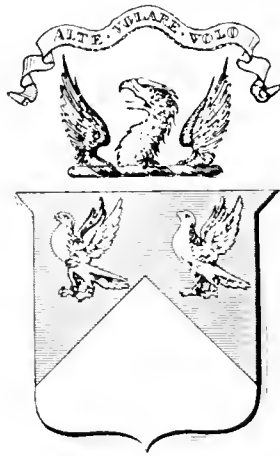


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*St. Brit. Foreign Office*  
**CORRESPONDENCE**

RESPECTING THE

**INSURRECTIONARY MOVEMENT IN CHINA.**

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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
July 1900.*

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LONDON:  
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## Correspondence respecting the Insurrectionary Movement in China.

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### No. 1.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, January 4, 1900.*

IT is with great regret that I report to your Lordship the murder by a band of anti-Christian rebels of the English missionary Brooks near the town of Fei Ch'êng, in Shantung Province, where he was travelling. The other members of the mission are safe.

The part of China where the murder took place is very disturbed, and I and my French, American, and German colleagues have been making strong representations,

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### No. 2.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, January 5, 1900.*

MURDER of Mr. Brooks: My telegram of yesterday.

I have to-day received a special message from the Throne, brought by one of the Grand Secretaries, expressing profound regret on the part of the Emperor and Dowager-Empress at the death of Mr. Brooks.

The capture and punishment of the offenders has been forcibly insisted upon in instructions issued by telegram.

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### No. 3.

*Sir Chihchen Lofêngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)*

My Lord Marquis,

*Chinese Legation, January 10, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received a telegram from the Tsung-li Yamên, instructing me to acquaint you of the death of a British subject in the Province of Shantung under circumstances that have excited the horror and the indignation of the Imperial Government.

On the 1st of the present month the Tsung-li Yamên received a telegram from Yüen Shih-kai, the Governor of Shantung, acquainting them that an English missionary of the name of Brooks had, whilst travelling in the district of Feichên, in that province, been grievously maltreated by brigands, and afterwards had been carried off by them. On learning this, the Yamên immediately telegraphed to the Governor, instructing him to lose no time in following up the brigands and rescuing Mr. Brooks; but by a subsequent telegram which they received from Governor Yüen, they learned with dismay that the robbers had put the unfortunate missionary to death.

Incensed at this deplorable event, their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and the Empress-Dowager have commanded that all the officials within whose jurisdiction the outrage was committed be disgraced by being deprived of their rank and honours until such time as they shall have succeeded in arresting the guilty parties, and a prescribed period has been allowed them within which to effect their capture.

In making the above communication, I am to present to your Lordship, on behalf of the Imperial Government, the expression of their profound regret at the lamentable occur-

rence, also the assurance that no efforts will be spared by them to bring the parties concerned in the committal of the outrage to condign punishment.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LOFÈNGLUH.

No. 4.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, January 13, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram of 5th January to your Lordship, I have the honour to report that three of the murderers of Mr. Brooks have been taken and confessed their guilt. They are now awaiting their trial at the capital of the province, and I have directed Mr. Campbell, Vice-Consul in Shanghai, to proceed thither in order to be present when they are tried.

No. 5.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Chihchen Lofèngluh.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 17, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 10th instant, informing me of the murder of Mr. Brooks, an English missionary, in the Province of Shantung, and of the orders which have been issued by the Chinese Government for the arrest and punishment of the guilty persons.

I have to thank you for your communication.

I have heard with satisfaction of the prompt action taken by your Government in this matter, and I trust that Her Majesty's Government may shortly be informed that the perpetrators of the outrage have been brought to justice.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 20, 1900.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, December 7, 1899.*

AT the request of the Municipal Council of Tien-tsin, supported by the agent of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Her Majesty's Consul in that city has addressed a despatch to me asking whether the usual marine guard for the winter months could be furnished.

I accordingly communicated with the Naval Commander-in-chief at Hong Kong, and the Admiral has instructed the Senior Naval Officer at Wei-hai Wei to furnish the guard asked for, and I have now the honour to report that Captain Strouts, R.M., and twenty-five marines arrived in Tien-tsin on the 4th instant. M. Charles has accepted an offer of the loan of a godown from Mr. J. M. Dickinson, Chairman of the Municipal Council, and is making arrangements for the guard to be quartered there.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

No. 7.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 27, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th ultimo, informing me that you had requested the Commander-in-chief on the China Station to supply the usual

marine guard for the winter months for Tien-tsin, and that he had complied with your request.

I approve your action in the matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 8.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 15.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, February 15, 1900.*

It is reported that there has been a popular rising against the German Railway in Shantung Province. Two hundred German troops were yesterday dispatched to Kiaochow city.

No. 9.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, January 5, 1900.*

FOR several months past the northern part of the Province of Shantung has been disturbed by bands of rebels connected with various Secret Societies, who have been defying the authorities and pillaging the people. An organization known as the "Boxers" has attained special notoriety, and their ravages recently spread over a large portion of Southern Chihli, where the native Christians appear to have suffered even more than the rest of the inhabitants from the lawlessness of these marauders. The danger to which, in both provinces, foreign missionary establishments have been thus exposed, has been the subject of repeated representations to the Chinese Government by others of the foreign Representatives—especially the German and United States' Ministers—and myself.

Early last month the Governor of Shantung, Yu Hsien, was ordered to vacate his post and come to Peking for audience, and the General Yüan Shih-K'ai was appointed Acting Governor in his place.

In Southern Chihli the task of dealing with the disturbances was entrusted to the Viceroy at Tien-tsin. Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin has had repeatedly to complain to the latter of the inadequacy of the protection afforded to British life and property in the districts affected by the rebellion; and in consequence of these representations and of my own communications to the Tsung-li Yamên, guards of soldiers have been stationed for the special protection of the missionary premises which were endangered. On the 29th ultimo I took occasion to warn the Yamên by letter that if the disorder were not vigorously quelled, international complications were likely to ensue.

Being well aware, therefore, of the condition of things in Northern Shantung, it was with much anxiety that I received, on the 2nd instant, through Bishop Scott, of the Church of England Mission here, a telegram from the Mission at P'ing-yin, in Northern Shantung, announcing that on the 30th December Mr. Brooks, of the Mission, had been attacked, wounded, and captured by thirty "Boxers" in the Fei Ch'eng district.

I at once sent Mr. Ker, the Assistant Chinese Secretary, to communicate the contents of this telegram to the Yamên, and to ask that urgent telegraphic instructions should be dispatched to the Governor of Shantung to take measures to deal with the rebels and especially to secure the release of the missionary.

The Yamên Secretaries said that information of this occurrence had reached the Yamên, and that a telegram had been sent to Shantung to inquire particulars. They promised that my message would be reported to the Ministers and a further telegram dispatched. They said that the new Governor Yüan had already reached the capital and taken over the seals of office.

On the following day I visited the Yamên. On inquiring what was being done, I was informed that the Governor had promptly taken steps with a view to effecting the release of Mr. Brooks. The Yamên had, however, to their great regret, received a telegram that morning from the Governor to report that the Deputy sent in haste to the scene of the outrage, had arrived only to find that Mr. Brooks had been put to

death on the 31st December, the day after he was captured. A despatch was being prepared, informing me of this lamentable intelligence, and expressing the deep regret of the Chinese Government.

I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of this despatch. In addition to the particulars related therein, I have since learned that the unfortunate man was beheaded by the rebels and his body flung into a ditch.

In acknowledging to the Ministers of the Yamên at my interview the expressions of regret which they offered, I laid stress on the importance of proving the sincerity of this regret by strenuous action in dealing with this case, and in guarding against the possibility of similar occurrences elsewhere.

Yesterday, when the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamên and other high officials paid their annual formal New Year's call at the Legation, the Grand Secretary Wang Wen Shao informed me that he was specially authorized by the Emperor and Empress Dowager to express to me the deep concern which was felt by the Throne on hearing of this outrage. An Imperial Decree was, he said, being issued enjoining the immediate capture of the murderers, and the punishment of the officials who had neglected their duty.

The Decree to which the Grand Secretary referred was published in the Gazette this morning, and I have the honour to inclose a translation of it herewith.

I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship yesterday the news of Mr. Brooks' murder, and the substance of the message which I received from the Throne on the subject.

As regards the future situation in Northern Shantung, the most hopeful feature is, I think, the choice of Yüan Shih K'ai as Governor. This official filled for many years the post of Chinese Resident in Corea, and has lately been in command of some 8,000 foreign-drilled troops near Tien-tsin. He has already announced the necessity of having the whole of this force sent after him to his province, and the decision of character and readiness to use force when necessary which has marked his action at various critical situations in his career, make it possible to expect that he will succeed in making short work of the rebels in the province which he administers.

In a note which I addressed to the Yamên this morning I took occasion to remind the Ministers that there were other British missionaries living in the district where Mr. Brooks was killed, and to impress upon their Excellencies the necessity of securing efficient protection to these. I do not, however, entertain serious apprehensions as to their safety, because guards of soldiers have been for some time past stationed to protect the various missionary residences. The unfortunate man who was murdered was seized when he was travelling by wheel-barrow, without escort, through the country infested by the rebels.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

*The Tsung-li Yamên to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Peking, January 3, 1900.*

WE have the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 2nd instant we received a telegram from the Governor of Shantung as follows:—

“I have just received a petition from the Magistrate of P'ing-yin stating that on the 30th December the English missionary Brooks was travelling in the Fei Ch'eng district. At a place called Chang Chia Chuang he was attacked and wounded on the head by a band of red turbaned “Boxer” rebels, who were all armed with swords, &c. The rebels carried him off and are keeping him in hiding in some place in Fei Cheng district. I, the Governor, immediately selected a trustworthy official, and dispatched him to travel night and day with cavalry to rescue the missionary.”

