

The Siege of Pekin Legations:

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

On the 24th, a party of Germans and Americans, leaving the Austrians and French in charge of the German man barricade, advanced again westward along the wall sweeping the way clear past the American Legation for 200 yards towards the Chien Men, the other great gate on the west. That the Germans held to their own barricade, while the Americans retained the position which had been thus gained. At the head of the ramp leading to the west, a party of British soldiers and their officers hurried hastily a covering wall to shelter them from the fire which was shortly rained along the open surface from the west. The American and British barricades were now distant from each other about 500 yards.

No Enemy Could Live between them, and the security of the American Legation was increased tenfold by a great bombardment was made at this stage. The Americans built a barricade across the wall from the ramp to the eastern corner of the bastion, and the eastern bastion outside their lines. The enemy swiftly seized the advantage offered them. They mounted the wall by the next ramp to the west, and at the same time threw an exactly corresponding barricade across the wall to the western corner of the bastion. Thus there were two barricades facing each other a distance of 80 yards. The Christian coolies worked all night at strengthening the barricade, while small pickets of Germans and Russians were sent to guard the Americans to hold the position, which was subsequently held by the British and Russians in conjunction with the Americans.

Down in the besieged area the enemy pressed upon every side. Again they attempted to fire the British Legation from the Mongol market to the west, but this sort of attack by British marines and volunteers, and the Chinese were driven from house to house out of the market.

The Work Was Dangerous and Captain Halliday was dangerously wounded. While the Captain straddled an extraordinary escape, the bullet grazing the skin above the carotid artery. The sortie was entirely successful; some of the German and Russian officers were captured and ammunition, which was more precious than silver. The buildings were then fired by us, the fire being kept under control, which did not in long distance round the west of the Legation.

Fortification proceeded without intermission, and all the defenses of the besieged area quickly gathered strength. For the first time in war was a feature in the fortification. Sandbags were of every color under the feet of every soldier. Silks and satins, curtains and carpets and embroideries were ruthlessly cut up into sandbags. In the Prince's Fu the sandbags were made of the richest silks and satins, the imperial gifts and accumulated treasures of one of the eight princely families in China.

In the Prince's Fu the Chinese made a determined effort to force their way into the Palace in their frenzy to slaughter the native Christians. In the angle of the wall in the northeastern court of the Palace they made a breach in the wall, and rushed wildly in. But the Japanese were waiting for them, and from loopholes they had made opposite rolled them over like rabbits, driving them helter-skelter back again. Some were killed, and but for the unsteadiness of the Italians who were assisting the Japanese, the execution would have been greater. The Chinese were driven back, but the same evening they threw fireballs of petroleum over the wall and set fire to the building. Flames spread to the splendid main pavilion of the Palace. The Japanese in their frenzy were driven back, and the Christians escaping from the burning building overflowed from the Fu into all that quarter lying between the Palace grounds and Legation street.

Chinese Treachery. On June 25, a true and faithful method of weakening our defenses was attempted by the Chinese. Up to four in the afternoon the shooting of rifles and field guns had been continuous, when suddenly bugles were sounded from the south and west, and as if by magic the firing ceased. It was under perfect control-imperial control commanded by responsible central officers in the same silence as that following the final assault was striking. Then an official of low rank was seen to affix to the parapet of the North bridge near the British Legation a Board inscribed with 18 Chinese characters—"Imperial command to protect Ministers and stop firing. A despatch will be handed at the Imperial Canal and at the British Legation," was written, "Despatch will be received," was sent by one of the Chinese clerks employed at the Legation, but when he approached the British gate was leveled at him. The despatch was never received.

The Artifice Deceived No One. Treachery was foiled, vigilance was redoubled. Sandbags were thrown on positions which were being fired upon. It was not until midnight the general attack was made upon us were prepared and every man was at his post. The surprise failed. As a firing began, horns were sounded, and then from every quarter a hail of bullets poured over us, sweeping through the trees and striking with sharp impact the roofs of the bastions. No harm was done though the noise was terrific. Great steadiness was shown by the men. They lay quietly behind the sandbags, and not a shot was fired in reply. It was not until about five o'clock of this wild firing that the shots were to kill the guardian spirits which were known to hover over us. Similar fatalities took place at the American Legation and at the Legation, with the same result.

had availed themselves of the quiet to throw up earthworks in the Carriage Park alongside the British Legation in the Mongol market between the British and Russian Legations, and at both ends of Legation street facing the Americans on the west and facing the French Legation corner on the east.

