The Siege of Pekin Legations:

Dr. Morrison's Graphic Story of the Siege of the Pekin Legations, as furnished to the London Times.

OLDIERS sent to guard the summer residences of the British Legation the Western Hills left their posts during

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left their posts during
the night. The buildings
had been officially placed under the protection
of the Imperial Governernment. In the pretranged absence of the
soldiers the buildings
were attacked by "Boxers" and entirely burnt to the
round, the soldiers witnessed, if they
did not assist in the burning. But
worse events were to happen that
by In the afternoon news assed
ough Pekin that Mr. Suglyama,
hansellor of the Japanese, Led been murdered by solheen sent by hig. Minime to Machia-pu to
arrival of the troops.
harmed and alone in his
yond the Yung-ting Men, the
r gate on the way to the staon, he was seized by the soldiers of
Tung-fuh-slang, dragged from his
cart and done to death in the presence of a crowd of Chinese who witnessed his struggles with unpitying
interest and unconcealed
satisfaction. A "mafoo" in the service of nessed his struggles with the structure of the American Legation waiting at Machia-pu in the vain hope of seeing the train arrive, was warned to quit there speedily, and was cursed for being in the service of the foreigners the rode to the Yung-ting Men, where he saw the foreigner dead and mutilated, but was not permitted to enter, and, riding furiously, he came round by another gate and so breathless into the Legation. Mr. Narahara, the second Secretary, at once went to the Yamen, but no attempt was made to recover the body. The heart was cut out, and there is every rea-son to believe was sent as a trophy to the savage General Tung-fuh-shang

himself. No attempt was ever made to recover the body, and the follow to recover the body, and the following morning my servant, sent by me to inquire, found his mutilated body roughly covered with earth at the place where it had been murdered. One leg was exposed, and children, to the amusement of their elders, were poking at it with sticks.

A decree published after the mur-der attributed the crime to the ac-tion of desperadoes outside the city whereas it was notorious that the murder was committed by the soldiers of Tung-fuh-siang, the favorite body-guard of the Empress Downger. In another decree General Nieh was cen-sured, apparently for his too energetic treatment was permitted mand and make deeds. Chao

in the archael and on the rail-way, and with sublime effrontery at-tributed the disasters not to the "Boxers' but to the foreign-drilled soldiers of General Nich. Telegraph rommunication by every route had been cut Almost the last of the ser-rants who was the last of the ser-

soldiers of General Nieh. Telegraph communication by every route had been cut. Almost the last of the servants who were not Christians had fled from their masters.

On the 12th a deputation, consisting of Chi Hsiu, a member of the Grand Council and newly appointed that the control of the Council and newly appointed the council and newly appointed the council and t Yamen, Hsu Ching-cheng, the ster, the "Boxer" leader to the lamen, the "Boxer" leader ex-Minister, the "Boxer" Manchu, called upon the British Minister. Chi Hsin made a long address, his theme the enduring nature of the Iship between China and Engand and the duty which China has always recognized as a sacred obligation to protect the members of

roar the Tung-tang, or east Cathedral, shot flames into the sky. The old Green Church in the northeast of the city, the London Mission buildings, the handsome pile of the American Board Mission, and the entire foreign buildings belonging to the Imperial Maritime Customs in the east city burned throughout the night. It was an appalling sight.

Late in the night a large party of "Boxers," bearing torches, were seen moving down Customs street towards the Austrian Legition. The machine gun mounted was in waiting for them. They were allowed to come within 150 yards in the open street.

them. They were allowed to come within 150 yards in the open street the order was given and the gun rained forth death. It was a grateful The towers the gun rained forth death. sound. The torches disappeared. T and none, we thought, could have Eagerly we went forth to he dead, expecting to find count the dead, execting to find them in heaps. But there was not one dead. The gun had been aimed very wide of the mark. Two hundred yards north of the "Boxers" there is a place where, 30 feet above the level road. the telegraph wires crossed to the the telegraph wires crossed to the station. Next morning they were found to have been cut by the Austrian fire. The only persons who suffered injury were possible wayfaxers two miles up the street. There can be little doubt that this fiesco helped to confirm the "Poxers" in a belief a their invulneshillty. in their invulnerability.

