

"Westwater saw that it was hopeless to argue or discuss matters with these frantic creatures, and so made his difficult way towards the missionary quarters. There he was fortunate enough to find a Christian convert, who conducted him to a place where the Merchant Guild were holding a sort of cabinet council. Westwater explained matters, appealed to the citizens to avoid bloodshed, and pledged his word that neither ravishing nor looting should mark the Russian occupation of their city. The appeal was successful, and he rode quietly back on his pony to the Russian general.

"Strangely enough, the Russian promise was kept. The general was an awful brute—as bad as he could be; but Westwater's action seemed to impress him, and his orders were very thorough on this head. During their occupation of Liao-wang not a single patrol was allowed to go about the city without an officer—you cannot trust a Russian non-commissioned officer as you can one in the British army; and the result was the amazing record of no single instance of crime.

"Westwater's gallant action, too, impressed even the Boxers. They named him the Saviour of Liao-wang; and when, some months later, he took his departure for home, he was made the honoured guest of extraordinary banquets, and was accompanied to the railway station by all the grateful citizens, half of them waving flags and half of them banging musical instruments."