

# PEKIN SIEGE; WITH THE LEGATIONERS.

Dr. Morrison's Narrative Continued.

On July 24 (said the first) we received a telegram from Mr. Warren, British Consul-General in Shanghai, to the effect that while China was protecting the Legations no telegrams had been received from the British Minister, and asking the Yamen to transmit Sir C. M. MacDonald's telegram to Shanghai.

As in duty bound we communicated the above, and bid you to send a telegram en clair to the Yamen for transmission.

Tender consideration was shown for us in the second letter—

For the past month and more military affairs have been very pressing. Your Excellency and other Ministers ought to telegraph home that your families are well in order to soothe anxiety, but at the present moment peace is not yet restored, and your Legation telegrams must be wholly in clair stating that all is well, without touching on military affairs. Under these conditions the Yamen can transmit them.

The writers beg that Your Excellency will communicate this to the other Foreign Ministers.

Evasive replies were given to these communications. Further particulars as to the kind of protection that was to be given on the way to Tien-tsin were asked for. Naturally the Ministers said that it was impossible to send a telegram informing the home Governments that women and children were well, in view of the fact that women and children had suffered from being cooped up in the British Legation and from being deprived of the food to which they were accustomed.

Our position at this time compelled us to temporize. We knew from the alterations in some of the Chinese despatches that they had suffered defeats and were growing alarmed, but we did not know how much longer international jealousies or difficulties of obtaining transport were to delay the departure of the troops from Tien-tsin.

Tidings From Tien-tsin.

Great, then, was the rejoicing in the Legation when on July 28th, for the first time since the siege began, a letter was received from outside by the British Minister. It was from Mr. W. R. Carles, the British Consul in Tien-tsin, a gentleman of considerable experience in the Consular service. At the risk of his life the courier had brought the despatch through the enemy's lines. When the letter was posted at the Bell Tower there was a rush to read it. It said verbatim and literally—

Tien-tsin, July 22.

Your letter July 4th. There are now 24,000 troops landed and 19,000 here. General Gaselee expected to be in to-morrow. Russian troops are at Piet-sang. Tien-tsin city is under foreign government and "Boxer" power here is exploded. There are plenty of troops on the way if you can keep yourselves in food. Almost all ladies have left Tien-tsin. The Consulate is being repaired.

W. R. Carles.

Men read this communication and then moved away to express their feeling beyond hearing of the ladies. It was amusing to witness the perturbation with which the British were forced to admit that this somewhat incoherent production was really written by a Consul still in the British service.

With this document it was impossible to know whether the troops were on the way to Pekin from Tien-tsin or to Tien-tsin from Europe, who were the troops, and how many and whether the number landed was 24,000 in all or 43,000, while the observation that the troops were coming if our provisions held out seemed to imply that if our provisions failed the troops would return to Tien-tsin.

A day or two later a letter equally instructive was received from Mr. Ragsdale, the American Consul at Tien-tsin. When Mr. Conger had succeeded in deciphering the message extracts from it were posted at the Bell Tower. It began, "I had a bad dream about you last night." It contained not a shred of information for which we were longing, but it contained a superfluous expression of the Consul's wish, "It is my earnest desire that you may all be spared." Equally it was our desire, and this explained our anxiety to receive news of the reliefs.

How the Chinese Kept Armistice.

Though now nominally under the protection of an armistice, sniping still continued, especially in the Fu-tao any exposed portion of the besieged area. Many Chinese refugees were hit. An Italian, a Japanese, and a German were wounded, a Russian and a German were killed and another Russian dangerously wounded. An American was wounded; a French marine was killed, but most serious casualty of all, the brave Captain Labrousse, of the French Legation, who had, with Captain Darcy, stood at the forefront of the defence of his Legation, was shot through the forehead and fell dead into the arms of his comrade only two days before the reliefs marched into Pekin.

The Chinese worked on continually at their fortifications. They built a powerful fort on the city wall commanding the German Legation, and another beyond the American Legation. Across the North Bridge they ran up in a single night a stout wall of brick and manned it with sharpshooters. During the siege our men had gained great skill in sharp-shooting. Sergt. Saunders especially

showed rare skill in picking off the enemy's crack shots. Finding that the Ministers declined to telegraph to their Government en clair that all was well with the Legations, the Tsung-li Yamen wrote to Sir Robert Hart asking him to send homeward a telegram in the sense they suggested. Sir Robert replied diplomatically, "If I were to wire the truth about the Legations I should not be believed."

