

Secondly, to express to your Excellency (or you) my highest sense of—

1. The valuable, cheerful, and constant co-operation and assistance I received from (Commanding Officer's name), and all others under his command.
2. The unfailing energy and zeal displayed, under somewhat trying circumstances by (nation) officers and men, whose courage was worthy of their high traditions, and requires no words of mine to describe.

Thirdly, to assure your Excellency (or you) of my sincere belief and hope that the above expedition, though both small and not of long duration, will help to cement between our respective nations that mutual good feeling and respect which happily now exists between our Sovereigns (or Governments), and which, especially in China, is now so desirable in all the best interests of civilisation and advancement.

(The following additions were made to the letters to respective nationalities):—

To His Excellency, Vice-Admiral Bendemann, Commander-in-Chief, His Imperial German Majesty's Ships, China Station.

Though it may seem out of place for me to report on the conduct of an officer not placed under my command, yet I cannot close this letter without, sir, expressing to your Excellency both my personal admiration of the ability and unfailing energy which Captain von Usedom, of His Imperial German Majesty's Ship "Hertha," displayed throughout the expedition, and also my high sense of the value of his services. The Allied Force at the battle of Langfang, on 18th instant, was under his command, I myself being some miles away at the time. In this determined attack on us, the first in which Chinese Imperial troops joined with the "Boxers," Captain von Usedom was wounded. To his skilful conduct and arrangements for withdrawing the trains when it had become necessary, the avoidance of a disaster then should be ascribed.

As second to myself in rank of all officers present, I often consulted him with much benefit, and I also officially nominated him to succeed me in the direction of the expedition should I fall, and then felt our general interests would not suffer.

When my Flag-Captain was disabled by a wound, I requested Captain von Usedom to do me the honour to act as Chief of my Staff, which he acceded to, and was of the greatest value to me.

As regards the courage and high discipline shown by all His Imperial Majesty's officers and men accompanying us, I can only say they were well worthy of the high traditions of the great German Empire.

I have, &c.

E. H. SEYMOUR,  
Vice-Admiral.

To His Excellency, Rear-Admiral Courejolles, Commander-in-Chief, French Squadron, China Station.

THOUGH it may seem out of place for me to report on the conduct of an officer not placed under my command, yet I cannot close this letter without, your Excellency, expressing my high sense of the valuable co-operation and support I received from Captain de Marolles, of the "D'Entrecasteaux," and all under his command; that in the various engagements they acted with us in a manner worthy of the high traditions of the great National French Navy was only what

I felt sure I might expect, yet may be allowed with pleasure to dwell on.

When in the west armoury, near Hsiku, Captain de Marolles took the honourable part of occupying and holding the arsenal there, which, being most advanced towards Tientsin and also full of combustibles, with a fire of shell from the enemy's guns at times upon it, was a decided post of danger and of honour. Captain de Marolles also undertook, with his men only, a reconnaissance on the 25th instant towards the railway.

I would request your Excellency to express my thanks to Captain de Marolles for his cordial co-operation throughout our short campaign, which reminded me of our happy alliance with your great nation, both in the Crimea and out here. May I add my hope that it may, though of small degree, help to draw together in friendship France and England, a thing certainly desirable for the civilisation of the world.

I have, &c.

E. H. SEYMOUR,  
Vice-Admiral.

To Rear-Admiral Kempff, Second in Command, United States Squadron, China Station.

I cannot conclude my letter without expressing to you, sir, the high admiration I have for Captain B. H. McCalla, who accompanied us in command of your officers and men. Their post was usually in the advanced guard, where their zeal and go was praised by all. I regret to state that Captain McCalla was wounded in three places, but considering the gallant way in which he exposed himself, I am only equally surprised and thankful that he is alive.

Had he been thoroughly British he could not have more kindly and loyally stood by me in every way and carried out any wish I expressed. I may, indeed, say the same for all those under his command.

I hail this experience as a further proof of the real good feeling so happily existing between our nations, which is by no one more valued than by your brother sailors of our Navy.

I have, &c.

E. H. SEYMOUR,  
Vice-Admiral.

To Capitano di Frigato Casella, Senior Italian Naval Officer, Taku.

PERMIT me, sir, to express the pleasure I have felt in co-operating with the officers and men belonging to H.M. Royal Navy, and allow me to add my tribute to the energy and readiness they have shown throughout to assist the expedition.

I have, &c.

E. H. SEYMOUR,  
Vice-Admiral.

To Captain Thoman von Montalmar, S.M.S. "Zenta" (Austrian).

(No special addition.)

To His Excellency Vice-Admiral J. Hiltbrandt, Commander-in-Chief, His Imperial Russian Majesty's Ships, China Station.

In conclusion, pray let me express to your Excellency my high sense of the valuable service rendered to our joint expedition by Captain Chagkin of His Imperial Majesty's Navy, who was always ready, always to the front, and did me the honour to as exactly carry out any wish I expressed to him as if he had belonged to our own Navy.

I have, &c.

E. H. SEYMOUR,  
Vice-Admiral.