The Yamên at once submitted this telegram to the Throne, and an Imperial Decree was issued commanding that the Governor be ordered by telegraph to immediately devise means for the rescue of the missionary. No mistake or delay could be permitted.

This telegram was sent to the Governor.



We have now received his reply as follows:—

“On receipt of the previous report I immediately deputed the Prefect Tseng Ch’i-hsun to travel night and day and in conjunction with the Magistrates of Fei-cheng and P’ing-yin, acting under his orders, to devise all possible means for the ransom of the missionary Brooks, and to arrange for cavalry to follow so as to prevent the rebels’ escape. I calculated that they would arrive on the spot by the evening of the 2nd January. But I have just received a telegram from the Magistrate of Fei-Ch’eng, reporting that on the 31st December the missionary was taken by mounted “Boxers” to Mao Chia P’u, and there murdered.

“I have telegraphed to Tseng Ch’i to act with the two Magistrates, and have given them three days within which to capture the murderers. I have also directed the provincial Judge to depute an official to proceed to Tai-an Fu and invite one of the foreign missionaries to go with him to identify the corpse, and to make proper arrangements for burial and expenses.

“I have to report to the Yamên the circumstances attending my inability to be in time to rescue the missionary.”

We have the honour to observe that troops have been repeatedly sent to deal with the “Boxer” rebels, who have been creating disturbances in Shantung. Governor Yüan had only just arrived at his post, and was in the act of arranging the disposition of his troops when this unforeseen occurrence took place. The missionary arrived in Fei Ch’eng district, and was carried off by the rebels. The Governor, on hearing of this, immediately sent a deputy to rescue him, but before the soldiers arrived the missionary had been killed. It is undoubtedly true that there was no time to rescue him.

We have to express our deepest sorrow, and in addition to telegraphing to the Governor to immediately capture the murderers, it is our duty to address your Excellency for your information.

(Seal of Yamên.)

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Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

*Imperial Decree, dated January 5, 1900.*

(Translation.)

YÜAN SHIH-K’AI reports by telegraph that rebels have collected and made disturbances in the two districts of P’ing Yin and Fei-ch’êng, in Shantung. They seized a missionary and conveyed him to Mao Chia P’u. The Governor tried every means to ransom and save him, and sent cavalry to capture the rebels, but suddenly before he could be rescued the missionary was killed by the ruffians.

On perusal of this report we were most deeply grieved. The Treaties provide that all nations may propagate their religions in China, and we have repeatedly issued Decrees ordering the Provincial Governments to direct the local officials to afford efficient and constant protection. Notwithstanding our repeated orders and injunctions, this murder of a missionary takes place in Shantung. The neglect of precautionary measures by the civil and military officers of that province is an offence which cannot be condoned; and if the murderers of this missionary be not immediately arrested, it will show an utterly disgraceful state of affairs.

Let Yüan Shih-k’ai denounce to the Throne and propose punishments for all the officials involved in this neglect of duty, and let him at the same time fix a date for the capture of the murderers, who must be caught and brought to justice so as to restore peace to the district and preserve friendly relations with our neighbours.

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No. 10.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 1, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 5th January relative to the murder of Mr. Brooks, of the Church of England Mission, in Northern Shantung.

I approve your action in connection with this matter, and the steps which you took to insure the protection of the other British missionaries in the district.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

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## No. 11.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 10.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, March 10, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, with regard to the disturbances in Shantung and Chihli Provinces in connection with the missionaries, I have conferred with my American, French, German, and Italian colleagues, whose missionaries are likewise concerned. On the 27th January, I addressed, in conjunction with the above colleagues, an identic note to the Tsung-li Yamên, requesting that an Imperial Decree should be published declaring the suppression of two anti-foreign secret societies which are both causing disturbances in Shantung and Chihli.

On the 2nd March, all five Representatives paid a personal visit to the Yamên, having already on the 27th February addressed a further identic note to the Chinese Ministers, but notwithstanding these steps the Yamên have declined to publish the Decree in accordance with our request.

I now learn that the disturbances are spreading, that recruits are being enlisted by one of the societies and that drilling is proceeding in the environs of Peking and Tient-sin. We have consequently sent in a further note stating that "unless our request is complied with without delay, we will urge on our Governments the advisability of adopting other measures for the protection of the lives and property of our nationals in China."

If the Chinese Government should refuse to publish the Decree we have required, and should the state of affairs not materially improve, I would respectfully recommend that a few ships of war of each nationality concerned should make a naval demonstration in North Chinese waters. Identic recommendations are being telegraphed home by my four colleagues above-mentioned.

## No. 12.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, March 11, 1900.*

SUPPRESSION of secret Societies in Shangtung and Pechili: Your telegram of the 10th March.

It will be desirable only to resort to naval action when other means of pressure are exhausted.

## No. 13.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, March 12, 1900.*

THE French Minister for Foreign Affairs has this morning received a telegram, similar to the one repeated to me in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, on the subject of missionary troubles in China. His Excellency had not read it before I saw him. He expressed the opinion that, if the five Representatives on the spot looked upon the situation as one requiring a naval demonstration in the northern waters of China, as proposed, their Governments could not properly refuse to authorize it. He said, however, that he could not at once state positively what the French Government would decide.

## No. 14.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)*

(Extract.)

*Paris, March 13, 1900.*

I CALLED yesterday morning upon M. Delcassé, and asked him whether he had received any telegram from China in regard to the refusal of the Yamên to publish the Decree against anti-foreign secret Societies which had been demanded by the Repre-

representatives of the five Powers, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and the United States.

His Excellency said that the telegram had only just been decyphered, and that he had not yet read it, and he at once proceeded to do so, and found it to be almost identical with that sent to your Lordship by Sir C. MacDonald.

He could not, of course, without reflection and without consulting his colleagues, say what the decision of the French Government would be as to taking part in a naval demonstration, but at first sight it seemed to him that it would be difficult to avoid acting upon a suggestion which the Representatives of five Powers, who ought to be good judges, considered advisable.

No. 15.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 14.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, March 14, 1900.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to the French Representative at Peking for more precise information with regard to the China missionary troubles which formed the subject of my despatch of yesterday.

I told M. Delcassé that I did not think that Her Majesty's Government were in favour of a naval demonstration except under circumstances of urgent necessity, and added that, to the best of my belief, the United States' Government would not associate themselves with any such action.

No. 16.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, March 15, 1900.*

ON the 10th instant, I telegraphed to your Lordship with regard to the anti-Christian Societies in Shantung. I have now to report that the late Governor of that Province has been appointed Governor of Shansi. There is no doubt that the main cause of the recent outrages in Shantung was this official's sympathy with the anti-Christian Societies, and the Foreign Representatives here vigorously protested against his conduct.

When reviewing the case of Mr. Brooks to the Yamên, I had warned them that I should have to insist upon the punishment of the Governor whose responsibility for the disordered state of his Province is beyond question, in the event that Mr. Brooks' case was not settled to my satisfaction. The Governor had, we understood, been recalled by reason of the missionary disorders, and the United States' Minister had formally requested that he be never re-employed.

No. 17.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 17.)*

My Lord,

*Paris, March 16, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant respecting the apprehension of the Representatives of England, France, Germany, Italy, and the United States in China, and their views as to the necessity of a naval demonstration on the part of the five Powers, I have the honour to state that M. Delcassé informed me the day before yesterday that he had telegraphed to Peking for more precise information.

I told him that I was glad to hear that no precipitate action was going to be taken by France, and that I believed that he would find that the United States' Government would be disinclined to associate themselves with any joint naval demonstration. I added that, although I had no instructions to say so, I expected that Her Majesty's Government would also adhere to their usual policy of proceeding

with great caution, and would be in no hurry to take a step which only urgent necessity would render advisable.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 18.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, January 17, 1900.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 5th instant on the subject of the murder of Mr. Brooks and the disturbed state of the north-western part of the Province of Shantung, I have the honour to report upon my further representations to the Tsung-li Yamên in the matter.

The members of the Church of England Mission in that district were stationed at two towns: Mr. Brooks and Mr. Matthews at Ping Yin, and Messrs. Brown and Jones at T'ai An. Bishop Scott having telegraphed to Mr. Brown to inquire as to the state of affairs, received on the 9th instant a reply as follows:—

“Outlook very black; daily marauding; constant danger; Edict suppressing published; troops present, but useless; officials complete inaction T'ai An Prefect blocks; secret orders from Throne to encourage.”

This telegram represented the missionaries' idea of the situation on the 7th instant, and allowing for some exaggeration on the part of their informants, probably Chinese adherents of their Church, gave a very unfavourable picture of the conduct of the local officials.

On the 11th instant I saw the Ministers of the Tsung-li Yamên, and spoke to them in terms of the gravest warning. While I could not believe it possible, I said, that the rumours of secret orders from the Throne were true, the mere fact of the currency of such rumours showed the impression which the conduct of the Prefect conveyed to the public.

