gup" and "Bunder" as well as fact to let you know what we all feel and the general opinion. Monday (June 11th) all the Students carts went to the hills, and were re-called, as Pichon, the French Minister, had certain news that the Boxers were going to attack on the 5th (which never came off). At Tientsin 30 Cossacks had a brush, killed 20 and their Lieutenant received seven lance stabs. Norman, the missionary, we heard had been kidnapped; but, poor fellow, he and Robinson had been murdered. On the 2nd, Pao-ting-fu on the Belgian (Peking-Han-kow) line was burnt and An-ting on the Tientsin line. Miss Armstrong* and the children were sent for from the hills. A capital tale is told of the Belgian Minister, who, when asked why he had no guard, and if he was not afraid, said: "Oh, no; you see we are a neutral country," forgetting that did not prevent his being a Yang-Kuei-tzū (foreign devil) all the same. Tuesday (June 12th).—The Post Office started their courier post as the railway was considered unsafe. It seems extraordinary that the joint Powers cannot see their way to keep open 80 miles of rail when rice, flour, and soda water have run short in the City. The French and Italians sent a guard to Père Favier's Pei T'ang (North Cathedral) which was threatened, but the French Minister is in a constant panic. The Tientsin telegraph is destroyed, and only one through the Yamên office, *via* T'ung-chou left open; the Summer Legation was reported threatened to-day.

Wednesday (June 13th), was full of uneasy rumours, and a Council of War of all Officers was held at the Legation. Ladders have been made and laid under the walls of the

* Lady MacDonald's sister.

Legation and all preparations for defence are complete. I will send photos soon. Many missionaries have come in, and the place is flooded with women and children, who will be sent out of Peking as soon as it is safe to do so; three railway bridges have been destroyed by Yang Ts'un. This brings us to Thursday (June 14th), and even more missionaries have come in, being housed at Bax's and in the stable quarters; two more stations on the line were burnt to-day. The Yamên refused leave for more troops and the Viceroy at Tientsin would allow no train to start. At Tientsin, some Chinese troops defeated a small Boxer band. The Boxers (in Chinese, Ta Tao Hui, a large Knife Secret Society), wear red hats and girdles, and are mostly armed with spears and knives; some have guns.

Friday (June 15th).—Refugees still arrive, one missionary came and said his house was being pulled down in the City, and he wanted lodging in the Legation. He was asked if it was being pulled down by the Boxers, he said, No, by contract. He was politely told the Legation was not a hotel, and Peking had a hotel. He said that was inconvenient for him (probably as he had to spend money).

Saturday (June 16th).—In the early morning the Grand Stand was burnt at the racecourse. In the afternoon, Kirke, Porter, Giles and Warren* went to see, and found it all burnt. The keeper's house and all, and every bottle of drink destroyed, and the villagers looting. They went on for a mile, but meeting 200 Boxers who yelled Sha! Sha! (Kill! Kill!) and rushed on them with knives and spears they galloped off. However, they saw another body between them and the City, but by galloping avoided them. They met Bristow and Drury* and told them what had happened, but they would go on, and they got to the course and started home. They met a body of Boxers, round whom they galloped, only to have to avoid a second body. Having avoided them and going round a corner they came plump into a third; one man made for Bristow, and Bristow shot him in the stomach. Drury could not draw his revolver, but they got off, having two swords thrown at them, neither of which hit them. It was a lucky

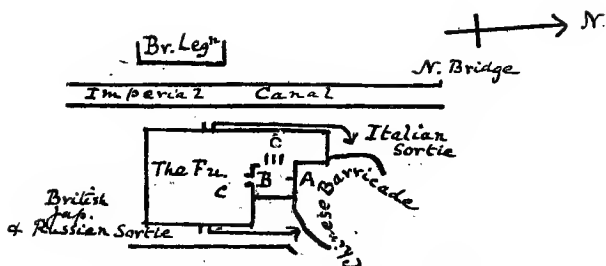
* Fellow Students.

escape, and now of course it is unsafe to go outside the Walls, and the Chief has forbidden all riding. I feel so sick I cannot ride or walk or carry firearms, so I am out of it, but I expect you are glad. It is hateful being classed with "women and children!" Thousands of troops were about the City and the Dowager Empress returned; the City Walls are manned with troops, and two or more Krupp guns command the Ch'ien Mên Ta Chieh, by which our troops must enter. Outside our gate are the Chinese soldiers with stacked spears. The question whether the guns are to prevent the entry of our troops or the Boxers is only to be settled to-day. The Viceroy declared the insurrection at Tientsin was beyond his control, and made foreigners responsible for themselves, and that with an army of 15,000 men at his back; he prepared the train to-day, and we all anxiously await the guards, as just at this moment (5 p.m.) the Post Office have sent to say the last wire has been cut, so we are shut out from the world—a funny feeling, but what luck being up now! I hear our examination may be postponed or else be a fiasco. They ought to reward the Chancery, as deciphering, etc., has given them untold work. As to our safety, rest assured—400 men in the Legation are a great safeguard.

I think the end of this century will see the end of the sham and humbug of the Son of Heaven and his self-conceited, degenerated, and bigoted Ministers; the vile self-opiniated conceit of Chinese officialdom is approaching its end, and we may see our Legation moved with the Court to Sai-nan or Nan-ching (Nankin) before a year is out. Russia has her chance, is she strong enough to take it? All this will be settled soon.

PLAN OF THE SORTIES ON JUNE 27TH.

(DIARY, P. 23.)



- A. The Chinese broke this wall
- B. Burnt Temple
- C. Jap. loop-holed wall.

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PLAN OF OUR POSITIONS IN THE HANLIN.

(DIARY, P. 47.)