The Tung-tang, or east Cathedral, having been burned, it was clear that the Nan-tung, the south Cathedral, dral, was in danger. Pere Garrigues, the aged priest of the Tung-tong, had refused to leave his post and had had refused to leave his post and had perished in the flames. But the fathers and sisters at the Nan-tang might yet be saved. Their lives were in great peril; it was necessary to act quickly. A party of French gentlemen, led by M. Fliche, of the French Legation, and accompanied by M. and Mmet. Chamot, rode out at night and early the following morning safely escorted to the hotel every member of the mission—Pere d'Addosio and his two colleagues, a French brother, five sisters of charity, and member of the mission—Pere d'Addosio and his two colleagues, a French brother, five sisters of charity, and some twenty native nuns of the Or-der of Josephine. They were rescued just in time. Scarcely had they reach-ed a place of safety when the splen-did edifice they had forsaken was in flames. To the sky wreathed the did edifice they had forsaken was in flames. To the sky wreathed the smoke, a pillar of cloud marking the destruction, not of a faith, but of a nation. This historic pile of Verbiest and Schaal, with its memorial tablet given to the cathedral by the Emperor Kang Hsi, was ruthlessly sacrificed. It continued burning all day, the region round it, the chief Catho-

freed. It continues burning all day, the region round it, the chief Catho-lie centre of Peki being also burnt, the centre of peki being also burnt, and put to the kept. Streets with-defended were kept were thrown up tion begun for the defence which cmed inevitable, though there was still hope that reinforcements would arrive before it was too late. Postal couriers were prevented from passing through the enemy's lines, and only the scantiest information reached us from outside

by the British and German Legations in the afternoon, to save, if possible, native Christians from the burning rules around the Nantang. Awful sights were witnessed. Women and children were hacked to pieces, men trussed like fowls, with moses and ears cut off and eyes gouged out. Chinese Christians accompanied the reliefs and ran about in the labyrinth and network of streets that formed the quarter, calling upon the Christians to come out from their decreases the constant of the commander, went out to patrol of fifteen men under fount to possess from every side, they were secretly stationed under cover at every vantage point commanding the outposts. At 4 p.m. precisely to the minute, by preconcerted signal, they opened fire upon the Austrian and French outposts. A French had escaped as if by a miracle. A patrol of fifteen men under fount to recover the body. Fired on by Chinese formed the quarter, calling upon the forced to retire. Lying ill in hospital, they opened fire upon the Austrian was wounded. The siege had really begun. At this time, June 20th, at the opening of the siege, the total strength of the combined Legation guards consisted of 18 officers and 389 men. children were hacked to pieces, men had be Legations who were her guests and the strangers within her walls. Chi Hsin assured the Minister that the movement was at an end, that all was now tranquil, and that there was now tranquil, and that there was no more reason to fear. Yet the was no more reason to fear. Yet the revy next day Baron Von Ketteler himself captured a "Boxer" from amid the crowd in Legation street. He carried the consecrated headpiece, and was armed with a sword. Round his waist he had a belt containing a talisman of yellow 'paper smeared with mystle red symbols, by which he was rendered "imperameable to foreign building." And in force from the down in force from the down in force from the down in force from the street had escaped. They came down in force from the summing of foreign buildings began.

The carried the massacre had continued, and their hiding-places, crossing them their hiding-places, crossing them the afternoon the "Boxers" came down in force from the summing of foreign buildings began.

