

twenty-one wounded, the latter number including two officers. The bearing of our men under a heavy flanking fire was all that could be desired, and they worked splendidly.

On 28th June a courier arrived from Sir Robert Hart, and another on the following day, both with messages from Peking of the same date (8 a.m., 24th June), "Our case is desperate, come at once."

The Chinese of this day flooded a part of the country near the western quarter of the native city by opening the Grand Canal, whether for their own protection or with a view of injuring us is uncertain, but we have not suffered in consequence, as the floods are of small area, and near the native city.

On 4th July, at 5 a.m., the Chinese opened fire from several guns which had been mounted near the railway bridge over a canal. About noon large bodies of troops were seen moving towards the western arsenal, but on being shelled kept at a distance out of range. About 4 p.m. Chinese troops on the other side of the river attacked the railway station, but were repulsed.

On 4th July two additional 12-pr. guns were received from "Terrible" and two 9-pr. (about) Krupp guns from forts at Taku to oppose the enemy's guns, our guns up to this time being one 12-pr. Q.F., two 9-pr. M.L. field guns, and three 6-pr. Hotchkiss.

On the forenoon of 6th July an attempt was made to take a small gun (about 1-pr. Q.F.) which had been pushed up within short range of the settlement, and whose position had been discovered. The attempt would have been quite successful, the Chinese being taken by surprise; but it was found to be on the opposite side of the river, and the nearest bridge was too much exposed to risk crossing it.

About noon a bombardment of forts in the native city, and of the arsenal, took place, the two 12-pr. guns of "Terrible" being assisted by the French and Japanese field guns. The guns in the Chinese forts were silenced by our guns, the French guns set fire to the Viceroy's Yamèn, and the Japanese guns shelled the arsenal, where two guns were mounted, and kept them from firing at the 12-prs. while they were engaged with the forts in the city.

In the afternoon Major Bruce, 1st Chinese Regiment, volunteered to make an attempt to silence the 1-pr. Q.F. gun above-mentioned by the fire of a 9-pr., which he said could be taken by a road he knew, sheltered from the enemy's fire, to within close range. The road was found to be too narrow for the gun, and it was then unfortunately decided to use the main road, which was swept by the enemy's fire. The gun and rifle fire was too heavy for the 9-pr. to be brought into action, and the force retired with the loss of two killed and five wounded, the latter including Major Bruce and Mr. F. Esdaile, midshipman, of H.M.S. "Barfleur," both severely.

On 7th July at noon another bombardment was made as on the previous day, partly to keep down the incessant Chinese shell fire on the European settlements. Our fire was returned by various guns, mostly very difficult to locate, the flash being amongst ruined houses. For half an hour the enemy's practice was very good.

Meanwhile a Japanese cavalry reconnaissance was made to the south-west towards the race-course, which at once unmasked a heavy rifle fire from that position. The Chinese for the last day or two had evidently been trying to work round to the west and south from the native city, perhaps with a view to cutting our communications by river.

On 8th instant it was arranged that a combined

movement of Japanese, British, Russian, and American forces should be made at daylight next morning (9th July) to clear the enemy out of their position near the race-course. A force of nearly 1,000 British (400 naval) under the command of Brigadier-General Forward, was sent as supports; the Americans sent 150 and the Russians 400, the latter being in reserve; the whole being under the command of the Japanese general (Brigadier-General Fukushima).

Before daylight on 9th July this force moved in a southerly direction and then wheeled to the right; the Japanese then brought their field guns and those of the Hong Kong Artillery into action against the Chinese, who occupied a village near the race-course. The Japanese cavalry on the left came on a body of Boxers, whom they charged and dispersed, killing about 200; the infantry in the meantime advanced to some earthworks and captured four 3-pr. Krupp guns and about fifty rifles. The force then continued its advance in a northerly direction and occupied a village immediately south of the arsenal, and afterwards advanced towards the arsenal; a gun in the south-west corner of the city opened fire, but was silenced. At the same time a Japanese naval force and American marines advanced along Sankolin's Wall from the Settlement, and entered the western arsenal from that direction at the same time as the forces from the west. The arsenal was found to be evacuated, but two guns, about 9-pr. Krupp, were taken in it. The Japanese advanced beyond the arsenal towards the south wall of the city, but the Chinese troops were collected in force, and a heavy fusillade with gun fire and "sniping" rendered it inadvisable to continue, and after burning the arsenal—which was decided to be untenable by us, and rendering it so by the Chinese, the Forces returned. It is estimated that the Chinese lost about 300 to 400 in killed. Our casualties (naval) were one killed and three wounded.

The Russians during the 10th constructed some pontoons, intending that night to convey them to the Lutai Canal (north-east from the city) to enable them to cross, and attack the Chinese on their left flank on the other side, about a mile from the city, where they had made a strong position for themselves with several guns. The co-operation of the other Allies was asked, and parties told off from each nationality as supports and in reserve, but late that night it was discovered that the pontoons were not fit for the work intended. This is to be regretted, as a successful attack on the left bank following up that on the right two days previously would have had an excellent effect and done much to discourage the Chinese. I hope it is only postponed for a short time.

Early on the morning of the 11th July a most determined attempt was made by the Chinese, in force, to take the railway station, which has always been one of their main points of attack, either to destroy the rolling stock or to acquire a near position from which to bombard the Settlement. The fight lasted for three hours and was stubbornly contested, when the Chinese were finally driven out; the losses of the Allies in killed and wounded were fully 150, principally between the French and Japanese. The Chinese loss must have been very heavy, but cannot be accurately given.

About midday the forts in the native city were bombarded for one hour by British and French guns. The "Terrible's" 12-prs. and one of the "Algerine's" 4-inch Q.F. did good work, and demolished the pagoda in the fort used as a look-