The Native Christians.

A malevolent attempt was next made by the Chinese to obtain possession of the refugees, who were in our safe keeping. On July 27th they wrote to Sir Claude MacDonald, saying that "they hear that there are lodged at the Legation a considerable number of converts, and that, as the space is limited and weather hot, they suggest that they must be causing the Legation considerable inconvenience. And now that people's minds are quieted, these converts can all be sent out and go about their ordinary avocations. They need not have doubt or fears. If you concur, an estimate should be made of the numbers and a date fixed for letting them out. Then all will be in harmony."

The reply of the diplomatic body was to the effect that while they were considering the two last letters, one offering safe conduct to Tien-tsin and the other declaring that the converts might leave the Legations in perfect security—heavy firing was heard in the direction of the Pei-tang, which was evidently being at-

tacked in force; that yesterday and last night a barricade was built across the North Bridge, from behind which shots are being continuously fired into the British Legation. The French and Russian Legations are also being fired upon. As all this seems inconsistent with the above letters, an explanation is asked for before further consideration is given to the offer.

Promptly the Yamen sent its explanation. The Pei-tang refugees, it seemed, who were starving and had made a sortie to obtain food. They had fired upon the people. "A decree," it went on to say, "has now been requested to the effect that if the converts do not come out to plunder they are to be protected, and not to be continually attacked, for they also are the children of the State. This practice (of continually firing upon the converts), will thus be gradually stopped."

Such a callous reply was read with indignation, and there was not the slightest intention on the part of any Minister to leave Pekin. Yet on the 4th of August a decree was issued appointing Yung Lu to conduct the foreign Ministers safely to Tien-tsin "in order once more to show the tenderness of the Throne for the men from afar."

To our final protest against the shooting which deafened us at night and which, though we did not admit it, accounted as time went on for so many casualties, the Tsung-li Yamen impudently replied, saying—"With regard to the firing at night it was, as before, the result of a mutual misunderstanding. It was more or less on the same footing as the sounding of the evening drum and the morning bell, the daily duty of temple priests. It is really hardly worth a smile."

The Last Days of the Siege.

On August 10th, Friday, a messenger succeeded in passing the enemy's lines, and brought us letters from General Gaselee and General Fukushima. A strong relief force was marching to Pekin, and would arrive here if nothing untoward happened on the 13th or 14th. Our danger then was that the enemy would make a final effort to rush the Legations before the arrival of reinforcements. And the expected happened. For the last two days we had to sustain a

## BOER RUSHES WERE REPULSED

### Gordon Highlanders and Royal Irish Bayonet 25

## BOERS BEATEN EACH TIME.

**Barkly Loyal Farmers Have a Six Hours' Brush With the Enemy—Bluejackets on Guard—Boers Steal Cattle Near Pretoria—The Boers in Natal.**

Pretoria, Jan. 10.—Under cover of a thick fog, the Boers attacked the British garrisons at Pan. Wonderfontein, Belfast, Wildfontein, and Daimanutha between midnight and dawn Tuesday.

At Belfast they managed to rush the British position, but were ultimately driven out by the Gordon Highlanders and the Royal Irish Regiment.

At the other points named their attacks were repulsed.

The Boers lost heavily. They left from 20 to 25 dead on the field. A number of wounded were carried away.

The British casualties in these fights were about sixty.

To the west of Pretoria, Gen. Gordon's force had to fight with the Boers south of the Magaliesburg. The Boers left twenty dead on the

field and had a number of others wounded.

The details of these affairs have not yet been received.

**Bluejackets on Guard.**

Cape Town, Jan. 10.—The mounted infantry from Cape Town occupied Pienaar's Kloof without opposition before the Boer invaders could reach that place. The cyclist corps has arrived at Clan William. No Boers were seen in either of these districts.

The docks are guarded by bluejackets and marines. Convalescent soldiers are taking their places in guarding the Boer prisoners on ship-board.

**Onsland Suppressed.**

Cape Town, Jan. 10.—The circulation of the Onsland, an Afrikaner organ, is being prohibited in the districts under martial law. The paper is now being published weekly instead of daily. It is, however, appearing tri-weekly under another name, printing telegrams and official news only.

