

Nations, that arms should be laid aside for evermore. As soon as the Governor-General shall receive the British Minister's reply, he will send an officer to learn what day it will suit him to fix for an interview at which everything may be discussed.

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

Hien Fung, 10th year, 6th moon, 29th day, August 15, 1860.

Translated by THOMAS WADE,  
Chinese Secretary.

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

THE Governor-General has twice addressed the British Minister, and has as yet received no reply.

On the 13th instant (16th August), about the hour of eight, he had the honour to receive an Imperial Decree to the effect that "His Majesty had instructed an Imperial Commissioner to proceed [to this place] to negotiate, and that he will arrive immediately; respect this!"

It becomes his duty to communicate this to the British Minister, who, he trusts, will instruct the Military and Naval Commanders-in-Chief to suspend hostile operations, and so prevent any loss on either side, as this might occasion a breach of friendly relations.

He therefore writes a necessary communication addressed to His Excellency the Earl of Elgin, &c.

Hien Fung, 10th year, 6th moon, 30th day, August 16, 1860.

Translated by THOMAS WADE,  
Chinese Secretary.

The undersigned, the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in China, has received three Despatches from His Excellency the Governor-General of Chih Li, under date respectively the 14th, 15th, and 16th instant.

The Governor-General announces, first, the appointment of a high officer, who is to await the arrival of the undersigned in Pekin, subsequently the immediate approach of an Imperial Commissioner, and requests him to call on the Commander-in-Chief of Her Britannic Majesty's Forces to desist from further hostilities.

In his Despatch of the 8th instant the undersigned apprized the Governor-General that the Military and Naval Commanders-in-Chief had been called upon to act in consequence of the unsatisfactory reply given by the Great Council to the demands of the British Minister, conveyed in his letter to the Council in March last, they are engaged in taking possession of the Taku Forts, and opening up a passage for the undersigned to Tientsin; until this object shall have been accomplished, and sufficient assurances given of the resolution of the Chinese Government to concede the points demanded in the letter in question, the undersigned cannot call on the Military and Naval Commanders-in-Chief to suspend their operations.

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

Tientsin, August 26, 1860.

MY LORD,

(Received Nov. 2, 8'15 p.m.)

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a Despatch to me from the Governor-General of the Province of Chih Li, which was sent on board Admiral Hope's vessel when he reached this place on the 24th instant; also of a Despatch to me from Häng and Wän, announcing the appointment of Kweiliang, with whom I negotiated the Treaty of 1858, and Hang Fuh, the Governor-General of the Province of Chih Li, to be Imperial Commissioners to treat with me at Tientsin.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

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

Hang, a President of the Board of War, Governor-General of the Province of Chih Li, makes this communication:—

I BEG to inform you that I, having in the first instance retired from Taku to Tientsin, have now caused to be withdrawn from the latter place all the troops forming its garrison, and also to be removed the guns from all the batteries. As we are now establishing friendly relations between our two countries, I hope that when your Excellency comes to Tientsin you will not bring many vessels of war, which I fear might excite alarm in the minds of the inhabitants; to this end I address you.

A communication.

To His Excellency the Earl of Elgin,  
&c., &c., &c.

Hien Fung, 10th year, 7th month, 7th day,  
(August 23d, 1860.)

Wan, by Imperial appointment Minister Resident of Sening, and Hang, by Imperial appointment Minister Controller-General of the Household, &c., &c., makes this communication:—

Translation.

ON the 9th day of the seventh month (25th August), we received at Tientsin an Imperial Decree dated the 8th day of the month, in the following terms:—

We hereby appoint Kweiliang and Hang Fuh Imperial High Commissioners. Let Kweiliang proceed by express to join his colleague, and transact business.

Respect this.

On the same day we received another Decree, as follows:—

Let Hang-ki remain at Tientsin, to transact business under the orders of Kweiliang and Hang Fuh. Wantsun is to come immediately to the Capital. Respect this.

We make known the above to your Excellency, and we request that you will await the arrival of His Excellency Kwei, Imperial High Commissioner, and a Member of the Council, who is to come to Tientsin, and in concert with His Excellency Hang, Imperial High Commissioner and Governor-General of the Province of Chih Li, conduct negotiations with your Excellency.

This is important.

A communication.

To the Earl of Elgin, &c.

Hien-Fung, 10th year, 7th moon, 9th day.