Complete Isolation. Our isolation was now complete, and the enemy's cordon was constantly drawing closer. Every way beyond the lines was looped. Not only was the besieged area cut off from all communication with the world outside Pekin, but it was cut off from all communication with the Pel-tang. No messenger could be induced for love or money to carry a message there. Bishop Fa-rier and his guards must have been exposed to the danger not only of rifle and cannon, but of fire and starvation. The small garrison detached from the Fu was known to be inadequately supplied with ammunition. It was known however, that the danger of the situation had long been foreseen.

Monseigneur Favier, who, speaking with unequalled authority, had weeks before the siege, valiantly urged his Minister to bring troops to Pekin. When the crisis became inevitable and Christian refugees poured into the city, the Bishop endeavored to buy arms and ammunition, so there was a hope that a joint force of Chinese and Europeans might be able to hold the position. So with stores. Large quantities of grain were stored in the Legation, but wheat sufficient for a siege for a garrison of 8,000 souls was not known. Their condition was a constant source of anxiety to the Europeans within the Legation. Watch was kept unceasingly for any sign of the disaster that seemed inevitable—the massacre and the conflagration.

Toward evening of the 28th a Krupp gun was mounted in the Mongol market occupied by Chinese troops, the walls being looped in the Legation. And all were so close that you could not look through a loophole without being shot at. Yet the American barricade, with its mixed guard of Americans, Russians and British, had to be held at all hazards; otherwise the Krupp gun could be brought down the wall and play havoc upon the Legation, the furthest of which—the British—was at its nearest point not 400 yards distant. Still more exposed than the American barricade was the outpost on the wall held by the Germans. French and Austrians, but the needs of the French Legation were equally pressing and the guards were with drawn and a small pocket of British sent to aid the Germans. Already the Germans had lost terribly, for the outpost was situated at a distance of 250 yards from the Legation, and the rifles were exposed throughout this distance to fire from a hundred snipers. One hundred yards in front of the German barricade was the Chinese barricade, picturesque with the

Banners of Lung Yu. Here was mounted a Krupp gun, from which shells burst over the German barricade, seriously wounding one of the six British who were there on guard. On the same day that this happened two Germans on guard at the barricade were shot through the head, but in some instances they were recovered—a fourth was wounded in the face by a shell, a fifth was shot through the thigh, and a sixth was wounded in the arm going to relieve guard were shot by snipers, one slightly, through the hand, the other fatally through the right leg—while, to crown the misfortunes of the day, Corporal Robert Goeltz, who lost the war medal given him only last year for an act of heroism at Kiao-chau, was shot through the head and died instantaneously. Altogether this day four men were killed and six wounded. During the night the position was held by eight Germans and three British. In the morning of July 1st the Chinese climbed up the ramp and surprised the guard. The order was hastily given to retire, and the picket, shaken by its losses of yesterday, left the wall. The German command was severely blamed for thus abandoning a position that he had been ordered to hold. Withdrawal left the American exposed to the rear. The British and German retired, and in a panic fell back to the Legation, rushing pell-mell down the ramp. Nothing had occurred at the barricade itself to justify the retreat, although two men had fallen within a few hours before. Yet the wall was the key of the position and had to be maintained. A conference was held at the British Legation, and as a result orders were given to return to the post. Captain Myers at once took back a strong detachment of fourteen Americans, ten British and ten Russians, and re-occupied the barricade as if nothing had happened. The Chinese, ignorant that the post had been evacuated, lost their opportunity.

Then the guard in the French Legation was driven a stage further back, and M. Wagner, a volunteer, was killed by the bursting of a shell. He was a young Frenchman of much courage and spirit, the Acting Postul Secretary in the Maritime Customs under Sir Robert Hart, with a career ahead of him of much promise. The son of a former Consul General at Shanghai, he was the first civilian to lay down his life in the defence of the Legation in Pekin.

A Gallant Sortie. It was a day of misfortunes. In the afternoon the most disastrous sortie of the siege was attempted. A Krupp gun was situated about 300 yards from the British Legation, and fire was opened upon a storied building occupied by marines in the south court of the Legation. Fired at short range, the shells crashed through the roof and walls. For an hour the bombardment con-

tinued, but no one was injured, though a crack racing pony in the parade below was killed the next day even. It was determined to capture this gun, so in the early morning a force consisting of 26 British, 10 Germans, 10 Russians, 5 French and 10 Chinese, about 20 volunteers made a sortie from the Legation to try and capture the gun and burn the houses covering it.

