

Boxers, "Kill all the foreign people," had the force of an imperial decree. Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Russia, France, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands and Japan had official representatives in Pekin, and there was strong reason to fear that they and all other foreigners within the city had been put to death. When at last news came, under date of July 24th, it appeared that the legations were still in a state of siege, and the Chinese government, if there be one, was doing nothing to help them. The forces of the allies are again pushing forward to the relief of the Europeans, who are now within the inner enclosure of the Imperial city.

Tien Tsin, (literally, the Heavenly Place,) is a very important city in the metropolitan province of Chili. It is situated on the Pei Ho, at the terminus of the Grand Canal, which extends to Pekin; and is the third commercial seaport in China, being surpassed only by Shanghai and Canton. It was the Celestial City described by Marco Polo, who visited it in the thirteenth century. It was the scene of a terrible massacre of Christians in 1870.

The Pei Ho, (White River,—sometimes written Peh Ho, which means North River,) is a narrow and very crooked stream, the channel in its soft, muddy bottom changing from day to day; and only vessels of light draught can navigate it. Its mouth, where the Taku (Great Mouth) forts are situated, is protected or obstructed by a dangerous bar, so that large ships must remain at a distance of several miles from the shore. From Taku to Tien Tsin by rail is a distance of twenty miles; by river, nearly three times that distance.

Pekin, (which means the Northern Capital, as Nankin means the Southern Capital,) is sixty or seventy miles west of Tien Tsin. It is a city of about a million inhabitants, standing in a level country which stretches in unbroken monotony to the shores of the Gulf of Pechili. Within its walled enclosure are two divisions, the Chinese city and the Tartar city. In the latter, the foreign legations and the mission stations were situated. In the centre of the Tartar city is a quadrilateral enclosure called the Imperial city; and within this again, the Forbidden city, which contains the imperial palaces. This inner city, as its name implies, is never visited by foreigners except on rare occasions when a foreign prince or an ambassador is allowed to pay a visit of ceremony to the Emperor. In this Forbidden city sits, at three in the morning, the Great Council of State; and here dwells the Empress Dowager, who, in the name of the Emperor, promulgates the decrees which one fourth of mankind are expected to obey.

It is announced that the Queen has approved of the Earl of Hopetoun as first Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Russia has abolished banishment to Siberia—the most dreaded of punishments in a country where offences are severely punished.

The Cape Nome gold region, in the north of Alaska, which attracted gold seekers even from the Klondike, is now filled with disappointed men, many of them without the means of returning to their homes. United States soldiers have been sent to the place to preserve order, and martial law has been established in the district.

It is again reported that a balloon, supposed to be that of the missing Andree, was wrecked in Ungava, on the coast of Hudson Bay. A party of Indians will be sent to the spot to bring back any papers and other portable articles they can find.

An expedition has left Newfoundland, by steamer to search for Captain Peary, who, if his plans have been successfully carried out, is now returning from the North Pole. Last winter was exceptionally severe in Greenland, and it is feared that the explorers have suffered unexpected hardships in their winter quarters, and consequent difficulties in their attempt this summer to reach the Pole.

By a typographical error in last issue, 1854 was given as the date of the first Boer settlement north of the Orange River. It should have been 1824. An independent government was established there in 1854.

The relief of Koomassie was not effected until July 15. In the meantime, Sir Frederic Hodgson, governor of the Gold Coast, who was shut up in the fort, surrounded by a large number of Ashanti warriors, had succeeded in pushing through the besieging forces and making his way to Cape Coast Castle, leaving a small garrison to hold the place. The relief of this garrison seems to have been accomplished just when its supplies were on the point of being exhausted. Sir Frederic went to Koomassie in March last in discharge of his official duties, Ashanti being under the jurisdiction of the Gold Coast government. The Ashanti chiefs demanded that he should leave, that the natives should be permitted to buy and sell slaves, and that the establishment of schools should cease. The relief of the garrison means the defeat of these rebel chiefs; but it will still require force to bring them to submission, and more troops are needed.

An interesting feature in the preparations for the approaching presidential elections in the United States, is the organization of a native party in Hawaii.

Gen. Porfirio Diaz (Dee-ath) has been re-elected president of the republic of Mexico for a term of four years. With the exception of one term, during which he was a member of the government, he has filled the president's chair since 1877; and peace and progress have marked his rule. About four-fifths of the people