So much was I impressed by this, that I had come to-day especially to protest against the behaviour of the Shantung officials. The whole of the present difficulty could be traced to the attitude of the late Governor of Shantung, Yü Hsien, who secretly encouraged the seditious Society known as “the Boxers.” I had again and again pointed out to the Ministers that until China dealt with the high authorities in such cases these outrages would not cease. I asked the Ministers to telegraph to the new Governor Yüan that I had called at the Yamên that day to complain of the conduct of the Prefect of T'ai An.

The Ministers attempted to excuse the inertia of the local officials on the plea that their difficulties were very great. The primary cause of the trouble was the bad feeling existing between the converts and the ordinary natives. This had developed until bands of marauders had formed, who harassed Christians and other natives alike. The local officials had hitherto not had sufficient force to cope with so widespread a rising, but now that Yüan and his troops had been sent to the province they hoped for the speedy restoration of order.

I impressed upon the Ministers in the most emphatic manner my view of the gravity of the situation. The Imperial Edict expressing sorrow for what had occurred and enjoining strong measures was satisfactory so far as it went; but Her Majesty's Government required something more than mere words, and would now await action on the part of the Chinese Government in conformity with their promises. The negotiations, I said, with regard to this case were only beginning, and (turning to the Yamên Secretaries, who were present taking notes) I requested that my words might be carefully recorded for submission to the Throne, and continued: “Whether these negotiations take a friendly line or the reverse depends entirely upon the behaviour of the local authorities and the manner in which they carry out the commands of the Emperor as expressed in the Edict.”

On the 9th instant I had received a note from the Tsung-li Yamên announcing the receipt of a telegram from Governor Yüan to the effect that three of the murderers had already been captured, that they had confessed their guilt, and had been taken to Chinan-fu, the provincial capital. The Ministers informed me that they had received another telegram from the Governor referring to the rules for international cases drawn up in 1876, which provide that the Consul of the nation concerned shall be present at

the trial of Chinese offenders in such cases. The Governor suggested that to save time one of the missionaries on the spot might be authorized to be present instead of a Consul.<sup>1</sup>

I told the Ministers that I would consider the question, and let them have an early notice of my decision.

In view of the importance of the case, I subsequently decided to send Mr. C. W. Campbell, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Shanghai, to Shantung to confer with the Governor, to be present at the trial of the murderers, and to see that proper measures were taken by the Provincial authorities for the restoration of order in the district.

I informed the Tsung-li Yamên of my intention on the 12th instant, and instructed Mr. Campbell by telegraph to proceed to Chinan-fu as soon as possible.

I inclose translation of an Imperial Decree issued on the 11th January, which is regarded in some quarters with misgiving. It seems liable to be read as modifying the severity of the Decree of the 5th January on this case, and to be construed as admitting the possibility of excuse for such Societies as the "Boxers." But in view of the divergence of opinion as to its effects, I have not thought it expedient as yet to make any remarks on the subject to the Tsung-li Yamên. If the promises of the first Edict be not faithfully fulfilled, I may then use it as a proof of want of sincerity on the part of the Chinese Government, who continually nullify their fair promises—which, however, are no more than their plain and bonnden duty—by subsequent obstruction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

#### Inclosure in No. 18.

*Imperial Decree, dated January 11, 1900.*

(Translation.)

OF late in all the provinces brigandage has become daily more prevalent, and missionary cases have recurred with frequency. Most critics point to seditious Societies as the cause, and ask for rigorous suppression and punishment of these. But reflection shows that Societies are of different kinds. When worthless vagabonds form themselves into bands and sworn confederacies, and relying on their numbers create disturbances, the law can show absolutely no leniency to them. On the other hand, when peaceful and law-abiding people practise their skill in mechanical arts for the self-preservation of themselves and their families, or when they combine in village communities for the mutual protection of the rural population, this is in accordance with the public-spirited principle (enjoined by Mencius) of "keeping mutual watch and giving mutual help."

Some local authorities, when a case arises, do not regard this distinction, but, listening to false and idle rumours, regard all alike as seditious Societies, and involve all in one indiscriminate slaughter. The result is that no distinction being made between the good and the evil, men's minds are thrown into fear and doubt. This is, indeed, "adding fuel to stop a fire" "driving fish to the deep part of the pool to catch them." It means, not that the people are disorderly, but that the administration is bad.

The profound compassion and unbounded favour of our dynasty have blessed the country for over 200 years; the people eat our produce and tread our soil; they have natural goodness implanted in them; how can they, of their own free will, come to adopt bandit ways, and bring down punishment upon themselves?

The essential thing is that the Viceroys and Governors of the provinces should select officers worthy of confidence, who should rule their districts well, and give rest to their people. When litigation arises between converts and people, it should be dealt with according to justice, without the slightest partiality for either side. Such conduct serves as a matter of course to fulfil the people's trustful hopes, and to quiet popular feeling in time of trouble, changing serious affairs to trifles, and causing trifling ones to disappear. The stability of the country's institutions and the consolidation of international relations alike depend on this.

The Viceroys and Governors of the provinces have received the fullest and weightiest marks of our favour.

If they offer their united services in these critical times, they must be able to carry into effect the determination of the Throne to treat the masses with paternal kindness, and to regard all men with equal benevolence. Let them give strict orders to

the local authorities, that in dealing with cases of this kind they should only inquire whether so and so is or is not guilty of rebellion, whether he has or has not stirred up strife, and should not consider whether he belongs to a Society or not, whether he is or not an adherent of a religion.

As for our common people, let them give thought to the protection and security of their native places, their persons, and their homes. Let them not give ear to those who would unsettle their minds and so bring upon themselves calamities and military operations. Nor let them on the other hand presume upon influence and authority to oppress their fellow-villagers.

In this way it is our earnest hope that the hamlets will be at peace, and that thus we may be relieved of our anxious care by day and night.

Let this Decree be published abroad.

### No. 19.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, January 16, 1900.*

IN my despatch of the 5th January, in which I reported the deplorable murder of Mr. Brooks in Northern Shantung, I drew your Lordship's attention to serious disturbance in the neighbouring Province of Chihli, brought about by riotous proceedings of the same Society of "Boxers," at whose hands Mr. Brooks met with his death.

Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin, the residence of the Viceroy of the Chihli Province, had kept me fully informed of the state of affairs in the southern part of the province, and, as stated in my despatch quoted above, had frequently complained to the Viceroy of the inadequacy of the protection afforded to British life and property in the districts affected by the disturbances. In consequence of these complaints and of my own urgent representations to the Tsung-li Yamên, guards of soldiers had been stationed for the protection of the various missionary establishments.

Although these measures served to protect the European missionaries themselves, and their own Mission premises, reports from the disturbed districts showed that the native Christian converts were being persecuted and harried in a very cruel manner by the "Boxers."

Thinking that perhaps a personal interview with the Viceroy might be useful in putting a stop to a state of affairs which, if allowed to continue, would lead to the gravest results, I proceeded to Tien-tsin on Saturday, the 6th instant. The Viceroy was away on a tour of inspection in the disturbed districts when I arrived, but returned on the 8th instant, and received me an hour after his return. His Excellency seemed to be fully alive to the gravity of the situation, but told me that the difficulty in dealing with the "Boxers" lay in the fact that they were composed of small bands of peasantry, some twenty or thirty in each band. On the approach of the soldiers these bands dispersed, and the peasants returned to peaceful pursuits. Within the last ten days two bands had been caught *in flagrante delicto*, and had been severely dealt with—a number killed, and two Chiefs executed.

I pointed out to his Excellency that it was not the killing of a few misguided peasantry that would put a stop to these riotous and disgraceful proceedings, but the severe punishment of the local officials, who were the real people to blame. His Excellency told me that four Magistrates had been dismissed, and new ones appointed; these latter he had seen himself, and had impressed upon them the absolute necessity of suppressing these disturbances with energy and promptness.

He further told me that he was in daily telegraphic communication with Yüan Shih-k'ai, the Governor of the neighbouring Province of Shantung, with a view to concerted movements of their respective troops, in order to surround the rioters and prevent the disturbances from spreading. I am of opinion that the Viceroy is very earnest in his desire to restore order and punish the evil-doers. The latter, however, have many secret supporters among the local gentry.

By latest accounts the state of affairs is improving, the local officials are acting with commendable energy, and the Christian converts are returning to their homes from which they had been driven by the rioters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.



No. 20.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, March 23, 1900.*

THE Tsung-li Yamên have not yet replied to the further note addressed to them by the four Representatives; when they do, it will probably be to refuse our request.

From Mr. Campbell in Shantung I learn by telegraph that whereas the Governor shows energy and is willing, the policy of the other officials is obstruction; further, that in the western portion of the province fresh disturbances have arisen.

With reference to my telegram of the 10th and your Lordship's of the 11th instant, I learn that the Government of the United States have ordered one ship-of-war to go to Taku for the purpose of protecting American interests, that the Italian Minister has been given the disposal of two ships, and the German Minister has the use of the squadron at Kiao-chau for the same purpose.

With a view to protect British missionary as well as other interests, which are far in excess of those of other Powers, I would respectfully request that two of Her Majesty's ships be sent to Taku.

No. 21.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 24, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 16th January, reporting an interview which you had with the Viceroy of Chihli at Tien-tsin, relative to the disturbed condition of that province.

I approve your action as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 24, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 17th January, reporting on your further representations to the Tsung-li Yamên relative to the murder of Mr. Brooks and the disturbed state of the north-western part of the Province of Shantung.