The Attempt Was a Fiasco. The men got tangled up in the lanes so that they were unable to use the keroseene torches used for lighting. There was a babel of voices, no one knew where to go, the captain lost his head, and the men retreated pell-mell. As the British marines described the operation: "The captain, 'e sez, 'garn boys, 'garn, change boys, change,' against a bloomin' 'ouse wall, 'e waves 'is bloomin' arms in the air and then he sets fire to the 'ouse behind us." This was a bungle. The Chinese, however, were alarmed.

Attack on the French Legation. French and German Legations and suffered heavily. The German Legation was especially exposed, and since the soldiers were more than their allies, disdaining of cover, the small band numbering originally only 50 men, was being daily reduced in numbers. Their commanding officer, Graf Soden, was retiring in his duty, working, as he had to do, single handed.

On the 26th the French Legation was hard pressed. One of its officers, the midshipman, Herbert, was shot. His movements were hastily sent from the Fu, and the attack was repulsed; but some of the outer buildings of the Legation were burned, and the French had to retire further into the Legation. In this siege it was striking what a powerful part petroleum was made to play. Already the French had more than any other Legation; of their 45 men 16 had been killed or wounded. Krupp gun had been mounted not 50 yards to the east of the French Legation. The pavilions were being gradually and systematically battered into ruins. All day now and until the cessation of hostilities shells were hurled into the Legation, into Chamo's hotel, and from the Chien Men on the wall promiscuously, everywhere. Much property was destroyed, but though the shells burst close to the Legation, the Chinese were marvellous, few people were hit.

A Day of Misfortunes. The Cordon was drawing closer. In the Fu many of the buildings had been abandoned and the Japanese retired to a second line of defence. Shells were fired by the hundred, and on the 29th a British Legation. The difficulty of holding the American and German barricades on the city wall was increasing. The position was a hole in the wall of the Krupp gun was brought close to the American barricade.

The Russo-Chinese Bank and all the buildings between the Prince's Palace, was a serious menace to our communications. Captain Frolin, the Italian officer, conceived the idea of capturing the bank and if the Japanese could give him the Russo-Chinese Bank and the Russo-Chinese Bank and the Russo-Chinese Bank. The Japanese under Colonel Shiba readily did so; they forced their way to a rendezvous on foot, lost one man killed and two wounded. Their sacrifice was fruitless; they waited, but the position being untenable, they retired.

Meanwhile a party of 16 Italians, four Austrians, two Frenchmen, seven British and six five British students, were led by Captain Frolin, and the Russo-Chinese Bank. He conceived that the gun was to the northeast of the Fu, to be reached by a lane running from Canal street opposite the British Legation eastward. No one knew that this was his conception. One hundred yards up this lane there was a high Chinese barricade; the houses on each side of the lane were held by the Chinese and looped. From a position occupied by Captain Frolin's men in the Hanlin Palace, the Chinese were to be taken in the rear and driven down the lane into the canal. Close to the barricade there was a hole in the wall of the Fu from which a previous attempt had been made to enter the lane. The Italian captain was ignorant of the existence of this hole, and the management of the British who were watching it from the Hanlin, the men were lined up under the wall opposite, and after waiting a little Captain Frolin called his men and drove up the lane. Wildly cheering, they followed him.

Into the Death-Trap. By the rush they were able to advance some distance before fire was opened upon them. Then rifles from behind the barricade and from the loopholes broke forth. The column recoiled, the men fired wildly into the air, the captain's arm fell powerless, two Italians fell dead. The men were turning to rush back when they saw the man-hole, and immediately the Italians and Austrians, who were leading, made a dash for it and fought like wild things opportunity.

Then the guard in the French Legation was driven a stage further back, and M. Wagner, a volunteer, was killed by the bursting of a shell. He was a young Frenchman of much courage and spirit, the Acting Postul Secretary in the Maritime Customs under Sir Robert Hart, with a career ahead of him of much promise. The son of a former Consul General at Shanghai, he was the first civilian to lay down his life in the defence of the Legation in Pekin.

his dash across he picked up a Lee- Metford rifle, which a marine had let fall.

