

Chinese Government had it in their power to arrest the progress of hostilities—hostilities which they, by their faithless acts, had entirely brought upon themselves—by agreeing unconditionally to the terms of your Lordship's letter to the Viceroy of the 17th instant, and that delay in doing so was full of peril to them. The Viceroy told me that he had forwarded that letter to Peking the moment he had received it, but no further instructions had reached him on the subject. I pointed out that, during the short intervening period, all the Takoo forts and Tientsin had fallen, and that our army was now on the march,—remarks which led them to offer many personal assurances of their wish for the restoration of peace, &c.

Having knowledge that a committee of supply had been formed by Sang Kolinsin at Tientsin, to assist him in his operations, I requested the Viceroy to direct the native gentry who compose this committee to act as a board for the supply of our troops with fresh provisions, and before the evening had closed in I had the satisfaction of arranging with several members of this committee the manner in which large supplies of bullocks, sheep, fruit, and vegetables, were to be brought in for our use.

The following morning, the 25th, the first supply of provisions that had been ordered was punctually delivered, and the committee rendered me further assistance in a search which I then made for suitable quarters for your Lordship, and undertook the repair of another building which may be required for the public service. At an interview which I had with the Commissioner Hang-ke, he showed me an Imperial Edict, dated the previous day (24th), appointing Kweiliang and Hang Fuh (the Viceroy) to be Imperial Commissioners for the transaction of business with your Lordship, and ordering the former to travel by post to Tientsin. I spent the greater part of this day in visiting many of the streets of the city, and the country around it; and wherever I went, although I was unaccompanied by any guard, the people received me in a very friendly manner, and evinced but little alarm at the new state of things. I observed that women were being taken out of the city; but bullocks, droves of sheep, forage, &c., were being brought in, and most of the shops remain open. At one place, Peitsang, five miles from Tientsin, 300 or 400 of the villagers set themselves willingly to work, by my desire, to clear out some granaries which I thought might be required for the accommodation of our troops.

I have noticed that the Viceroy has removed from the streets, as I requested him to do, the recent hostile Proclamations of Sang Kolinsin. But one met my notice, issued only six days ago, in which the people are informed that the Allies have been defeated, and we are now suing for peace, and that therefore the people need not be alarmed, nor remove from the city.

This morning I again had occasion to see the Commissioner, Hang-ke, and he showed me an Imperial Edict depriving Sang Kolinsin of his three-eyed peacock's feather, his honorary position in the body-guard, and his command-in-chief of the Manchoo-bordered blue banner. The Edict characterises the above as a "light punishment."

I have, &c.,

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

The Earl of Elgin & Kincardine.

French Head-Quarters,
Tungko, Peiho River,
August 25, 1860.

(Extract.)

MY LORD,

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

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Allied Forces are in possession of the Peiho Forts, and that the river is now open up to Tientsin, whither it is the intention of the Commanders-in-Chief to proceed immediately, each with 1000 men and a battery of artillery. The remainder of the Allied Forces to move up to some eligible ground within about 16 miles of Tientsin.

In consequence of the heavy rains the troops were unable to leave Pehtang until the morning of the 12th of August, when a force of 2000 French and English, with two batteries of artillery, marched along the causeway to attack the Chinese entrenched camps, situated about five miles from Pehtang; General Janvrin's division followed. Sir Robert Napier's division previously moved to the right by a sort of cross road, which was supposed eventually to diverge towards the same direction. On arriving within range of the first camp, the artillery opened, and soon drove the Tartar's cavalry, &c., out of it. The same with the second. Whilst this was going on a large body of Tartar cavalry came down, and actually rode within 200 yards of Sir Robert Napier's artillery. The infantry opened fire, our cavalry charged and dispersed them, causing them considerable loss.

General de Montauban then marched a force with artillery along a causeway, to attack what appeared to be a large entrenched camp close to the river Peiho; but, upon opening fire, found that nothing could be effected from the causeway, the ground on either side being impracticable; he sounded the retreat, and encamped his force on the ground between the two entrenched camps taken in the morning.

Monday was employed in building bridges, &c., over the various creeks. On Tuesday morning a division of each force, with its artillery, the English to the right, and the French to the left, marched to the attack of the entrenched camp above-mentioned.

The artillery opened, and gradually approached to within 400 yards, silenced the fire of the Chinese guns, the infantry with difficulty crossed two big ditches, scaled the walls, and captured the camp and villages of Tungko. Sir R. Napier took up his quarters in the place with his division. The French marched back to their camp. The losses in killed and wounded were slight on the part of the Allies, the total not exceeding 20.

On the 15th instant, the Emperor's fête day, salutes were fired.

The time was employed till the 18th in getting up provisions, building various bridges, the tide constantly flooding the whole country, and in fixing upon a spot for one to be built over the Peiho, where the French Engineer, having crossed the river with two companies of Chasseurs to reconnoitre the ground on the other side, was attacked by the Tartar cavalry, and a fire of gingalls, &c., opened upon him. The Chasseurs drove away the cavalry, and more troops having crossed the river the Chinese withdrew.

The construction of the bridge immediately commenced. Sunday and Monday nights were employed by Sir Robert Napier in throwing up batteries, &c., and on Tuesday the 21st, about 5 A.M., a force of 1500 English and 1000 French, with all the heavy guns which could be brought up, commenced the attack of the forts.

The Chinese being the first to open fire. The firing of our artillery, English and French, was