Your proceedings in the matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 23.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, March 24, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, copies of telegraphic correspondence with Her Majesty's Minister at Peking,\* relative to the disturbed state of the Provinces of Shantung and Pechili, and the demand made by him, in conjunction with the Representatives of America, France, Germany, and Italy, for the suppression of anti-foreign secret societies.

Sir C. MacDonald requests that two ships may be sent to Taku for the protection of British missionary and other interests, and I am to request that their Lordships

\* Nos. 11, 12, and 20.



will, if they see no objection, instruct the Commander-in-chief on the China Station to comply with Sir C. MacDonald's application.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

## No. 24.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, March 25, 1900.*

DISTURBANCES in Shantung and Pechili: your telegram of the 23rd instant.

Orders have been issued by the Admiralty for Her Majesty's ships "Hermione" and "Brisk" to proceed to Taku.

## No. 25.

*Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)*

My Lord,

*Berlin, March 22, 1900.*

THE "Post" of the 20th March reproduces in its evening issue a protest made by the "Ost Asiatisches Lloyd" against the attitude of certain organs of the English and Chinese press that have circulated the most incredible rumours about events in China of a nature to make people in Europe believe that China is either on the threshold of a revolution or of a general collapse of her system of government.

"One could laugh heartily," the East Asian paper says, "over the whole affair, were it not that the question has unfortunately a most serious side to it. The reports which even the most respectable papers have published during the last few weeks have made a deep impression which will not be easily removed upon the Chinese population, and more especially among traders, who naturally know little about the dynastic and political conditions of their country, but who place implicit confidence in the statements of Europeans.

"The wild tales that are telegraphed to Europe and America must influence the value of Chinese stock, but more especially the confidence of the home market in Chinese affairs.

"Do the English press organs realize the result of their attitude?"

"Thus," adds the "Post," "English newspapers recently announced to the world the sensational news of the dethronement of Huang-fu, a report which the world endeavoured to better by adding that perhaps the Emperor had committed suicide. Confidence in the stability of the present state of things in China is naturally seriously shaken by such rumours, the effect of which is already making itself sufficiently felt in the Far East."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

## No. 26.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, March 29, 1900.*

WITH reference to the murder of Mr. Brooks, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that five prisoners have now been found guilty after four days' trial in the presence of Mr. Consul Campbell and two missionaries. One was shown to have beheaded and killed the victim while the other four were accessories and culpable in various degrees. Two of the prisoners have been sentenced to death, the third to imprisonment for life, another to imprisonment for ten years, and the fifth to banishment for two years.

A sum of 7,500 taels has been paid for the cost of building a memorial chapel, 1,500 taels for a memorial at the college at Canterbury to which deceased belonged, and a further sum of 500 taels for the erection of a tablet on the scene of the murder.

The District Magistrate of Fei Ch'eng where the murder took place has been dismissed, and he has further been denounced to the throne.

As the murder did not take place within the jurisdiction of the two neighbouring Magistrates, the Yamên refused to punish them, although they are equally culpable. I have accordingly informed the Yamên that for this reason I consider that the result of the trial is unsatisfactory, and that I would report to your Lordship in this sense.

Yü Hsien, the late Governor of the province, who has recently been appointed Governor of Shansi, is the principal culprit, and we cannot well insist on the punishment of minor officials, who practically acted under his orders, unless this man is first punished.

No. 27.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, January 31, 1900.*

IN my despatch of the 5th instant I described the disturbed state of the northern part of the Province of Shantung and the southern part of the Province of Chih-li, and inclosed translation of a satisfactory Imperial Decree, issued on the 5th January, in connection with the murder of the Rev. S. M. Brooks.

On the 17th instant, in my despatch of that date, I forwarded translation of a second Decree, dated the 11th January, dealing with anti-Christian disturbances, and stated that it was viewed with some misgivings, as liable to encourage the members of such Societies as the "Boxers."

Subsequent reports received by me and my American, French, and German colleagues from foreign missionaries resident in the affected region confirmed these first apprehensions.

On the 25th I conferred at this Legation with the Representatives of the three Powers above mentioned, and it was decided to address an identic note to the Tsung-li Yamên, setting forth the unfortunate impression to which the Decree of the 11th January had given rise, and requesting the issue of a Decree suppressing the offending Societies by name. I inclose copy of this note, dated the 27th instant.

It had not been understood that there were also Italian missionaries in the districts in question, and the Italian Minister had not, therefore, been invited to the Conference. He has, however, sent to the Yamên an identic note.

The name of the Society given in the note as "The Fist of Righteous Harmony" is the same as the "Boxers." The latter name was given in the first instance, either by missionaries or newspapers, but does not convey the meaning of the Chinese words. The idea underlying the name is that the members of the Society will unite to uphold the cause of righteousness, if necessary by force.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Inclosure in No. 27.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Tsung-li Yamên.*

MM. les Ministres,

*Peking, January 27, 1900.*

WITHIN the last few weeks I have had occasion to address your Highness and your Excellencies both by letter and personally with regard to the deplorable state of affairs which exists in northern Shantung and in the centre and south of Chih-li.

This state of affairs, which is a disgrace to any civilized country, has been brought about by the riotous and lawless behaviour of certain ruffians who have banded themselves together into two Societies, termed respectively the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and the "Big Sword Society," and by the apathy, and in some instances actual connivance and encouragement of these Societies by the local officials.

The members of these Societies go about pillaging the homes of Christian converts, breaking down their chapels, robbing and ill-treating inoffensive women and children, and it is a fact, to which I would draw the special attention of your Highness and your Excellencies, that on the banners which are carried by these riotous and lawless people are inscribed the words. "Exterminate the Foreigners."

On the 11th January an Imperial Decree was issued drawing a distinction between good and bad Societies. The wording of this Decree has unfortunately given rise to a

widespread impression that such Associations as the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and the "Big Sword Society" are regarded with favour by the Chinese Government, and their members have openly expressed their gratification and have been encouraged by the Decree to continue to carry on their outrages against the Christian converts.

I cannot for a moment suppose that such was the intention of this Decree. These Societies are, as I have shown, of a most pernicious and rebellious character.

I earnestly beg to draw the serious attention of the Throne to the circumstances above described: the disorders have not reached such a stage that they cannot be stamped out by prompt and energetic action; but if such action be not immediately taken, the rioters will be encouraged to think that they have the support of the Government and proceed to graver crimes, thereby seriously endangering international relations.

As a preliminary measure, and one to which I attach the greatest importance, I have to beg that an Imperial Decree be published and promulgated, ordering by name the complete suppression and abolition of the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and the "Big Sword Societies," and I request that it may be distinctly stated in the Decree that to belong to either of these Societies, or to harbour any of its members, is a criminal offence against the laws of China.

I avail, &c.  
(Unsigned.)

No. 28.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, January 31, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a special audience of all the high metropolitan officials was summoned for the 24th instant in the Palace. It was conjectured that this unusual proceeding was in some way connected with the question of the occupancy of the Throne of China; and these conjectures were confirmed by the Imperial Decree which appeared the same evening, translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

In this Decree the Emperor is made to recall the arrangement made at the time of his succession, that, on an heir being born to him, the child should become the heir by adoption to the Emperor just then deceased. His Majesty regrets the failure of this arrangement, owing to his own ill-health, and the impossibility of his having a son born to him, and announces that the Empress-Dowager has, at his own request, selected an heir to the late Emperor in the person of one of his near relatives.

In the same issue of the "Peking Gazette" there were published three other Decrees with reference to the newly-appointed heir apparent. The first of these directed that he should represent the Emperor in the performance of the ceremonies to celebrate the new year (31st January) in three of the Palace halls; the second appointed Ch'ung-Yi and Hsü T'ung as tutors to superintend his education; and the third prescribed a congratulatory ceremonial at the Palace on the 26th instant.

The young Prince P'u-Chün, who has been thus selected to succeed to the throne, is a grandson of Prince Tun, known as the Fifth Prince, that is, the fifth son of the Emperor, whose reign was styled Tao-Kuang (1821–51). The present Emperor is the son of the seventh Prince, so that the new heir apparent is the first cousin once removed of the reigning Sovereign. He is 14 years old.

For a full account of the genealogy of the reigning family, of the system of adopting heirs, of the peculiarities of the succession of the present Emperor, and of the reasons why the elder branches of the family were passed over in his favour, I have the honour to refer your Lordship to two interesting despatches written by Sir Thomas Wade at the time when the present Emperor came to the throne—of the 19th and 26th January, 1875.

Of the two high officials above mentioned as having been appointed tutors to the heir apparent, Ch'ung Yi, is a Manchu, who was father-in-law of the late Emperor (T'ung Chih), and has since held high office. He has had no intercourse with foreigners, and is said to be of conservative tendencies. The other, Hsü T'ung, is a Chinese bannerman, also of exalted rank, who is reputed to be a hater of foreigners and all their ways. He lives in the street where most of the foreign Legations are situated, and has borne out this reputation by the consistent opposition which he has offered to the macadamizing of this street and to all other material reforms.

In the Gazette of the 27th January appeared a Decree appointing His Highness Prince Ch'ing (well known to foreigners as President of the Tsung-li Yamên), and a Mongol

Prince named Na, to be "Anta" to the young Prince, "Anta" being a Manchu word signifying the supervisor of children in a Prince's household. Prince Ch'ing is a good type of the ordinary Manchu conservative statesman; and the selection of the future Emperor's advisers would seem to be based on the desire to prevent him from being carried away by those impulses towards sudden reform which the Empress-Dowager has had to repress so vigorously in his predecessor.

