

street company carried on. This Canton anti-foreign animosity, always smouldering, has been especially active, as I have already intimated, since the capture of that city itself and its subsequent occupation by the allies. So that when the news of the repulse of the British from the mouth of the Peiho reached this place, there was an evident flash of exultation pervading the whole community, and especially the Cantonese portion of it, and foreigners here, as well as at the open ports, anticipated trouble in some form or other, as an almost inevitable consequence of the prevailing state of feeling.

At this place, being nearest to the scene of disaster, it was likely to come first and most severely, and the event has realized this natural expectation. Here, at Shanghai, where, for fifteen years, the foreign and Chinese communities have lived together without any interruption of mutual good feeling, and now, just at the moment when we were expecting to enjoy the freedom of travelling freely all over the country, at this place and at this time it was not safe for a foreigner to walk a half-a-mile in the country—nay, for nearly two weeks the missionaries could not enter the city without danger of exciting a tumult, and two of our churches were actually assailed and defaced by the mob.

So strong and so sudden a revulsion shows the volcanic nature of the ground on which we tread, and makes us feel a ten-fold gratitude to the Lord and Master who has preserved us long and so effectually.

FIRST EXHIBITION OF VIOLENCE.

The first exhibition of violence took place on the evening of the 29th of July. As I rode through the streets, on my way to Dr. Burton's, I saw crowds of people at almost every corner, and all in a very excited condition. On inquiring of them what was the matter, I was told that "foreigners had been engaged in kidnapping Chinese coolies and sending them aboard a French ship, lying at the mouth of the river near Woosung." I knew there was such a ship there, and I had heard previous rumours as to the alleged kidnapping, but I had no idea foreigners were personally engaged in it. I rode to the station-house, however, and I was told by the superintendent of police that four men had just been apprehended and lodged here—two Englishmen, one American, and one Swede. These I supposed to be of the runaway sailor class, who get themselves and other people in so much trouble in this part of the world. Considering that this would be the end of the matter, I thought no more of it till late in the evening. When I had nearly reached home one of our neighbours called to me from his verandah, and told me Mr. Lay, the Inspector of Customs, and Mr. Hobson, the British Chaplain, had been set upon and stabbed; that men had been landed from the ships of war, and that a general attack on the settlement was looked for. This was Friday night, and you may suppose that refreshing sleep was a stranger to my pillow. I looked upon my sleeping children in their little beds, and thought of Cawnpore, and Delhi, and Borneo, until the depths of my heart were stirred as they never had been before.

Morning came at last and with it all kinds of vague and alarming rumors. Two, out of a company of five Malay sailors, who were wandering through the Ching Wong Miao, were killed, and the rest were only rescued by the personal interposition of the mayor, Che-Heen, who did not himself escape without some reviling, and reproaches to the effect that he was ready enough to rescue foreigners, but did not care how many of his own people were kidnapped. This and some other unmistakable symptoms of disaffection

made the mandarins very far from easy on their own account. No one knew but that there might be a concerted plan, on the part of the emissaries of the Nankin insurgents, to take possession of the city; besides these, the Cantonese were dreading, and also another class of depredators called Mien-Fe, a kind of banditti or land pirates, very active in these times and very ruthless.

DARK FOREBODINGS OF EVIL.

Saturday night closed in with dark forebodings of coming conflict, but without any ascertained enemy against which preparations could be made. Patrols were, however, established, and the whole place wore the aspect of being in military occupation. Every thing continued quiet, however, till about half-past ten at night, when the whole mass of junks which lie clustered together off the city appeared suddenly lighted up, and such a confused din of gongs and human voices was heard as only can be understood by those who have seen and heard Chinese junk-men in alarm, or during an eclipse.

We stood on our verandah and looked and listened, wondering what the tumult might mean. An attack on the settlement generally or on the French consulate and the other premises, or the sending of fire-rafts down among the foreign shipping—all or any of these suppositions seemed reasonable enough, but from the dangers of the last my mind was released by the turning of the tide, which began to run up about midnight, and thus made the operation impracticable. All these circumstances, combined with an intense heat of the atmosphere, which of itself made rest all but impossible, seemed to render the people frantic; and, for the time, they were more like a community gone mad, or possessed of a legion of evil spirits than ordinary living beings. The transformation was astonishing—both deplorable and alarming.

SOLENN SERVICE.