Thus, by the effective sortie our position was reduced by three men killed, one officer and four men and one volunteer wounded. Fortunately it was no worse. The gun was captured and brought up again next day into play, and continued battering down the Fu walls. The enemy were working their way ever nearer to reach the Christians was appalling. They cursed them from over the wall, hurled stones and threw shells to explode overhead. Only after the armistice, when we received the Pekin Dispatch, did we find that word to burn out and slaughter the convicts had come from the highest quarters.

The Japanese were driven still further back. Already they had lost heavily for upon them had fallen the gallantry of which surpassed all praise. When the siege was raised it was found that the entire force of marines was wounded; one was wounded five times. Equally impressed were most of us with the courage and coolness under fire of the Chinese soldiers. One morning five of them were wounded going up the ramp to the American barricade. Without their assistance our advance would have been increased tenfold. Many were killed and wounded when working under fire. On July 2nd Mr. Kojima, an attaché of the Japanese Legation, was shot in the leg by a German marine. On the same day a German marine was shot dead while standing in the first secretary's room in the Legation. Another Japanese was shot in the leg while digging a grave in the British Legation. Shots fell everywhere. Twice within the British Legation a person was struck by a stray bullet.

Everyone worked at the defenses. One of the Ministers—such was the estimation of all to do something—offered his services to the British officer commanding. He volunteered to keep watch and watch by night, but his offer was hampered by qualifications. He was eager to do the work, but he had never handled a gun. His offer was not accepted, but the spirit which prompted him to make it was admired.

A Desperate Counter-Move.

At daybreak on July 3rd the Chinese barricade on the top of the wall near the American outpost was necessarily attacked by a party of British, Americans, and Russians, under the leadership of Captain Myers, Captain Vrombelevsky and Mr. Nigel Oliphant. It was a desperate and bloody fight, in the construction of the American barricade, which left the width of the bastion outside instead of within the American lines. The barricades faced each other at the distance of the width of the bastion, which was on the left. Then the Chinese, working with great cleverness, always keeping a cover up, across the bastion, until it curved round and reached the left-hand corner of the American lines. Then they began erecting a small fort, the centre of which was 25 feet from the centre of the nearest American picket. This position was impossible. It was imperative to rush the barricade and drive out the Chinese; nothing else could be done.

An attack was planned for 3 in the morning, and before dawn a force of British was sent over from the Legation. The combined force assembled for the attack consisted of 26 British marines and 15 volunteers. Many and Corporal Gregory, with Mr. Nigel Oliphant as volunteer, 15 Russians under Captain Vrombelevsky, and 17 Americans all being under the command of Captain Myers. When asked if they came willingly one American begged to be relieved and was sent home. This left the total force of 80 men, 15 of which were Chinese, that it was only a couple of jumps from our barricade to theirs.

There was a rush to be first over the top of the wall, and the volunteers charged behind the barricade. Taken by surprise, the Chinese fired into the air, and the combined force of British was sent over from the Legation. The combined force assembled for the attack consisted of 26 British marines and 15 volunteers. Many and Corporal Gregory, with Mr. Nigel Oliphant as volunteer, 15 Russians under Captain Vrombelevsky, and 17 Americans all being under the command of Captain Myers. When asked if they came willingly one American begged to be relieved and was sent home. This left the total force of 80 men, 15 of which were Chinese, that it was only a couple of jumps from our barricade to theirs.

Most of the shelling was now directed against the French and German Legations and Chamo's Hotel. The local was struck 91 times and several times set on fire, but the flames were extinguished. Work was done by the Chinese in the preparation for food had to be prepared there for half the community in Pekin. The energy of Chamo's Hotel was marvellous. He fed the troops and a crowd of Christian refugees, killed his own mules and horses, ground his own wheat, and baked 200 loaves a day. Shelled out of the kitchen he baked in the parlor. His courage inspired the Chinese, and they followed him under fire with an amazing confidence.

British Legation Hard-Pressed. Then suddenly a new attempt was made to reduce the British Legation. Guns firing round shot, 8-poumder and 4-poumder were mounted on the north the Hanlin and the British Legation. With glasses—the distance was only 370 yards—one could clearly see the British Legation. The Chinese were mounting on the walls of the dining-car and a number of the British Legation. Adjoining the battery an upper row of stones on the wall was raised to form loopholes for sharpshooters, who could shoot the Chinese from the roof of the British Legation. One picked out by the Chinese the portrait of the Queen. Two came crashing through the walls of a student's room where a few minutes before Sir Claude MacDonald had been standing watching the pre-

parations being made to bombard us. Another struck the room of a lady who was in bed and fell at her feet. Three batteries in all, carrying five guns, were mounted on the Imperial City wall, where the bombardment could be witnessed by the Empress Dowager and the courtiers. On the day after day round shot were thrown from them into the British Legation, into a compound crowded with women and children. This was what his Excellency Lord Feng-Luh was describing to Lord Salisbury as "giving effective protection to the British Legation."