Rumours of the impending abdication or deposition of the Emperor have been prevalent in the capital and elsewhere for some months past, and the news of the appointment of a successor to the throne has undoubtedly given such rumours a fresh life.

Possibly with a view to quieting the general uneasiness in this regard, the Empress-Dowager issued a Decree on the 28th instant, directing that the Emperor's next birthday, marking the completion of his 30th year, should be celebrated with all the ceremonies proper to the occasion. This Decree was succeeded on the following day, 29th January, by four Decrees on the subject of the 30th birthday celebrations, purporting to be in the name of the Emperor himself, the effect of which is that the ceremonies of worshipping Heaven, and of ascending the throne to receive congratulations are not to be observed on the occasion, that the high provincial authorities are not to memorialize for permission to come to Peking to offer congratulations, that ceremonial robes are to be worn for seven days, and that special examinations are to be held by Imperial grace in honour of the auspicious year.

The only other authentic indication which I am able to record as to the Emperor's real position is that afforded by the Court Circular in yesterday's Gazette, by which it is notified that the Emperor is to receive in person the usual obeisances to-day—the first day of the year.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLAUDE M. MacDONALD.

Inclosure in No. 28.

*Extract from the "Peking Gazette" of January 24, 1900.*

*Imperial Decree.*

(By the Emperor's own pen.)

(Translation.)

WHEN at a tender age we entered into the succession to the throne, Her Majesty the Empress-Dowager graciously undertook the rule of the country as Regent, taught and guided us with diligence, and managed all things, great and small, with unremitting care, until we ourselves assumed the government. Thereafter the times again became critical. We bent all our thoughts and energies to the task of ruling rightly, striving to requite Her Majesty's loving kindness, that so we might fulfil the weighty duties intrusted to us by the late Emperor Mu Tsung Yi (T'ung Chih).

But since last year we have suffered from ill-health, affairs of State have increased in magnitude and perplexity, and we have lived in constant dread of going wrong.

Reflecting on the supreme importance of the worship of our ancestors and of the spirits of the land, we therefore implored the Empress-Dowager to advise us in the government. This was more than a year ago, but we have never been restored to health, and we have not the strength to perform in person the great sacrifices at the altar of Heaven and in the temples of the spirits of the land.

And now the times are full of difficulties. We see Her Gracious Majesty's anxious toil by day and by night, never laid aside for rest or leisure, and with troubled mind we examine ourselves, taking no comfort in sleep or food, but ever dwelling in thought on the labours of our ancestors in founding the dynasty, and ever fearful lest our strength be not equal to our task.

Moreover, we call to mind how, when we first succeeded to the throne, we reverently received the Empress-Dowager's Decree that as soon as a Prince should be born to us he should become the heir by adoption to the late Emperor Mu Tsung Yi (T'ung Chih). This is known to all the officials and people throughout the Empire.

But we suffer from an incurable disease, and it is impossible for us to beget a son, so that the Emperor Mu Tsung Yi has no posterity, and the consequences to the lines of succession are of the utmost gravity. Sorrowfully thinking on this, and feeling that there is no

place to hide ourself for shame, how can we look forward to recovery from all our ailments?

We have therefore humbly implored Her Sacred Majesty carefully to select from among the near branches of our family a good and worthy member, who should found a line of posterity for the Emperor Mu Tsung Yi (T'ung Chih), and to whom the Throne should revert hereafter. After repeated entreaties, Her Majesty has now deigned to grant her consent that P'u Chün, son of Tsai Yi, Prince Tuan, should be adopted as the son of the late Emperor Mu Tsung Yi (T'ung Chih). We have received Her Majesty's Decree with unspeakable joy, and in reverent obedience to her gracious instruction we appoint P'u Chün, son of Tsai Yi, as Prince Imperial, to carry on the dynastic succession.

Let this Decree be made known to all men.

No. 29.

*Sir Chihchen Lofêngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)*

My Lord,

*Chinese Legation, April 2, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship of an Imperial Edict relating to the succession to the Throne of China, which I have been instructed by the Tsung-li Yamên to communicate to your Lordship, for the information of Her Majesty's Government. The Edict bears the date of the 24th day of the 12th month of the 25th year of Kuang Hsü (24th January, 1900), and is as follows:—

“On our succession, at a very tender age, to the throne, and afterwards during the whole period of the Regency, we were placed under deep obligations to the Empress-Dowager for the solicitude with which she watched over us, and for the counsels we received from her in matters great and small. By way of requiting the favours thus vouchsafed to us, and of discharging the onerous duties imposed on us as the successor of the Emperor Tung Chih, our constant endeavour has always been to improve the administration of the country. But during the last year, bad health, and the burden of the multifarious business of the State, have often made us fearful lest we should prove unequal to the task and stumble under the weight of our great responsibilities.

“Now, considering the Edict which was promulgated by the Empress-Dowager on our accession to the throne, and in which, as is well known alike to Ministers and people throughout the Empire, it is stated that, on a son being born to us, he should be accounted as the son of the Emperor Tung Chih, posthumously adopted to continue the succession; and also considering that we suffer from a congenital infirmity which renders our ever having a son improbable, and that the settlement of the succession is a matter of great importance, we have on several occasions reverentially besought and entreated the Empress-Dowager to select from amongst the members of the Imperial family, most nearly related to the throne, some good and fitting person who should be considered as the son by adoption of His Majesty the late Emperor Tung Chih, and Her Majesty, having at length been graciously pleased to consent to this, has nominated P'u Tsun, son of Tsai Yih, Prince Tuan, as the person who is to be considered as the son of Tung Chih, and the successor to the throne when the necessity shall arise.

“This nomination, having been highly gratifying to us, we do hereby, in compliance with it, create P'u Tsun, son of Tsai Yih, an Imperial Prince, to the end that the line of the succession to the throne may be continued.”

The appointment of the Prince to continue the Imperial succession being a matter of great international importance, I am to request that your Lordship will be so good as make note of the Imperial Edict, of which the above is a translation, and of which I also inclose the text in Chinese.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LOFÊNGLUH.

No. 30.

*Sir Chihchen Lofêngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)*

My Lord,

*Chinese Legation, April 3, 1900.*

ON the 10th January last I had the honour to convey to your Lordship the expression of my Government's regret at the murder of the Rev. Mr. Brooks, a British

missionary, at Feichen, in the Province of Shantung, and their assurance that no efforts would be spared in order to visit the guilty parties with condign punishment.

By direction of the Tsung-li Yamên, I have now to acquaint your Lordship of the fulfilment of that promise. Of several arrests that had been made of persons accused of having been the perpetrators of the crime or otherwise concerned in its committal, two have been brought to justice and, at a trial at which a British Consul was present, found guilty and sentenced to be decapitated—a sentence which has already been carried into effect. Besides this, the Magistrate of Feichen, and some of the police authorities of the district, accounted to have been guilty of culpable negligence in the protection of Mr. Brooks, have been cashiered, or had other punishments awarded them of different degrees of severity.

I feel assured that in the exemplary punishment inflicted on the murderers and the officials who were found to have come short of their duty Her Majesty's Government will not fail to see a satisfactory settlement of the regrettable occurrence, and a proof of the Chinese Government's determination to give the fullest degree of security and protection to foreigners residing or travelling in the country.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LOFENGLUH.

No. 31.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Chihchen Lofengluh.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 11, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 3rd instant relative to the murder of Mr. Brooks, a British Missionary, at Feichen, in the Province of Shantung, in which you inform me of the punishment inflicted on the murderers as well as on the officials who were found to have failed in their duty in connection with this occurrence. You state that Her Majesty's Government cannot fail to see in the action taken in the matter by the Chinese Government a determination on their part to afford the fullest degree of security and protection to foreigners residing or travelling in the country.

While thanking you for your communication, I have to point out to you that no punishment has been inflicted on the late Governor of Shantung, who must be held primarily responsible for the lawless state of affairs existing there, and that this official, according to information which has reached me from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, has been transferred to the Governorship of another province.

In these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government are unable to regard the present settlement of the case as wholly satisfactory.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 32.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, March 5, 1900.*

IN my despatch of the 31st January, I had the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of an identic note addressed to the Yamên on the 27th January by myself, my American, French, German, and Italian colleagues, in which we asked that a Decree should be issued specifically denouncing the anti-Christian Societies in Shantung and Chihli.

Receiving no answer, we wrote again on the 21st February, pressing for a reply, and on the 25th February we each received the note, of which I inclose copy herewith. Your Lordship will observe that in this note the Yamên misquote the note to which it is a reply, make no mention of either of the Societies whose suppression we had demanded, and merely state that a Decree had been issued ordering the Governors of the provinces to put an end to the disturbances.

This was considered so unsatisfactory by myself and the Representatives of the other four Powers that we decided to ask for an interview with the Yamên, at which Prince Ch'ing should be present, and we prepared an identic note, copy of which is inclosed, to be delivered at the interview, in which we repeated the demand already



made, with the additional stipulation that the Decree we asked for should be published in the official Gazette, in the same way as the harmful Decree of the 11th January.

The interview was arranged for the 2nd instant, and on the evening of the 1st instant we each received from the Yamên the note and inclosure of which I have the honour to forward translation herewith. The inclosure consists of a Proclamation by the Governor-General of Chihli, embodying an Imperial Decree, in which the "Boxers" are denounced in unambiguous terms.