Sunday morning brought together at our chapel almost all our communicants. Forty-one I think was the number that came to the table of the Lord, many of them, I have no doubt, with feelings such as they had never experienced before. During the preceding night our church in the city, as well as the chapel of the London Society's mission, had been attacked and damaged to a great extent by a mob, whose character and object were of an undefined character. They broke lamps, doors, windows, &c., took out our books and surplices (one given me by St. John's, Providence) and burnt them; threw down and damaged the stone font, presented by the Epiphany, Philadelphia, and were proceeding to greater violence when the arrival of the mandarins with soldiers, checked and dispersed them. The building was cleared, and a guard left to protect it from further molestation, and then occurred one of those instances of strange, loose-end, Chinese mis-management which provokes contempt and a smile at the same time. This guard, twelve in number, must needs, when their dinner time came, all go off to "eat rice" together, the consequence of which was that some of the rabble returned and did more damage. Then they made better arrangements for keeping a watch. Rev. Mr. Lowrie of the Presbyterian Mission, was hustled and insulted. Rev. Mr. Lambrecht, of the Methodist Mission, pelted and his chair-bearers beaten. Straggling foreigners at different times and places killed, to the number of ten or more—others beaten.

FACTS LAID BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONSUL.

All the circumstances concerning our church were formally communicated to the United States consul, who lost no time in notifying the Taoutai, and requiring restitution. The Taoutai on his part had been on the alert, and volunteered a

communication to the consul at an early hour on Sunday. Subsequently, also, he has appeared really in earnest to check the disorder, and satisfy all reasonable demands made on him.

The French minister, M. Bourboulon, also appears to be actuated by the same spirit. On the Taoutai's requisition he ordered the Gertrude, coolie ship, up from Woosung, and delivered over all the emigrants on board, at so much a head. These were chiefly Ningpo men, who were examined, but nothing elicited from them as to the kidnapping, which fact was far from satisfactory to the country people hereabouts, who inquired: "Where are our relatives who have been carried off?" And in this state of half settlement the matter still stands; every fresh investigation going to show that there has been an industrious attempt on the part of some to create as much disturbance and dissatisfaction as possible so that the mandarins, the foreigners, and the wealthy inhabitants might be excited to mutual jealousy and alarm, and thus a general imbroglio might ensue.

If such was the object, it has failed, through the firmness of the authorities and the presence of a strong foreign force, but that part of the plan which had in view the plunder of the rich class, has succeeded in part. Many of the merchants moved their families and their valuables away from the city, and are said to have suffered not a little in the process and on the road.

Altogether it has been a season of alarm resulting from a consciousness that something was wrong, and danger arising from a knowledge of distrust and disaffection.

SCENE ON THE RIVER EXPLAINED.

That exciting scene on the river, to which I have referred, arose from the fears of a flotilla of sampans, whose owners thought the English were going to immolate them, and they, therefore, betook themselves to the larger junks, on to the cables of which they attempted to make fast. This alarmed the junkmen, who thought the sampans came to plunder. A general melee ensued; Chinese in the disguise of foreigners were said to have been engaged in it: some lives were lost, and many boats burned.

The time would fail me to mention all the proclamations, and notifications, and exhortations, that have been placarded on the walls by mandarins and consuls, and anonymous libellers. The war of words has been very energetic, and some hard things have been said all around against foreigners in general; in violent, imperious, and inconsistent conduct against the mandarins: in neglecting the flock and caring only for the fleece; and against the French for persisting in a traffic which the conscience of Christendom repudiates. Our poor Christians, too, have come in for no small share of abuse. Their neighbours have reviled them as "eating the rice of foreigners;" have told them "Jesus is dead now;" have threatened that their heart and bowels shall be torn out, &c., &c. The house of a Roman Catholic merchant has been threatened with demolition because he would not hang up lanterns when the procession of the god of fire passed by, and the French cathedral has been repeatedly spoken of as destined to destruction.

Notwithstanding all this, the fire of excitement seems going out, and my impression is that in the midst of, perhaps in consequence of, this stirring of the stagnant mind of the people, we shall find a larger number than usual aroused to consider the question of their own personal salvation.

That it may be so, join your prayers with those of your friend and brother in the Lord.

ADDITIONAL NOTE FROM THE REV. MR. SYLK

SHANGHAI, Sept 3, 1859.

REV AND DEAR BROTHER.—Your letter and