

Knights Who Fought the Dragon

Yes! these walls look as if they'd been hard enough beset, and, as you may say, there are a good many brave fellows sleeping under fresh mounds in the Legations, but if we'd marched a little slower we'd have felt the heat less. I'm going around to the Chinese shops and help myself to enough clothes for a summer outfit, and when I'm washed and dressed once more I may swing around a little from my present point of view."

Douglas rented a temple on a quiet street, and next day the Gilmours and Mr. Meredith took possession. Some Chinese came with them.

It was a disturbed time. The Empress Dowager, the helpless young Emperor, and their Court, fled Shensi-wards. The interior of the Imperial Palace, the grounds with their artificial lakes and gardens, the Altar of Heaven, where the Emperor performs the sacred rites for his people, these royal enclosures never before desecrated by unholy foreign eyes, lay open to the gaze of the curious.

The looting by the foreign armies was lawless. It was difficult, at first, for the Gilmours to get enough to eat. Chinese servants sent out to purchase food were held up by European soldiers and robbed of all they carried.