Had this note been sent in the first instance as a reply to the identic note it would, as I subsequently informed the Yamên, have probably been accepted as satisfactory by the Representatives of the five Powers concerned. In view, however, of the tardiness with which the Chinese Government had dealt with this matter, and of the aggravated suspicion as to the meaning of the Decree concerning Societies caused by the evasive terms of the Yamên's note of the 24th February, it was decided at a Conference held before we started for the Yamên that we should adhere to the demand formulated in the identic note which we had already prepared.

Mr. Conger, United States' Minister, Baron von Ketteler, German Minister, Marquis Salvago, Italian Minister, Baron d'Anthoïard, French Chargé d'Affaires, and myself were received at the Yamên by Prince Ch'ing and nearly all the Ministers. On behalf of myself and my colleagues I recapitulated the circumstances, as detailed above, which had led to the demand which we now made. My colleagues all expressed to the Prince and Ministers their entire concurrence with the language I used. Mr. Conger reminded the Yamên of the incredulity with which they had listened to his representations regarding these disturbances over three months ago, and the promises they had been making ever since, from which nothing had resulted.

Baron von Kettler laid special stress on the fact that in the Decree just communicated no mention was made of the "Ta Tao Hui," or "Big Knife Society," the denunciation of which, equally with that of the "I-Ho-Ch'uan" or "Fist of Righteous Harmony," had been demanded.

The Prince and Ministers protested emphatically that the Throne was earnest in its determination to put a stop to the outrages committed by these Societies. They maintained that the method adopted for promulgating the Imperial Decree, that of sending it to the Governors of the provinces concerned, to be embodied in a Proclamation and acted upon, was much speedier and more effective than that of publishing a Decree in the "Peking Gazette," as suggested by us. With regard to the omission of the term "Ta Tao Hui" from the Decree, they declared that this Society was now the same as the "I-Ho-Ch'uan."

While we acknowledged the sincerity displayed by the Imperial Decree and its promulgation by Proclamation, none of the arguments employed by the Yamên convinced us that there was any real objection, beyond a dislike to obeying foreign dictation, to the publication of a Decree in the Gazette in the terms we demanded, and we therefore handed in the identic notes which we had prepared.

The Yamên promised to consider the question and to send a reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

*The Tsung-li Yamên to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Peking, February 25, 1900.*

ON the 21st instant we received your Excellency's note stating that you had some time since addressed us with regard to rebellious ruffians who in Shantung and elsewhere formed societies and made disturbances, requesting us to memorialize the throne to issue a Decree in terms of strict prohibition; that you had not yet received a reply, and asking us to immediately memorialize the throne as originally requested, and to reply.

We have the honour to state that on the 19th instant we had already memorialized the throne on the subject, and at once received an Imperial Decree directing the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of Shantung to issue orders by Proclamation, and to strictly forbid the above proceedings.

We have the honour to reply accordingly for your Lordship's information.

(Seal of Yamên.)



## Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

*The Tsung-li Yamên to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

Peking, March 1, 1900.

WITH regard to the strict prohibition of the disturbances raised by the "Fist Society" in Shantung and Chihli, the Yamên lately memorialized the throne and, in obedience to the Imperial commands, sent instructions to the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of Shantung to issue Proclamations in terms of severe prohibition.

We wrote to your Excellency to this effect on the 25th January.

We have now received a reply from the Governor-General of Chihli stating that he has instructed all local authorities within his jurisdiction to issue a Proclamation couched in words of the most stringent admonition. His Excellency sends us a draft of the Proclamations to be issued.

When we receive the reply of the Governor of Shantung we will again communicate with your Excellency. Meanwhile we send you a copy of the Governor-General of Chihli's draft Proclamation.

(Seal of Yamên.)

## Inclosure 3 in No. 32.

*Proclamation by the Governor-General of Chih'i.*

(Translation.)

IN a matter of the most stringent admonition and strict prohibition.

On the 21st February last the following Imperial Decree was reverently received:—

"The 'Tsung-li Yamên memorializes requesting our orders for the strict suppression of the 'Fist Society.' Last year the Governor of Shantung telegraphed that the Society known as 'the Fist of Righteous Harmony' in many of his districts under the plea of enmity to foreign religions, were raising disturbances in all directions, and had extended their operations into the southern part of Chihli. We have repeatedly ordered the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of Shantung to send soldiers to keep the peace. But it is to be feared that if stern measures of suppression of such proceedings as secretly establishing societies with names and collecting in numbers to raise disturbances be not taken, the ignorant populace will be deluded and excited, and as time goes on things will grow worse, and when some serious case ensues we shall be compelled to employ troops to extirpate the evil. The sufferers would be truly many, and the throne cannot bear to slay without warning.

"Let the Governor-General of Chihli and the Governor of Shantung issue the most stringent Proclamations admonishing the people and strictly prohibiting (the societies) so that our people may all know that to secretly establish societies is contrary to prohibition and a breach of the law.

"Evil customs must be rooted out and the people encouraged to be good. Should any obstinately adhere to their delusions and persist in their old ways they must be immediately punished with the greatest severity and without the slightest mercy.

"Both converts and the ordinary Chinese are the subjects of the throne and in all cases of lawsuits the local officials must adjudicate with fairness, discriminating only between right and wrong and not between the adherents of foreign religions and others. There must be no trace of partiality. Thus will be supported our supreme desire to treat all with equal benevolence.

"Let the high officials named proclaim our words, that all people may know our will."

I (the Governor-General) find it settled by decided cases that those people of no occupation, busybodies who style themselves Professors, and practise boxing, and play with clubs, and teach people their arts; those also who learn from these men, and those who march about and parade the villages and marts flourishing tridents, and playing with sticks, hoodwinking the populace to make a profit for themselves, are strictly forbidden to carry on such practices. Should any disobey, on arrest the principals will receive 100 blows with the heavy bamboo, and be banished to a distance of 1,000 miles. The pupils will receive the same beating, and be banished to another province for three years and, on expiration of that period and return to their native place be subjected to strict surveillance.

Should any inn, temple or house harbour these people without report to the officials, or should the police and others not search them out and arrest them, the delinquents will be sentenced to eighty blows with the heavy bamboo for improper conduct in the higher degree.

From this it appears that teaching or practising boxing and club play, and deluding the people for private gain are fundamentally contrary to law. But of late some of the ignorant populace have been deluded by ruffians from other parts of the Empire who talk of charms and incantations and spiritual incarnations which protect from guns and cannon.

They have dared to secretly establish the Society of the Fist of Righteous Harmony and have practised drill with fists and clubs. The movement has spread in all directions, and under the plea of hatred of foreign religions these people have harried the country. When soldiers and runners came to make arrests, turbulent ruffians had the audacity to defy them relying on their numbers, thereby exhibiting a still greater contempt for the law.

Although the officials, civil and military, have put out many Proclamations admonishing the people, there are still great numbers who, while professing obedience, are secretly recalcitrant and cling to their former errors. It must be remembered that both converts and ordinary Chinese are the cherished sons of the Government. Should differences arise between any of these, it is a matter of duty for the parties to have recourse to an official decision; but to presume to assemble in armed mobs to burn and destroy houses, and rob and pillage, and even to hold men to ransom, and inflict bodily injury, and to defy and resist the official troops, is conduct differing in no respect from that of robbers and rebels.

You have all of you your lives and property. Why then allow yourselves to be deluded and excited by wicked men, and cling to your mistaken ideas, deliberately entering the meshes of the law?

In addition to instructing all the local officials to adopt strict measures of prohibition and to punish without fail all offenders, I hereby issue this most stringent admonition and notify all people in my jurisdiction, gentry and every class of the population, that you should clearly understand that the establishment and formation of secret societies for the practice of boxing and club exercises are contrary to prohibition and a breach of the law.

The assembly of mobs to create disturbances and all violent outrages are acts which the law will still less brook.

As regards the establishment of these boxing lodges which excite and delude the people and give rise to disturbances, strict orders have now been issued for the arrest and punishment of the ringleaders. They have no chance whatever of escaping the hand of justice. As to the ignorant and stupid persons who have been persuaded to join the society and practise boxing, it is imperative that they recognize their error, abandon their pernicious practices and exert themselves to be good subjects of the Empire. Should they speedily correct their fault, their past offences will be graciously overlooked, but if they do not mend their ways and continue in their evil course, and lodges are again established for the practice of boxing and club exercise, and the people led into error for the private gain of the promoters, the local officials will immediately in combination with the military forces arrest the offenders who will be punished with the utmost severity without the slightest mercy.

The converts and the ordinary people are all the subjects of the throne, and are regarded by the Government with impartial benevolence. No distinction is made between them. Should they have lawsuits they must bow to the judgments of the officials. The ordinary people must not give way to rage, and by violent acts create feuds and trouble.

The converts on the other hand must not stir up strife and oppress the people or incite the missionaries to screen them and help them to obtain the upper hand.

The local officials must on their part carefully observe the stipulations of the Treaties. In their decision of cases brought before them they must not consider who is a convert or who is an ordinary Chinese. They must only differentiate right and wrong, and must act with impartiality and without any favour to either side.

Finally, it is my fervent wish that all, whether converts or ordinary people, will attend to their own affairs and keep the law, that all needless suspicions be abandoned, and that all may cultivate friendly relations the one with the other.

Let all tremblingly obey!