On July 5 Mr. David Oliphant, of the British Legation, sustained. He was being a tree by the well in the Hanlin, when he was shot by a sniper concealed in a roof in the Imperial Carriage Park, and died within an hour.

The Chinese Pressing On.

Day by day the Chinese were pressing us more closely. In the Fu they were gradually wedging their way in northeast so as to cut the communications between the British and the Legations to the east. They burst their way from house to house, keeping under cover, they set the gables within reach by the roofs of cloth soaked in kerosene. Torch were beyond reach they threw over fireballs of kerosene, or if still further, shot into them with arrows freighted with burning cloth. In this way and with the use of the heavy gun, they battered a way through the houses and courtyards of the Prince's Palace. A during at the end of the Japanese to capture the gun resulted in failure. Coolies failed them when they were within four yards of success, and they were forced to retire. Their gallant leader, Captain Ando, was shot in the throat while waving on his men; one marine was seriously wounded, and one Christian volunteer killed. In the northeast corner of an artificial rocky were stationed a mixed force of 15 Italians and five Austrians. But the position was an exposed one, and they were constantly harassed by the Chinese. They were said to have no lack of spirit, but their forte was in attack. They lacked the dull, patient courage of the British. The British were always running away. On the 10th there was a sudden panic, the Japanese and Chinese positions was evacuated. The civilian in charge, Mr. Cantani, of the Italian Legation, acted with much courage and induced the Chinese to retreat. Five Austrians were sent away and British marines put in their places. Ever afterwards a British picket was kept there. The position was one of constant danger. The loss of the Legation would have imperilled the British Legation. A Krupp gun mounted fifty yards away had the range and raked the post with shell and shrapnel. To strengthen the breastwork, exposure to rifle fire was incurred from 20 yards distance, while to reach the post required a long and hot shot in the whole of the defenses. Many men were wounded there, and one Italian had his head blown off. Still further made it impossible to hold there. The advanced posts were abandoned, and the sentries fell back to the main picket. No sooner was the advanced post abandoned than it was occupied by the Chinese, and the defenses we had made were turned against us.

French and German Legations. Meanwhile, the French and German Legations were being roughly handled, and men were falling daily. At the German Legation shells burst through the Minister's drawing-room. Most of the other buildings, conspicuous by their height, were unimpaired, but every member of the Legation remained at his post. So, too, in the French Legation, where the Austrians were. Dr. and Madame von Rosthorn remained by the side of their men. Chinese and French were so close that the voices of the Chinese officers could be heard encouraging their men. Chinese were within the Legation itself. Their guns literally bombarded the Minister's residence, a bastion pointed to the breach. It was quick work, smartly and bravely done, but the position could not have been held. Before, however, any casualties occurred a curious thing happened. At the fifth round when the gun was fired a mass of bricks and earth were thrown outward. A while before had been formed by the bursting of the gun or by the wave of concussion, and the gun was silent.

A Day of Heavy Losses.

July 11th was a day of many casualties. One German was mortally wounded, one Englishman, one Italian and one Japanese were seriously wounded. Mr. Nigel Oliphant, a volunteer, received a bullet wound in the leg, while Mr. Narahara, the Japanese secretary of the Japanese Legation, wounded by the bursting of a shell, suffered a compound fracture of the leg, which from the first gave cause for anxiety. On the 24th Mr. Narahara was a brilliant Chinese scholar. He was formerly private secretary to Marquis Ito and was present at the peace negotiations in Shimonoeki in 1895.

