

in the interior. It would take some days to get them all back, and he had heard that four or five of them had sickened and died. Those in Pekin numbered eight in all, inclusive of Mr. Loch and myself; and we were all to be sent out together.

At last, at two o'clock, he told us that all the prisoners had been assembled, and that we could take our departure. We were placed in covered carts, without being allowed to see each other, and were escorted by a large party of soldiers and Mandarins through streets which wore a deserted appearance to the Se-che, or north-western gate of the city. We soon saw, with thankful hearts, as those great portals opened, and then immediately closed behind us, that we were already free men, for our guard, not daring to follow us out of the city, had left to ourselves the pleasant task of finding our own way to the Allied Camp.

I must not close this report without endeavouring to express my gratitude to your Lordship for the firm and uncompromising manner in which you insisted, from the first, upon our surrender, and which, under the blessing of Divine Providence, has mainly contributed to our liberation. Nor should I omit to acknowledge the great debt I also owe to my fellow-prisoner, Mr. Loch, for the warm support I invariably received from him whenever a moment of trial or of danger presented itself.

I have, &c.,  
HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure 1.

*Mr. Parkes to his Excellency the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, K.T., G.C.B., &c., &c.*

*Pekin, October 1, 1860.*

THE Chinese Authorities have requested the Undersigned to state to your Lordship, that it is the wish of their Government to open negotiations with the Allies; and that looking to what has passed, and the distrust which it is feared exists now on both sides, they desire that some neutral spot between the positions at present held by the respective armies, may be selected for this purpose, where deputies on the part of the Chinese and the Allies may meet, and arrange, it is hoped, the preliminaries of a permanent peace. They consider that while these negotiations between the deputies are being carried on, and in order to afford the necessary facilities for these negotiations, hostilities should be entirely suspended on both sides.

(Signed) HARRY S. PARKES.

Inclosure No. 2.

*Mr. Wade to Mr. Parkes.*

MY DEAR PARKES, *October 4, 1860.*

WE received this morning letters from Loch and yourself. Lord Elgin has read your note stating that the Chinese authorities are willing to send a deputy to meet one from us at some neutral spot, to arrange the preliminaries of peace. Lord Elgin has proposed this over and over again, but he has also insisted upon your being given up at the same time, as the deputy comes forward. He fully commends your efforts to bring about an

arrangement, and he is greatly struck by your magnanimity in making no allusion to your own release. He is, however, quite clear on this point, you and others have been seized under a flag of truce. This was not only a violence done to you, but an offence to our national honour, and it is impossible for him to commence negotiations with any Chinese officer, so long as you are detained by the Chinese Government. No Chinese deputy, therefore, will do any good, unless, when he comes, he brings you all with him. On the other hand, if the Chinese Government continues to detain you, hostilities will certainly continue; and if, in the course of hostilities, any damage befall any of you, Pekin will be destroyed. Our heavy guns are up, and we can burn Pekin from one end to the other without the loss of a man. If Pekin falls, of course there is an end of this dynasty. The news from the south is bad. The rebels have occupied all the country from Soochow to Hangchow, and if they attack Hangchow they are certain to take it.

Ever yours, &c.,  
(Signed) T. WADE.

*French Head Quarters, near  
North Gate, Pekin.*

MY LORD, *October 26, 1860.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 10th instant a letter was sent to the authorities in Pekin, by the two Commanders-in-chief, in which they demanded that the North Gate, opposite to where the French army is encamped, should be given up to be occupied by a force of 200 French and English soldiers. In the event of refusal the walls to be breached, and the city entered by force. Whereas, if the authorities agreed to the demand, the troops would be prevented from entering the city, and no pillaging would be allowed.

Up to 12 o'clock p.m. on Saturday, the 13th instant was given for reply.

The Commander-in-chief immediately ordered batteries to be erected and armed, within a short distance of the city walls, in case of refusal.

On Friday evening an answer was received from the city authorities, in which they agreed to give up the gate in question, but it does not appear that the Chinese Government had anything to say in the matter. Arrangements having been made early on Saturday, the 13th instant, a force of 200 French and English took peaceable possession of the gate at 12 p.m. on that day.

In the meantime, intelligence of the death of several of the prisoners arrived, some of them having died, I grieve to say, under the savage ill-treatment they had experienced.

The bodies of Mr. de Norman, Lieut. Anderson, Mr. Bowlby (correspondent of the *Times*) one English soldier, and 12 Sikhs have been sent in, also those of Colonel Grandchamp, M. Ader, Intendant Dubut, and 3 French soldiers. All are now accounted for, 13 Sikhs having returned alive, excepting Captain Brabazon, R. A., Abbé Deluc, and a French soldier, but there is every reason to suppose they were murdered after the failure of the treacherous affair of the 18th of September.

The interment of the English bodies received took place in the Russian cemetery, outside of the north wall, on the morning of the 17th of Octo-