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Inclosure 4 in No. 32.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Tsung-li Yamén.*

MM. les Ministres,

*Peking, February 27, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Highness' and your Excellencies' note of the 25th instant, in answer to my notes of the 27th January and the 21st February on the subject of the anti-Christian disturbances in Shantung and Chihli.

As the Yamén have not acceded to my request to obtain the issue of an Imperial Decree in the terms specified in my note of the 27th January, I beg to repeat a portion of that despatch with the addition of the words "in the 'Peking Gazette'."

I request that an Imperial Decree may be issued and published in the "Peking Gazette" ordering by name the complete suppression and abolition of the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and "Big Sword Societies," and I request that it may be distinctly stated in the Decree that to belong to either of these societies or to harbour any of its members is a criminal offence against the law of China.

Nothing less than this will, I am convinced, put an end to the outrages against Christians which have lately been so prevalent in Chihli and Shantung. Should the Chinese Government refuse this reasonable request I shall be compelled to report to my Government their failure to take what may be called only an ordinary precaution against a most pernicious and anti-foreign organization. The consequences of further disorder in the districts concerned cannot fail to be extremely serious to the Chinese Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

No. 33.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, March 5, 1900.*

WITH reference to my despatch of to-day's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of the notes taken during the interview on the 2nd instant between myself and the Representatives of the United States, France, Germany and Italy, and the Ministers of the Yamén, on the subject of the Boxer disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Inclosure in No. 33.

*Memorandum of Interview between Sir C. MacDonald, with four other Foreign Representatives, and the Tsung-li Yamén, on the subject of Boxer Disturbances in Shantung and Chihli.*

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD, with Mr. Fulford and Mr. Ker, Mr. Conger, United States' Minister, with Mr. Cheshire; Baron Ketteler, German Minister, with Baron von der Goltz; Marquis Salvago, Italian Minister, with Dr. Merklingshaus; and Baron d'Anthouard, French Chargé d'Affaires, with M. Morisse; called by appointment at the Yamén, and were received by Prince Ch'ing Wang Wen-shao, Chao Shu-ch'iao, Hsü Jung-i, Hsü Ching-ch'eng, Wu T'ing-fen, Kuei Ch'un, Lien Yuan.

Sir Claude MacDonald recapitulated the circumstances which had induced the five Representatives to come to-day to discuss the disturbances now going on in Shantung and Chihli. It was admitted that these disturbances were the work of two Societies known as the I-Ho Ch'üan and the Ta Tao Hui. On the 11th January an Imperial Decree was published in the "Peking Gazette," which although not mentioning these Societies by name, was drawn up in such ambiguous terms that it has given rise to a wide-spread impression that these Societies were actually encouraged by the Throne. The result had been to unsettle people's minds and in many cases to produce further disturbances.

The Representatives of the various Powers who had special interests in those two provinces on account of the number of Mission Stations occupied by their nationals in the said provinces, had therefore addressed an identic note to the Yamên requesting that a Decree should be issued denouncing the I-Ho Ch'uan and the Ta Tao Hui specifically by name. This was on the 27th January. They waited a month without receiving an answer, and on the 21st February they wrote again pressing for a reply.

On the 25th February they received an answer from the Yamên which was absolutely unsatisfactory. It misquoted the Foreign Representatives' note; it made no mention of the Societies; it merely stated that a Decree had been issued ordering the Governors of the provinces to suppress—without stating what it was they were to suppress.

The Representatives of the five Powers were now here to request that an Imperial Decree should be issued, and published in the "Peking Gazette" in the same way as the former Decree, denouncing the I-Ho Ch'uan and the Ta Tao Hui by name, and declaring it a criminal offence against the laws of China to belong to either of these Societies, or to harbour any of their members.

The Yamên Ministers said that there was apparently some misapprehension on the part of the foreign Representatives. The first note addressed to the Yamên arrived just at the time of the New Year, but as soon as the New Year holidays were over the Yamên memorialized the Throne, and it will be seen from the Decree embodied in the Governor-General of Chibli's Proclamation inclosed in the Yamên's note of the previous day (the 1st March) that the Boxers were denounced by name. The Throne regarded this matter as of the greatest importance; and the Imperial Decree ordering the suppression of the Societies had been promulgated by sending it to the Governors of the two provinces as a much speedier and more effective means than publishing it in the Gazette. The Ministers referred to the stringent measures taken against these Societies in the reign of Chia Ch'ing (1796-1821), and said this policy was being consistently carried out at the present day.

Sir Claude observed that if he and his colleagues had received in the first instance the despatch which they received last night, it was just possible that they would not have been here to-day. As it was, they were now here to request that an Imperial Decree denouncing both Societies should be published in the "Peking Gazette" in the same way as the first misleading Decree. In view of what the Ministers stated as to the policy of the Chinese Government he presumed there would be no difficulty about making the publication in the Gazette which was requested.

The Prince and Ministers reiterated at length what they had already said as to the sincerity of the Government, and as to the superiority of the method of promulgation adopted. This was the method always adopted in the case of matters of importance, *i.e.*, a secret Decree was given to the Privy Council, not to be put into the Gazette, but sent to the provinces and acted upon. Besides, the Gazette only dealt with current matters, and this Decree had already been acted upon and was now past history. The previous Decree was a general one, couched in vague terms, and mentioning no particular Society. It referred to the whole Empire; but this Decree aimed specially at these two Societies, and the most effective means had been taken of conveying it to the Provinces of Shantung and Chibli, to which it specially referred.

Sir Claude, speaking for himself, acknowledged the satisfactory terms of the Decree embodied in the Governor-General of Chibli's Proclamation inclosed in the Yamên's note of the previous day, but insisted that it should be published in the Gazette. Neither he nor his colleagues would be satisfied with anything short of this.

Mr. Conger addressed the Yamên in the same sense, dwelling on the harm done by the Decree of the 11th January and on the necessity of correcting it by a Decree published in an equally universal way. He reminded the Yamên that when this matter was first brought before them they declared he was only listening to idle rumours. For over three months the Chinese Government had been making similar assurances as to suppressing these disturbances to those they made now, but nothing had come of these assurances. The Yamên were therefore bound to comply with the suggestion and demand now made by his colleagues and himself.

The Yamên pointed out that they had done all that the five foreign Representatives had asked them to do. The publication in the Gazette was a demand formulated for the first time to-day.

Baron von Ketteler expressed his agreement with his colleagues, but called special attention to the omission of the Ta Tao Hui from the Decree now communicated. The reason was that the Head of the Ta Tao Hui was in Peking at the present moment. When Yü Hsien was sent for by the Throne, instead of being sent to the

Board of Punishments, he received a special mark of favour from the Imperial hands. The foreign Representatives demanded that such a man should be denounced before the country, and the only way to do so was to denounce the Society to which he belonged.

The suggestion that the former Governor of Shantung was the head of the Ta Tao Hui was received with undisguised merriment by the Prince and Ministers, but the Prince admitted that Yü Hsien was to blame for not having suppressed the disturbances.

Sir Claude MacDonald and Mr. Conger both expressed their agreement with Baron von Ketteler so far as regarded the responsibility of Yü Hsien for the disturbances in Shantung. They attributed the original Edict to his inspiration.

In reply to Baron von Ketteler, the Yamên explained that the Ta Tao Hui had amalgamated with the I-ho Ch'üan. The names which were or might be assumed by these brigands were legion. As a matter of fact, the Yamên's Memorial did mention the Ta Tao Hui by name.

Marquis Salvago expressed his agreement with his colleagues.

Baron d'Anthouard did the same, adding that he had received news that very day which proved that the authorities were not affording due protection to the missionaries in Shantung and Chihli.

The Yamên assured him that every precaution was being taken.

Baron d'Anthouard said he had received similar assurances over three months ago, and he wanted more than words, he wanted deeds, to reassure him.

Sir Claude then read to the Yamên, in the name of his colleagues, the last paragraph of his note of the 27th February, which was handed in. Identical notes were handed in by all the Representatives present.

The Yamên repeated what they said before as to the superiority of the method adopted for promulgating the Decree denouncing the Boxers over the method suggested by the foreign Representatives.

Sir Claude said that he accepted the Decree inclosed in Yamên note of the 1st March as satisfactory, and that but for the pernicious Edict of the 11th January, and but for the author of that Edict, they would not be here to-day. That was the reason why they asked for publication in the Gazette.

The Yamên (Hsu Yung-i) said that the five foreign Representatives had misunderstood the meaning of the Edict of the 11th January. The Throne was actuated by the best of motives in issuing it. It was designed to allay the bad feeling existing between the Christians and natives throughout the Empire, and to prevent such Societies as the Boxers, &c., in Shantung from committing atrocities by branding such Societies according to their deeds. The idea that it was inspired by Yü Hsien was entirely erroneous.

Sir Claude said he did not wish to enter into a discussion with regard to the Edict of the 11th January. The views of the foreign Representatives had been clearly put before the Prince and Ministers, and further discussion was unnecessary. He begged to draw the serious attention of the Ministers to the fact that all five Representatives were present acting under instructions from their respective Governments, and begged that an early answer be given so that they might inform their Governments of the same.

The Yamên said they would consider the matter, and reply.

*Peking, March 2, 1900.*

#### No. 34.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, April 16, 1900.*

WITH reference to my two telegrams of the 10th and 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that the "Official Gazette" has now published a Memorial from the Viceroy of Chihli, which embodies a satisfactory Imperial Decree denouncing by name the Boxers' Societies.