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The crowdin Legation street. He massacre without ever raise of the summanded at the massacre had continued, and their hiding-places, and their hiding-places of their hiding-places of their hiding-places of their hiding-places of their hiding-places, crossing them their hiding-places of their hiding-places of their hiding-places, crossing them their hiding-places of their hiding-places of the chires troops of the strength of the chires troops of the st

passing a Taoist temple on the way, a noted "Boxer" meeting-place, cries were heard within. The temple was forcibly entered. Native Christians had come within a restricted space, were found there, their hands tied be-hind their backs, awaiting execution hind their backs, awalting execution and torture. Some had already been put to death, and their bodies were still warm and bleeding. All were shockingly mutitated. Their fiendish murderers were at their incantations, burning incense before their gods, offering Christians in sacrifice to their angered dettles. They shut themselves within the temple, but their defence availed them nothing. Every one of them, 46 in all, was in "Boxer" uniform armed with sword and lance. Retribution was swift: every man was shot to death without

and lance. Retribution was swift; every man was shot to death without mercy. In the afternoon a fire broke out in the foreign drug stare in the native city outside the great gate of the Chien Men. It was the work of "Boxers," done while the soldiers were looking on. In order to burn the foreign days store and do the foreigners. looking on. In order to burn the for-eign drug store and do the foreigners a few pounds' worth of damage, they did not hesitate to j-opardize by fire property worth millions of pounds, and that is what happened. Adjoin-ing buildings took fire, the spread to the booksellers' street, and the most interesting street. and the most interesting street in Chian, filled with priceless scrolls, manuscripts and printed books, was guited from end to end. Fire licked up house after house, and soon the confiagration of the configuration of th was the most disastrous ever known in China, reducing to ashes the richest part of Pekin, the pearl and jewel shops, the silk and fur. the satin and embroidery stores, the great curio shops, the gold and silver shops, the melting houses, and nearly all that was of the highest value in the memelting houses, and nearly all that was of the highest value in the metropolis. Irreparable was the damage done. From the street below the fire spread to the central outer Chien Men gate, which directly faces the Imperial Palace, and which is only through open for the passage of

dangers assailing us.

Early on the morning of the 20th a meeting of the diplomatic body was held at the French Legation. No reply has been received from the Tsung-li-Yamen to the request for an audience, and the proposition that all the Ministers sh go to the Yamen found. Had it been carried out no second. Had it been carried out there would have occurred one of the most appalling massacres on record. Two chairs later left for the Yamen. In the first was the German Minister, Baron von Ketteler, who had this enemy's lines, and only the scantiest information reached us from outside. During the evening "Boxers" were killed on the north bridge endeavoring to rush the British sentries.

On the 15th rescue parties were sent out by the American and Russiun Legations in the morning, and by the British and German Legations in the afternoon, to save, if possible, native Christians from the burning ruins around the Nantang. Awful sights were witnessed. Women and children were hacked to pieces, men his life, shot at by a hundred rifles.

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near the Belgian Legation and were close to the police station on the left. I was watching a cart with some lance bearers passing before the Minister's chair, when suddenly I saw a sight that made my heart stand still. The Minister's chair was three paces in front of me. I saw a banner soldier, apparently a Manchu, in full uniform, with a mandarin's hat with a button and blue feather, step forward, present his rifle within a yard of the chair window, level it at the Minister's head and fire. I shouted in terror, "Halt," at the same moment

The Shot Rang Out. nessed my struggle without pity and without emotion, and without even replying to my question as to the direction. I overheard one man remark, "A foreigner who has got his deserts." Then in a quiet road, a peddler, more humane than his countrymen, gave me the direction, and in half an hour after the murder of my Minister I reached the American Mission, and fell fainting at the entrance. My wounds were dressed and I was carried back to the German Legation. * * In conclusion, I affirm that the assassination of the German Minister was a delib. without emotion, and without even of the German Minister was a deliberately planned, premeditated murder, done in obedience to the orders of the high Government officials by an Im-

Such was the statement of Mr. Helnrich Cordes, the Chinese Secretary. There was no more question about leaving for Tien-Tsin.

made to the murder. In the course of the morning a despatch was sent to the Diplomatic Body in reply to the answer they had sent to the ultimatum of yesterday. The country, it is said, between Pekin and Tien-Tsin was overrun with brigands. and it would not be safe for the Ministers to go there. They should, therefore, remain in Pekin. It is difficult to write with calmness of the foul treachery with which the Chinese were now acting.

