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FOREIGN-OFFICE, November 3, 1860.

THE following Despatches have been received at the Foreign-Office from the Earl of Elgin, Her Majesty's High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary in China:—

Steam Sloop Grenada,
Pehtang, August 20, 1860.

MY LORD, (Received Nov. 2, 8.15 p.m.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose translations of three Despatches which I have received from the Governor-General of this province, with a copy of my reply.

The rapidity with which these missives succeed each other is evidence of the desire of the Chinese authorities to arrest our military operations.

It was not in my power to reply with corresponding celerity, because I thought it right, before so doing, to confer not only with Vice-Admiral Hope, who is on the spot, but also with Lieutenant-General Sir Hope-Grant, at the head-quarters of the Army, and with Baron Gros, whose residence is at the anchorage in the Gulf.

No reference is made in these Despatches to the demands conveyed in Mr Bruce's ultimatum.

It is of course impossible to listen to overtures which are marked by so significant an omission.

Moreover, I think it important, after all that has occurred, that the occupation of the Peiho Forts by our military force, and the opening up of the river to Tientsin, should precede any serious negotiations for the re-establishment of peace; and with this view I have deemed it my duty to signify to the Commanders-in-Chief my anxious desire that they will expedite to the utmost their measures for effecting these objects.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

The Lord John Russell,
&c., &c., &c.

Hang, Governor-General of Chih Li, &c., makes a communication.

WHEREAS the Powers along the seas that trade with, or while they trade with China, are always held to be at peace with her; since the arrival of the British Minister he has been daily moving troops (or engaged in hostilities), the Governor-

General cannot say with what intention. Himself looking up and identifying himself with His Majesty the Emperor's bounteous love for all living souls, on the receipt of the British Minister's communication he at once acquainted His Majesty with the truth (or made true report of its contents to His Majesty), and he has this day the honour to receive an Imperial Decree to the effect that His Majesty the Emperor has appointed a Minister to await in the Capital the British Minister's arrival there, in order that they may confer together.

In obedience to His Majesty's Decree [the Governor-General] makes this communication, to which he hopes [the British Minister] will be so good as to reply.

A necessary communication addressed to His Excellency Lord Elgin, &c.

Hien Fung, 10th year, 6th moon, 28th day—
14th August 1860.

Translated by
(Signed) THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

Hang, Governor-General of Chih Li, &c., makes a communication.

On the 28th instant (14th August) the Governor-General, as the records show, wrote to apprise the British Minister that he had had the honour to receive an Imperial Decree to the effect that His Majesty had appointed a high officer to await in the Capital the arrival of the British Minister to confer with him and settle matters.

The officer sent in with this, on his return, reported that a white flag was flying in the British camp, shewing a desire for the suspension of hostilities (or indicating an intention to suspend hostilities). Evidence so complete of the British Minister's desire to maintain friendly relations unbroken, is extremely gratifying.

Although it was not the Governor-General who negotiated the Treaty of the 8th year (1858) with the British Minister, still, as His Majesty has been so good as to appoint a Minister to await the British Minister's arrival in the Capital, negotiations could at once be entered on.

It will doubtless be right however, now that peace is solidly established between

