

Peking After the Siege

some of them, pretend to be kind to us, but when trouble comes all nations unite to beat us down. The Boxers were cruel, but we have had great wrongs. We don't want you in our country, and if you come in spite of us you must take what treatment we give you, just as the brethren from the Four Seas have to do when they go to your land. We are helpless now, but the day will come when we will be more powerful, and then we will try again, and do what we failed in this time. As I said, the Boxers may have been cruel, but they are not lustful, as foreign devils are."

And while the men stared blankly at one another before this charge, Li had flung himself out of the room.