Chinese Open Fire. Four p.m. was the hour given in the ultimatum for the Ministers to vacate their Legations, but the ultimatum had been rescinded, and the Ministers invited to remain in Pekin. Thus it was hoped that they would be lulled into a false security. Chinese soldiers were secretly stationed un-der cover at every vantage point commanding the outposts. At 4 p.m. precisely to the minute, by preconcerted signal, they opened fire upon the Austrian and French outposts. A French marine fell, shot dead through the

The siege had really begun.

At this time, June 20th, at the opening of the siege, the total strength of the combined Legation guards consisted of 18 officers and 389 men. To this insignificant force the entire foreign quarter had to trust for its defence. Fortunately several visitors defence. Fortunately several visitors or residents had received military training, and they at once went on the active list and rendered invaluable service. A volunteer force numbering altogether 75 men, of bering altogether 75 men, of whom 31 were Japanese, was enrolled, and armed with all available rifles. They added greatly to the strength of the garrison, tak-ing watch and watch like the regu-

one-pounder, Italian with rounds, 25,000 American Coit Austrian rounds. an and British Nordenfel it, pattern 1887. The Japanese had only 100 rounds apiece, the Russians 145, and the Italians 120, while the best provided that the other guards had only seanty ed of the other guards had only 200 rounds per man, none too many for a siege, the duration of which could not be foreseen.

Abandoned Ruildings.

Punctually, then, at 4 o'clock Chiuese soldiers began firing upon us whom they had requested to remain in peace at Pekin. And immediately after the Austrian Legation was abandoned. No sufficient reason has been given for its abandonent. The Shot Rang Out.

the chairs were thrown down. I sprang to my feet. A shot struck me in the lower part of my body. Others were fired at me. I saw the Minister's chair still standing, but there was no movement. One moment's hesitation would have been fatal. I ran, wounded as I was, fifty paces to the north, and turned down the street to the cast, a lively rifle fire following me. Looking back I saw the Minister's chair still standing. There was no sign of life. Believing myself to be in the street leading to the Tsung-Li-Yamen, I ran on, thinking to report what had happened, and perhaps find protection. But it was not the street. Two men, armed with lances, pursued me, but, fearing I was armed, left me. Then I resolved to try and reach the American Mission buildings near the Hata Men Gate, Dripping with bloyd I dragged streets filled with Chinese who witnessed my struggle without pity and without emotion, and without even ment on the part of the captain the mission was finally left in a panic. Almost nothing was saved, and nearly all the stores accumu-lated for a siege were lost. The British Legation was now thronged. Rarely has a more cosmopolitan gathering been gathered together within the limits of one compound. All the women and children were there, all the missionaries, American, British, French and Russian, all the Customs staff, the French, Belgian, Russian, American, Spanish, Japanese and Italian Ministers and their families, the entire unofficial foreign community of Pekin, with the exception of M. Chamot, who remains the community of the community mained in his hotel throughout, though it was in the hottest corner of the besieged area.

Preparing for Hostilities. When the Austrians withdrew from their Legation, the British picket on the North bridge retired to the tropolis. Irreparable was the damage done. From the street below the fire spread to the central outer Chien Men gate, which directly faces the Imperial Palace, and which is only thrown open for the passage of the Emperor. An imposing temple crowns this wall; it was engulfed in the conflagration. The great tiled roof with its upturned gables fell with a crash of falling worlds, while great volumes of smoke spread like a pall over the Imperial Palace, foreboding the doom of the Imperial louse. It was a sight never to be forgotten.