**A Brush With the Boers.**

Cape Town, Jan. 10.—A force of Cape Police and British farmers forming the volunteer guard of the Barkly West and Dorset districts have had an engagement with about 100 invaders near Kraasnot Junction, on the borders of the Barkly West and Wodehouse districts. The engagement lasted six hours. Two Boers were wounded. Twenty-six Boer horses were killed. Two British horses were wounded. The Dutch in Barkly West and Wodehouse districts are aiding the Imperial authorities in every way.

The defences of the Cape peninsula are being further elaborated. The excavation of trenches at the Knellworth racecourse was commenced today. The town guard is busy drilling, electing officers, and completing other preliminaries.

A number of suspected houses at Graaf Reinet have been searched for arms and ammunition.

Sandbag forts and other defensive works have been erected at Craddock.

**Boers More Daring.**

London, Jan. 11, 5 a. m.—The at-

tion in South Africa grows worse rather than better. This morning's despatches report that a small party of Boers carried off cattle close to the east fort at Pretoria.

Nine hundred Boers, under Commandant Beltzinger, are 15 miles from Richmond, in the direction of Murrayburg.

Rumors are spreading at Porterville that the rebels have joined the Boers in the Calvinia district.

**Dynamite Mines.**

London, Jan. 11.—The Military Commissioner of Police at Johannesburg has warned the public to beware of the dangerous dynamite mines laid in the Rand to protect the mines, as the authorities cannot hold themselves responsible for injuries resulting therefrom.

**Not Doing Much Damage.**

Cape Town, Jan. 10.—A Government report, issued to-night, states that the Boers invading the Cape Colony avoid the railways, and the towns where there is even a small garrison. They keep continually on the move. They are commandeering all the horses and foodstuffs in the neighborhood, but are not otherwise doing much damage. Being exceedingly mobile, having no positions to hold, no artillery, and no transport, they have so far succeeded in avoiding any serious conflict with the forces which are pursuing or opposing them. The engagements which have taken place during the week have been only skirmishes, involving very small loss on either side.

Kritzienger's commando have been operating in small bands in the country lying between Graaf Reinet and Richmond. As their line of retreat is threatened it is probable that they will march south.

The western commando has occupied Calvinia.

**To Heart of Cape Colony.**

London, Jan. 11.—"Five thousand Boers, supposed to be trekking west from Vryburg," says the Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Mail, "are now making their way into the heart of Cape Colony. The supposition is that they have captured several small garrisons on their way."

**Mounted Troops Sail.**

Gibraltar, Jan. 10.—Five hundred mounted British infantry left here for the Cape to-day. They arrived from Malta on board the troopship Balozes, and were reshipped by the Hawarden Castle.

**To Recruit Men for South Africa.**

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 10.—Major Fall, one of Col. Baden-Powell's men, is expected in Canada shortly to commence recruiting for the South African constabulary. One thousand Canadians are wanted for this force. Major Fall will personally visit the headquarters of each military district to enrol men, and in addition several points in the west, such as Brandon, Regina, Calgary, Kamloops, Vancouver and Victoria.

The terms of enlistment will be for three years. The salary of a third class trooper will be 5s. (\$1.25) per day. The pay list is as follows—Superintendent, per day, 15s.; staff-sergeant, 10s.; sergeant, 9s.; second class sergeant, 8s.; corporal, 7s. 6d.; first-class trooper, 7s.; second class trooper, 6s.; third class trooper, 5s.

For the commissioned officers the pay ranges from 20s. per day for a second lieutenant up to \$6,000 per annum for a colonel. Promotion will be by merit, and commissions will be obtained in the ranks. The age must not be under 20 and not over 35. In addition to salary mentioned an allowance will be made for extra high market prices to officers and men stationed north of the Vaal river. This is provisionally fixed at 2s. per day. After serving five years, and with good character on retiring, an allowance of one month's pay every year's service will be given.

Candidates to be accepted should be good riders and fair shots, as well as of sound health and good physique. Promotion to non-commissioned officers depends largely upon the colloquial Dutch. Judging from the large number of applicants for positions at the Department of Militia, it is not likely that there will be any difficulty in getting all the men who will be required in Canada.

The British Government furnishes transportation and subsistence from the point of enrolment in Canada to South Africa, but pay will not commence until the arrival of the men at the Cape.