He was universally respected. In a reckless attempt to capture a Chinese banner three Frenchmen were wounded, one of them, M. Gruniguet, fatally. He was an engineer on the Lohan Railway, who had escaped from the burning of the Chang Hsin Tien before the outbreak of hostilities. Chinese banners, indeed, hung temptingly close to every outpost. One morning we were to find one waving from a sandbag shelter in the carriage walk over the very wall of the British Legation. No marine could suffer such an affront. During the day Sgt. Preston of the Orlando, with two volunteers mounted the wall, shot two soldiers who were on guard behind the sandbags, while the latter seized the flag and hauled it into the compound. On the 11th 15 prisoners were captured by the French in a temple near the Legation. They were soldiers and a Chinese Christian given information as to their whereabouts. Every one of them was put to death without mercy in the French Legation, bayoneted by a French corporal to save cartridges. Questioned before death they gave much information that was obviously false. One man, however, declared that a mine was being driven under the French Legation. His story had a quick corroboration. As the afternoon of the 13th was closing a faint attack was made on the Japanese entrenchments in the Fu. The sound of the bugles was heard from the camps round the French Legation, to be followed in a few minutes by

A Terrible Explosion.

and in a moment or two by another, and bricks and debris were hurled into the air. It was a dull roar in the distance, which the Chinese, shrieking like spirits in pain, the rattle of musketry and the boom of heavy guns. The mine of which the prisoner had warned us had exploded and burst an entrance into the French Legation. When the first mine exploded the French Captain Darcy, the gentlemanly and gallant French marines and Mr. Destlin, of the Customs, were standing over the death trap. Mr. Destlin was hurled up to the neck, but was rescued unhurt. The two marines were engulfed, and their bodies were never recovered. Capt. Darcy and Dr. von Rosthorn escaped miraculously. The latter was carried by the first explosion and released unhurt a moment or two later by the second. The buildings they left were set fire to and the ruins were occupied by the Chinese, and when the flames had burnt out imperial banners were hoisted over the ruins of what had once been the residence of the French Minister. And while this tragedy was making, a courier in Pekin the Chinese Ambassador in Paris was assuring the President that his Government was "protecting" the French Legation and "providing its staff with food." Simultaneously with this attack upon the French Legation the Chinese made a determined assault upon the German Legation. The effective strength of the Chinese garrison numbered only one officer and thirty-one men. They broke into the club alongside the Legation, and were on the tennis ground when Count Soden and a handful of German soldiers gallantly charged them at the point of the bayonet and drove them out headlong.

Reinforcements of nine Russians and five German volunteers, under Herr von Strauch, came up at the double, but their services were not needed. The attack was over. The forms on the dead Chinese showed that the attack had been carried out by the

Troops of Yung Lu.

reinforced by the savages of Tung-shih. Some of the men were armed with the latest pattern Mausers and the newest German army revolver. Some ammunition, of which the guards were in much need, was recovered from the Chinese among the Japanese and Italians. A Chinese Communication. On July 14th, a messenger sent out on the 10th, with a letter for the troops, returned to the British Legation. He had been arrested by the Chinese, cruelly beaten, and taken, he said, to the Yamen of Yung Lu, and there given the following letter, purporting to be from the Legation to Chinese and others, addressed to the British Minister. It was the first communication of any kind whatsoever that had reached us from outside for nearly one month.

"For the last ten days the soldiers and militia have been fighting and there has been no communication between us, and our great anxiety. Some time ago we lay up a board, expressing our intentions, but no answer has been received, and contrary to expectation, the foreign soldiers made renewed attacks, causing alarm and suspicion among soldiers and people.

"Yesterday the troops captured a covert named Chin Szechai and learned from him that the foreign Ministers were well, which caused us very great satisfaction.

"But at the time of leaving the Legation, the reinforcements of foreign troops were long ago stopped and turned back by the Boxers and if, in accordance with previous agreement, we were to guard your Excellencies out of the city, there are so many Boxers on the road to Tien Tsin and Taku that we should be apprehensive of misadventure.

"We now request your Excellencies to first take your families and the various members of your staffs, and leave your Legations in detachments. We should select trustworthy officials to give close and strict protection, and you should temporarily reside in the Tsungli-Yamen, pending future arrangements for your return home, in order to preserve friendly relations intact from Beijing to end.

"But at the time of leaving the Legations there must on no account whatever be taken any single armed soldier, in order to avoid doubt and fear on the part of the troops and people, leading untoward incidents.

"If your Excellencies are willing to show this kindness we beg you to communicate with all the foreign Ministers in Pekin, to-morrow at noon being the limit of time, and to let the original messenger deliver the reply in order that we may settle the day for leaving the Legations.

"This is the single way of preserving friendly relations which we have been able to devise in the face of insuperable difficulties. If no reply is received by the time fixed, even our affection would not enable us to help you. Complications will be present at the peace July 14, 1900.