

EXTRACT of a Despatch from the Earl of Elgin
to Lord John Russell.

Steam Sloop Grenada,
Tientsin, August 26, 1860.

(Received Nov. 2, 8-15 P.M.)

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I arrived last night at this place.

My Despatches inclose translations of several communications which I have received from the Chinese functionaries.

A perusal of these various documents will I think satisfy your Lordship that the Emperor of China desires peace, although he has not quite yet made up his mind to concede all that I am instructed to demand. His reluctance to do so will no doubt be surmounted in due time.

Vice-Admiral Hope and Lieutenant-General Sir H. Grant have exerted themselves to the utmost to prevent the calamities of war from falling with severity on the peaceable inhabitants of the country. This course is recommended by policy, as well as by humanity; for here, as in other parts of China, the people, when unmolested, prove to be the most useful purveyors for the wants of the army.

The Cavalry Brigade, consisting of two squadrons of King's Dragoon Guards, and Fane's and Probyn's horse, with Stirling's 6-pounder battery, have just arrived. They performed the journey from Peiho to this place by land. Mr Wade, who, at my request, accompanied them, reports that their march has been most prosperous; that the people, though greatly alarmed at their appearance, took heart when they found that they were not maltreated, and offered readily for sale such supplies as the country affords.

Lieutenant-General Sir Hope Grant has found a suitable encampment for them in the vicinity of the town.

The persons (gentry of this place) who were appointed to procure supplies for Sang Kolinsin's army, have, at Mr Parkes's instance, undertaken to perform that service for us.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

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

Tientsin,

August 26, 1860.

MY LORD,

(Received Nov. 2, 8-15 P.M.)

I HAVE the honour to enclose the copy of a very interesting Report which I have received from Mr Parkes, who, at my request accompanied Vice-Admiral Hope when he advanced upon Tientsin, on the 23d instant, and who has, since the Admiral's departure, been rendering the most useful services in making arrangements for the reception of the Allied troops and Ambassadors at this place.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

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

Tientsin,

August 26, 1860.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to make the following Report to your Lordship of particulars which have come

under my notice during the proceedings of the last three days.

After quitting your Lordship on the morning of the 23d instant, I joined Admiral Hope, who proceeded up the Peiho in his tender, the Coromandel, accompanied by a division of 5 gun-boats. At half-past 2 P.M. the forts of Shwangkeang were passed, and found to be deserted. The people of the various villages on the banks of the river turned out to look at the steamers as they passed along, and far from evincing any feeling of hostility, gave proof of their good-will in hauling, entirely of their own accord, at the hawsers or ropes that had occasionally to be landed, and also in bringing fresh fruit and vegetables to the boats that were sent ashore on this service.

At 7 P.M. our small squadron anchored at a point 10 miles below Tientsin, and I had an opportunity of conversing with a number of respectable persons, who represented themselves as a deputation sent by the people of the city to pay their respects to the Allied Commanders. From them I learned that the authorities entertained no idea of defending the extensive works recently thrown up by Sang Kolinsin for the defence of Tientsin, and that both garrison and guns had been withdrawn. That Sang Kolinsin himself had passed by the place the previous day, (or within twenty-four hours of his abandonment of the Southern Peiho Forts,) but only with a small body of one or two hundred jaded horsemen, and that he himself was too dispirited to enter the city. The Viceroy, Hang Fuh, they said, had also arrived from Takoo this day at noon.

Admiral Hope having determined, upon receipt of this intelligence, to occupy Tientsin with the small force he had with him, the gun-boats pushed on the following morning, and having landed parties of Marines at the two forts which commanded the approach to Tientsin, arrived off the city about 9 A.M. Several subordinate officers came off with polite messages from their superiors, in reply to which the Admiral requested the Viceroy to come himself to the Coromandel. His Excellency complied without hesitation, and was accompanied by Hang-ke and Wantsenen, the officers commissioned by the Emperor to escort your Lordship to Peking. Admiral Hope informed them that they must consider Tientsin to be in possession of the Allied Forces; that the people would be scrupulously protected, and the civil authorities allowed to remain in the exercise of their functions, and he shewed them a Proclamation which I had prepared, by his direction, for the purpose of apprising the people of this change in their position. The Viceroy and his companions made an ineffectual attempt to induce Admiral Hope to regard them as the governors of the city, but a reference made by them to Canton led the Admiral to observe that the situation of the two cities and of their respective native authorities must be considered parallel. While this interview was proceeding, a party of Marines had taken possession of, and hoisted the English and French flags on the east gate of the city, and the above-mentioned Proclamation was posted in the same public thoroughfare.

The Admiral having desired me to remain at Tientsin and to act with Captain McCleverty as occasion might require, I proceeded to inform myself of the condition of the city. Having found out the temporary residence of the Viceroy and Commissioners, I had a long and friendly conversation with them on the position of affairs, my object being to make it plain to them, that the