While the fire was in progress another broke out in the houses at the end of Legation street, and the triumphal archway was consumed. Fear of fire was to be added to other dangers assailing us.

The Chinese Story.

Later in the day the Yamen, evidently indifferent to the gravity of the North bridge retired to the main gate, where a redoubt was dently indifferent to the gravity of the North bridge retired to the main gate, where a redoubt was built and the North bridge retired to the main gate, where a redoubt was fell to the Core and the feet to the Government, sent an impudent despatch to the effect that two Germans had been proceed that two Germans h with the fatal coffidence that was his undoing. To cross from the Palace to the British Legation he went round by the North bridge, though he knew that the bridge had been evacuated. On the bridge he was fired at by a soldier at short range, ran back apparently unhurt, and was fired at from another quarter.

He Raised His Hands.

to show he was unarmed, and fell shot into the canal, where volleys were fired into his body from the water gate under the imperial city wall. The murder was seen from the British Legation. Desultory firing continued through the night. One Russian marine was shot dead Russian marine was shot dead through the forehead. In the mornthrough the forehead. In the morning a letter reached the American Legation from one of the captains in the relief column. Dated June 14, it was written from a point only 35 miles from Pekin. It was a casual, chatty letter which gave no indication that in the opinion of the writer there was any need for hurry. At the British Legation fortification began in real earnest, the re-

tion began in real earnest, the re-fugees working like coolies. Sand-bags were made by the thousand, posts mounted round the Legain the Imperial Carriage Park. Chinese put flames to the abandoned ese put flames to the abandoned buildings, and the Belgian Logation, the Austrian Legation, the Metho-dist Mission and some private houses were burned.

Sir Claude in Command.

June 22nd opened disastrously. The evening before Captain Thomann, the Austrian commander, amounced that as the senior officer he had taken command in Dain This that as the senior officer he had taken command in Pekin. This morning, hearing from an irresponsible American that the American Legation was abandoned, he, without taking steps to verify the information, ordered the abandonment of all the Legations east of Cauai street, the detachments to fall back upon the British Legation. There had been no casualties to speak of, none of the Legations had been attacked, and every commander who received the order to retreat regarded the action as madness. Paremptory orders were sent to the Japanese to abandon the Prince's Palace or Figure 1 shall henceforth call it), and they retired to their Legation. In the British Legation nothing was known of the order when, to the amazement of all, the Italians, Ar trians and French came running now a Legation street, followed a little later by the Japane. followed wall and Canal street had Saw Themselves Cut Off. though their communications had

ed precipitati the British Le might have the great-mpt action Thomann and and Claude MacDona nch and R. sin ently confirmed y of tha -

120 all their colleagues, assumed the chief ommand. The French and Austri-ns reoccupied the French Legation. ans reoccupied the French Legation, but the barricade in Customs street was lost. One German only was killed and the position was saved, but the blunder might have been disastrous.

Chinese Incend arism.

It was obvious from the first that the great danger at the British Le gation was not so much from rifle gation was not so much that for on fire as from incendiarism, for on three sides the compound was suf-rounded by Chinese buildings of a bighty inflammable nature. Before time could be given to clear an open space round the Legation, the build-ings to the rear of Mr. Cockburn's house were set on fire, and as the wind was blowing strongly towards us it seemed as if nothing could prevent the fire from bursting into the Legation. Water had to be used Legation. Water had to be used sparingly for the wells were lower than they had been for years, yet the flames had to be fought. Butter the state of the sparing the spari lets were whistling through trees. Privat: Scadding, the first Englishman to fall, was killed while on watch on the stables near by. Men and women lined up and water was passed along in backets to a small fire engine that was played upon the fire. Walls were proken through, trees hastily cut down, and desperate work saved the building. It was the first experience of intense excitement. Then the men set to with a will, and till late at night were demolishing the temp buildings outside the wall of Work was continued in the morning, but when it was proposed to pull down an unimportant ing in the Haniin Academy abuts upon the Legation to the North, the proposition was veto-ed. Such descration, it- was said, would wound the susceptibilof the Chinese Government. was "the most sacred building in China." To lay hands upon it even to safeguard the lives of beleaguered women and children, could not be thought of for fear of wounding the susceptibilities of the Chinese Government of the Ch ment! So little do the oldest of understand the Chinese.

