

Ireland, to retain a force until the indemnity of eight millions of taels, guaranteed in Article III, shall have been paid.

Done at Peking, in the Court of the Board of Ceremonies, on the 24th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

(L.S.) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

Signature of the Chinese Plenipotentiary.

War-Office, December 28, 1860.

MAJOR the Honourable A. Anson arrived yesterday evening with a despatch, addressed to Mr. Secretary Herbert by Lieutenant-General Sir J. Hope Grant, G.C.B., Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in China, of which the following is a copy :

No. 56. *Head Quarters, before Peking,*
 SIR, *October 22, 1860.*

IN my despatch, No. 46 of the 20th September, I had the honour to report the illegal capture, by the Chinese, on the 18th of that month, of several officers and soldiers who had accompanied Mr. Parkes to Tungchau, when he went there to meet the Chinese Commissioners.

I have since reported the return of Messrs. Parkes and Loch, and of one Sikh soldier, on the 8th October, and of eight more Sikhs on the 12th October.

I have now to report that, on the 14th instant, two more Sikhs were brought back, the Chinese declaring that they were the last survivors of those who had been taken prisoners.

To prove their assertion, they brought out to us the bodies of Lieutenant R. B. Anderson, of Fane's Horse ; Private John Phipps, King's Dragoon Guards ; Mr. de Norman, of Her Majesty's Legation ; Mr. Bowlby, Times' Correspondent in China ; and eight Sikhs.

This accounts for all of those who are missing, except Captain Brabazon, Royal Artillery, and of him I cannot at present obtain any tidings, but I fear that there can be no doubt but that he is dead.

It appears from the statements of the surviving Sikhs, that after Messrs. Parkes and Loch had quitted the party, on the 18th September, to speak to Sangolinsin, as detailed in my despatch of the 9th instant, the Chinese crowded round them in great numbers to disarm them.

The position in which they found themselves precluded any attempt to cut their way out with any chance of success, upon which Lieutenant Anderson very properly determined to trust to the protection of the flag of truce, and ordered the sowars to make no resistance. They were accordingly disarmed and taken to the rear, being permitted to retain their horses. They halted for the night at a joss-house between

Tungchau and Peking ; and the following morning Captain Brabazon and the Abbé Duluc (a French Missionary who spoke Chinese) were taken out and sent back, ostensibly for the purpose of communicating with the Allied Commanders. The remainder of the party, being again mounted on their own horses, were taken through Peking to Yuen-Ming-Yuen, where they arrived soon after midday. Up to this time they had been very well treated, but about an hour after their halt at the palace they were called out one by one, thrown on their faces, and their hands and feet tied together behind their backs. In this state they were left, without food or drink, for three days. On the 22nd September the Chinese, probably fearing, after our victory of the previous day, that we should advance and recapture their prisoners, took them out, and, dividing them into four parties, placed them in carts, with their hands still bound, and drove them off to four small hill fortresses, varying from twenty to forty miles from Peking.

I beg to append a statement showing how these parties were divided, and which of the prisoners died in captivity.

Of the cause of their death there can be no doubt ; the survivors of each party tell the same sad tale, of how they remained with their hands tightly bound with cords until mortification ensued, and they died. The whole party would have doubtless shared the same fate, had not their cords been cut on the ninth day, or thereabouts.

Messrs. Parkes, Loch, and their Sikh orderly, more fortunate than their companions, were confined in the common prison of Peking, and laid in irons for several days, a far more merciful treatment than that vouchsafed to the rest of the party.

I cannot conclude this report without adverting to the loss Her Majesty's service has sustained in Captain Brabazon, Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant Anderson, of Fane's Horse. The former, an officer of much professional ability, had proved himself to be an excellent officer in the field also, by his energy and intelligence whilst serving through the present campaign as Deputy Assistant-Quartermaster-General of Artillery.

The latter was Adjutant of his regiment, and had earned for himself both here and in India, the reputation of being one of the best Irregular Cavalry officers in Her Majesty's Indian army. Nor can I omit mention of Private Phipps, of the 1st Dragoon Guards, who, when last surviving European of his party, encouraged the Sikhs in every way he could, until his decease on the 14th day of his captivity, thus well sustaining the reputation of a British soldier, under the most trying circumstances.

By the kind permission of the Russian Minister General Ignatieff, the bodies of the Englishmen have been interred in the Russian cemetery here. They were buried on the 17th instant, with military honours, in presence of General de Montauban and many officers of the French army, of the officers of the Russian Mission, and of the majority of the officers of the English army and Embassy.

I have, &c.,

J. HOPE GRANT, Lieutenant-General,
 Commander of the Forces.

The Right Honourable the
 Secretary of State for War,
 &c., &c., &c.