

authorities showed a disposition to trifle with us, the brethren thought it better for me to proceed to Tien-tsin without delay and interview the British consul there. Owing to favoring circumstances I have got out ahead of my letter to you and now open the envelope to say that to-day the Consul, Mr. Brennan, saw the Viceroy, Li Hung Chang, about our affair, and as a result that powerful statesman has promised to instruct the Governor of Honan sternly to protect us. The general situation in China, I was relieved to be informed by the Consul, is now such as ought not to cause further alarm.

But we dare not lean on the arm of flesh, underneath us are the Everlasting Arms.

Yours again in haste,

J. H. MACVICAR.

#### LETTER FROM REV. JOHN McDUGALL.

##### THE RIOTS IN HONAN.

DEAR MR. CASSELS:—Your faithful correspondent, Mr. MacVicar, has left for the coast and as you must be anxious to hear from Hsin Chen at present, I send you a line.

It is now ten days since the riot and we are still in quiet possession of our barricaded compound. Mr. MacGillivray's visit to the Hsin magistrate was not productive of any good result. Two runners from the Yamen arrived last night bearing only an order to drive the beggars away. A proclamation has not been issued nor has any action been taken about those who incited the tumult. Forseeing this Mr. MacGillivray returned from Hsun Hsien last Monday and on Tuesday morning before daylight Mr. MacVicar left by cart to lay the matter personally before the Consul.

We can now look back upon the riot with more calmness than when the excitement it caused was still fresh upon us, and we feel assured that the disturbance, though doubtless sinister enough in its purpose, was not so serious as we at first supposed. Our landlord was evidently one of the leaders and this is a serious feature as it touches our future relations with him. The mob were thoroughly under control of the leaders and held back by a strong hand from going beyond a certain point. Instructions had evidently been given not to injure property, and we now believe not to inflict any bodily injury upon our two brothers. It was probably simply an attempt to levy blackmail, with perhaps the hope that in future the threat of a similar disturbance would force us to carry on all business transactions through those who incited it and at their extortionate prices.

The fear upon the people still continues and the form it has taken helps to confirm us in this view. During the last few days Dr. Smith has been entreated by some of those most deeply involved to open the compound and receive

patients in order to quiet the abominable stories told on the street about us. Accordingly we have masons at work preparing a room in which he can treat patients without giving access to the compound proper. Since making this purpose known we have had several offers of materials and workmen, though before the riot Mr. MacVicar found it almost impossible to secure either.

Our arrival at the very hour we were most needed was evidently providential. Our boat captain for some reasons of his own had made up his mind to reach a certain town on the way in time to remain over night, and for two days we chafed at the slow progress of the boat even during favorable winds. But now we see there was a guiding hand in this, for our arrival earlier would not have averted the riot, whereas occurring at the moment it did may have prevented the booty secured, whetting their appetites for more.

And I do not think all of us will soon forget the lesson we received of the power of prayer, for our request that all should withdraw while we knelt before "the one True Father of Heaven" brought an awe upon the crowd and proved the turning point in our favor. We rose from our knees already assured that deliverance was at hand.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN MACDUGALL.

HSIN CHEN, HONAN, NOV. 9, 1891.

#### LETTER FROM THE REV. DONALD MCGILLIVRAY.

The following is a strictly private letter, written by Mr. McGillivray to his own brother. Its publication is all our fault, but we trust he will pardon the liberty we have taken.

HSIN CHEN, CHINA,

Nov. 7, 1891.

MY DEAR BROTHER:

I will begin at once by saying that since the fracas on the 29th October we have all been well and our spirits have been quite high, with the exception of a few days just after the 29th, when we did not know to what the thing would grow. We all think that we shall be unmolested in the future, especially as they all know that Mr. McVicar has gone to Tientsin to lay the matter before the Consul. While the Chin Wang case was in that position there was no danger that any further trouble should arise, so set your mind at rest about us. There are three foreigners which gives good company. The outsiders, including the landlord, a deep dyed villain, are thoroughly scared. Carpenter work goes on as usual, even masons will probably be set at work on Monday on the street walls.

I propose giving you this time a detailed account of events from the 29th inclusive.

On that day I had been busy in the forenoon writing and had finished. Just then the helper