Chinese Fired it.

A strong wind was blowing from the Haulin into the Legation, the distance separating the nearest building from the Minister's residence being only a few feet. Fire the one and the Minister's residence would have been in danger. Suddenly there was an alarm of fire. Smoke was rising from the Hanlin. The most venerated pile in Pekin, the great Imperial Academy, centre of all Ch'nese learning, with its priceless collection of books and manuscripts, was in flames. Every one who was off duty rushed to the back of the Legation. The Hanlin had been occupied during the night by Imperial soldiers, who did not hesitate in their rage, to destroy foreigners, to set fire to the buildings. It was first few feet. Fire the one and the their rage, to destroy foreigners, to set fire to the buildings. It was first set fire to the buildings. It was lires necessary to clear the temple. A breach was made in the wall. Captain Poole headed a force of marines and volunteers, who, rushed in, divided, searched the coarts, and returned to the main pavilion with its superbuildars and memorial tablets. Chinese work, rushing from other burning ars and memorial tunits. Chinese were rushing from other burning buildings to the main entrance. They were taken by surprise and many were killed, but they had done their evil deed. Other great libraries have evil deed. Other great libraries have been destroyed by the victorious in-vader. What can be thought of a nation which destroys its own most sacred edifice, the pride and glory of its learned men through centuries, in order to wreak vengeance upon the foreigner? foreigner?

Pulling Down Ruins.

To save the Legation it was necessary to continue the destruction and dismantle the library buildings. With great difficulty, with inadequate tools, the buildings were pulled down. Trees endangering our position were felled. An attempt was made to rescue speci-mens of the more valuable manuscripts. the but few were saved, for the danger was pressing. Sir Claude MacDonald, as soon as the fire was discovered. despatched a messenger to the Tsung-li-Yamen, telling them of the fire and urging them could be rescued, but no attention was given to his courteous communication.
The Dutch Legation was purned on and posts mounted round the Legation. A way was knocked through the houses to the Russian Legation, so that the Americans, if they had to that the Americans, if they had to the British Legation. During the British Legation was exposed to a continuous fire from surreunding house-tops, and in the case of the British Legation from the covering the British Legation was saved. All the buildings hack from the bank to the Chical Men exposed to fire from the wait, and the Legation was saved. All the buildings back from the bank to the Chiea Men (the main gate between the Chinese and Tartar cities facing the entrance to the Forbidden City) seemed to be on fire. Then all the customs building. ings were lived, so that flames were on ever side, and the smoke was tremendous, while the fusilade was incessant. An Italian and a German died of their wounds. The first American was killed, shot from the wall, then a Russian fell. They were dropthen a Russian fell. They were dropping off one by one, and already we were well accustomed to the sight of

2 nown Legation street, cf. Immediately all hands dug bomb-ticle later by the Japan seemently by the Ger-seemently by the Ger-ecalled their post on the the Americans from the wall, guite correct without a shot of them town under the old street. Americans and arming the all east of lead been abandoned.

Close to them at a distantiundred feet only, when sheltered by the parapet men could enfilled the which was held by the Armericans. fely advance inst nunications had the street running cast under the wall. The ba rest came untenable, and to wall was a paramount which could no longer be sity Already, on the 22nd, th had eccupied the wall e off German Legation, thus the Chinese troops from east gate, Hata Men, and thus i eat tain von Soden had patrolled past the American Legar