**Forces in South Africa.**

A London Exchange points out that though the forces in South Africa have been to a small extent reduced by the withdrawal of home and colonial volunteers, the Household Cavalry and a battery of horse artillery, the number of regular troops, militia, Imperial Yeomanry and volunteer service companies of line regiments remain about the same as when the last regiments were sent out early in the year. There are still seventeen regular cavalry regiments at the front, nine horse and forty-five field batteries. The regular infantry number eighty-four battalions, and the militia infantry twenty-nine. The 1st Gloucestershire (regular) and 4th (militia), which are guarding prisoners in Ceylon and St. Helena respectively, may also be regarded as on war service. Since the 1st went to Ceylon from South Africa.

Of engineers, ten field companies, seven fortress companies, two railway companies, one division of the Telegraph Battalion, two troops of the Bridging Battalion, one field horse section. Of departmental troops there are forty-one companies of the Army Service Corps, nine Corps, and a very large portion of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

### QUINETTE OF DIPLOMATS WHO BROUGHT CHINA TO TERMS.



him when this case was called.

The defence, in their persistent effort to secure a postponement, were ready with something that was entirely new. They had a material witness—Bathurst by name—so ill with broncho-pneumonia that his physician did not expect he would be out of bed for a week. They also had a novel argument to put forward in the claim that the Attorney-General should be made a party to the case, on the ground that in the matter of the succession duties the people were concerned. The second will leaves practically nothing to the direct issue of the testator, and in such a case the Government's share of the Sifton estate is close upon \$2,000.

But under the terms of the first will the whole estate is left to Gerald Sifton, and the Government's share will be nothing. Mr. Magee announced the receipt of a telephone message from the Deputy Attorney-General giving him discretionary powers, but he was not prepared to go very far on the point at issue.

In the opinion of the Judge, there appeared to be little for him to determine, in deciding upon the motion for a postponement, save as to the material character of the evidence which the sick witness may have to give. His Lordship finally ordered that the defence show to the plaintiffs counsel the evidence which they proposed to give by the witness who is ill. It might be, as counsel for plaintiffs suggested, that they would admit what it was proposed to prove. Plaintiffs' counsel were most vigorous in their effort to secure an immediate trial of the action to set aside the will.

**The Savage Bachelor.**

"I don't believe the approach of Christmas brings you a single joyous anticipation," said the Sweet Young Thing.

"Don't, eh?" replied the Savage Bachelor.

"Listen to my secret—That kid on the third floor is sure to get a tin horn for a present."

"Yes."

"Then he will get careless and leave it on the hall floor. And then I shall step on it with both feet. Don't you call that a joyous anticipation?"—Indianapolis Press.

London, Jan. 11, 5 a. m.—The at-

As it happens the most strange to you, I have just come above there, and upon the pavement I am glad.

"More glad, to see you with believe what I you proof? Will Every moment man is an evil have thought dramatic last all the same that you not be war is a flood?"

"Perhaps he differently. I am."

"But you companion?"

"Wolffenden fr I think, he leave the lady tion."

Felix sighed.

"You are a but forgive my trymen, you thought too far. You do not want and their way. Wolffenden fr he hold himself. You know be said."

"It is true, know nothing necessary. She is apparent. The edness is enough. Wolffenden of middle of a had deny consciousness losing his temper with a man so—possessed to wild impulses."

"Let us talk thing else, of What was we to the Ru said. I have afternoon."

Wolffenden lo "Our ways, t short distance walk together, are really, the busy?"

Felix nodded pation with a

"I am not w together," he retary to Pri think, are not Wolffenden's

"I take no he said. The Ho but I shall the tax com the Felix sighed moment."

"You are said. The wa not exactly r sent a class does not exist in the army, craft. Perhaps your country ardent service."

"You are— I ask?" Wol Felix hesita "Perhaps, I not know. Th the better. Th it will be to y and."

Wolffenden t incredulity.

"It is easy a stranger in market." W in South Ame that we secur of the world the most ma haps the mos

WHEN

He Cures the D

It is surp number of n from the w torturing it be among th esty or fear have been pr to your phy have tried things that mended, and aged. You s before you, for piles.

Now is th to Dr. Chaso ment is recog the only ac form of pile value of Dr. given it a medicines. It neighborhood has become mouth from neighbor to friends about ask your do discouraged, cry have be Ghtment. H