I have also to inform your Lordship that the two ships ordered to Taku have now returned to their ordinary duty.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, April 20, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 5th ultimo, reporting the action which you took, in conjunction with your American, French, German, and Italian colleagues, to obtain the issue by the Chinese Government of a Decree specifically denouncing the anti-Christian Societies in Shantung and Chihli.

I approve your proceedings in regard to this matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, March 16, 1900.*

IN continuation of my despatches of the 5th instant on the subject of the anti-Christian Societies in Chihli and Shantung, I have the honour to inclose, herewith, translation of the Yamên's reply to the identic note which was handed to the Prince and Ministers by myself and four colleagues at the interview of the 2nd March.

In this communication the Yamên merely repeat the arguments advanced by them at the interview, and maintain the impossibility of acceding to the demand for publication in the "Peking Gazette" of a Decree denouncing the Societies. At a Conference of the five Representatives concerned, held on the 10th instant to consider this reply, it was accordingly decided that we should repeat the demand already made, with the addition of an intimation that, in the event of the Chinese Government's failure to comply therewith, we would recommend to our respective Governments the advisability of adopting other measures for the protection of the lives and property of their nationals in China.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the identic note which was addressed to the Yamên in accordance with this decision.

In thus insisting on compliance with our original demand, my colleagues and I were influenced by the daily increasing gravity of the situation in this and the neighbouring province. Reports were consistently being received of "Boxers" drilling and enlisting recruit even near Tien-tsin and Peking, in spite of the Proclamation issued by the Provincial Governors; and it was felt that the strongest pressure was necessary to awaken the Imperial Government to a sense of the danger of international complications ensuing if these Societies were not promptly and vigorously dealt with.

On the 10th instant I had the honour to report the above circumstances to your Lordship by telegraph, submitting a recommendation that if our demand was not acceded to, and no improvement in the situation took place, the measures to be adopted for the protection of British, American, French, German, and Italian subjects should take the form of a combined naval demonstration in the waters of North China. My colleagues telegraphed to their respective Governments in the same sense.

No reply has yet been received from the Tsung-li Yamên to the note of the 10th March, and it was with serious misgivings as to the attitude of the Chinese Government on this question that I read yesterday the official announcement of the appointment of Yü Hsien, lately Governor of Shantung, to the post of Governor of Shansi. The growth and impunity of the anti-Christian Societies in Shantung has been universally ascribed to the sympathy and encouragement accorded to them by this high officer, and his conduct has for some time past formed the subject of strong representations on the part of several of the foreign Representatives. Altogether Yü's appointment to so important a post cannot fail to be regarded as showing an extraordinary lack of consideration on the part of the Chinese Government for the opinions and representations of foreign Powers.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.



## Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

*The Tsung-li Yamên to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

Peking, March 7, 1900.

THE Yamên have the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 2nd instant of your Excellency's note on the subject of the anti-Christian disturbances in Shantung and Chihli, repeating the request formerly made, with the addition of the words "and published in the 'Peking Gazette.'" Your Excellency added that nothing short of this, &c. (last paragraph of despatch of the 27th February quoted in full).

On the 1st March the Yamên received from the Governor-General of Chihli a draft copy of his prohibitory Proclamation embodying an Imperial Edict, copy of which Proclamation was immediately communicated for your Excellency's information. From this it will be seen that, in accordance with your Excellency's request for the strict prohibition of anti-Christian manifestations by members of Societies, the Yamên has already memorialized the Throne and received the Imperial sanction to this proposal.

But the Imperial Edict which the Yamên had the honour to have communicated to them on that day was one issued by the Grand Council for transmission to the Governor-General and Governor of the provinces concerned, that is, it was what is called a "T'ing-Chi" (Message from the Throne). Now, inasmuch as all "T'ing-Chi" are immediately issued to the province to which the Message is sent, and every such province is bound to take action in accordance therewith the moment the Message is received, matters dealt with in this way assume much greater weight and importance than those dealt with by the issue of a "Shang-Yü" (Imperial Decree). The rule is that a special Imperial Message is not delivered to the Grand Secretariat for publication (*i.e.*, in the "Gazette"). Moreover, seeing that in this case a Memorial has been presented already, and a Message from the Throne issued in accordance therewith, it is not proper that a second request should be submitted to the Throne for the issue of an Imperial Decree. This is an established rule of public business in China which it is impossible to alter.

The Governor-General and Governor of the provinces in question have now, in obedience to Imperial commands, issued a Proclamation in terms of stringent prohibition, and in future the rascals who have been molesting Christians cannot fail to dread the majesty of the law and to turn from their courses.

Moreover, the intention of your Excellency's desire that the contents of the Edict should be printed in the "Peking Gazette" is that the people may be universally informed thereof. Your Excellency is not aware that the circulation of the "Peking Gazette" is most extensive inside Peking, and that in the provinces it is read only by the officials, the people in general having no opportunity of seeing it. Now that the Governor-General and Governor of the provinces concerned have, in obedience to Imperial Edict, issued a Proclamation making known what is commanded, the common people are all able to see it, and the publication is certainly much more widespread than it would be by the "Peking Gazette."

The Yamên must beg your Excellency to give further careful consideration to this matter, and you will then be convinced that the truth of their statements can be relied upon. Your Excellency resides in China, and must be fully acquainted with the constitution and conditions of the Chinese Empire, and the Yamên earnestly trust that you will report to your honourable Government accordingly.

In communicating the above observations in reply to your Excellency's note, the Yamên avail, &c.

(Seal of Yamên.)

## Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Tsung-li Yamên.*

MM. les Ministres,

Peking, March 10, 1900.

ACKNOWLEDGING receipt of your Highness' and your Excellencies' note of the 7th March, I regret to say that it is no way either an adequate or satisfactory reply to my notes or my verbal requests concerning the suppression of the two Societies known as the "Big Sword" and "Fist of Righteous Harmony."

I therefore am obliged to repeat the requests, and because of the rapid spread of these Societies, proof of which is accumulating every day, and which the Imperial Decree of the 11th January greatly encouraged, I insist that an absolute prohibitive Decree for all China, mentioning these two Societies by name, be forthwith issued and published in the "Peking Gazette," as was done with the Decree of the 11th January.

Should I not receive a favourable answer without delay, I shall report the matter to my Government, and urge strongly the advisability of the adoption of other measures for the protection of the lives and property of British subjects in China.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MacDONALD.

No. 37.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, May 17, 1900.

THE French Minister called to-day to inform me that the Boxers have destroyed three villages and killed 61 Roman Catholic Christian converts at a place 90 miles from Peking, near Paoting-fu. The French Bishop informs me that in that district, and around Tien-tsin and Peking generally, much disorder prevails.

The marine guard which was under orders to leave Tien-tsin has, at my request, been retained by the Admiral.

No. 38.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, May 18, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 17th May :

There was a report yesterday, which has been confirmed to-day, that the Boxers have destroyed the London Mission chapel at Kung-tsun, and killed the Chinese preacher. Kung-tsun is about 40 miles south-west of Peking.

No. 39.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, May 19, 1900.

IN continuation of my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that, when at the Yamên yesterday, I reminded the Ministers how I had unceasingly warned them during the last six months how dangerous it was not to take adequate measures in suppression of the Boxer Societies. I said that the result of the apathy of the Chinese Government was that now a Mission chapel, a few miles distant from the capital, had been destroyed.

The Ministers admitted that the danger of the Boxer movement had not previously appeared to them so urgent, but that now they fully saw how serious it was. On the previous day an Imperial Decree had been issued, whereby specified metropolitan and provincial authorities were directed to adopt stringent measures to suppress the Boxers. This, they believed, would not fail to have the desired effect.

No. 40.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 20.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, May 20, 1900.

THERE are reports current here that the mob at Yünnan-fu are threatening serious danger to English and French missionaries.



I am informed by the Yamèn that the importation of arms by the French Consul has been the cause of trouble, but that there is no danger, as sufficient troops have been sent there by the Viceroy.

I have sent telegraphic inquiry to the missionaries, requesting facts.

## No. 41.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, May 21, 1900.

BOXER disturbances.

With reference to my telegram of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that all eleven foreign Representatives attended a meeting of the Diplomatic Body held yesterday afternoon, at the instance of the French Minister.

The doyen was empowered to write, in the name of all the foreign Representatives, a note to the Yamèn to the effect that the Diplomatic Body, basing their demands on the Decrees already issued by the Palace denunciatory of the Boxers, requested that all persons who should print, publish, or disseminate placards which menaced foreigners, all individuals aiding and abetting, all owners of houses or temples now used as meeting places for Boxers, should be arrested. They also demanded that those guilty of arson, murder, outrages, &c., together with those affording support or direction to Boxers while committing such outrages, should be executed. Finally, the publication of a Decree in Peking and the Northern Provinces setting forth the above.

The doyen of the Diplomatic Body, accordingly, sent in the note this morning.

## No. 42.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, May 21, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day's date, the foreign Representatives decided at their meeting to take further measures if the disturbances still continued, or if a favourable answer was not received to their note within five days.

The meeting did not decide what measures should be taken, but the Representatives were generally averse to bringing guards to Peking, and, what found most favour, was as follows:—

With the exception of Holland, which has no ships in Chinese waters, it was proposed that all the Maritime Powers represented should make a naval demonstration either at Shanhaikuan, or at the new port, Chingwangtao, while, in case of necessity, guards were to be held ready on board ship.

My colleagues will, I think, send these proposals as they stand to their Governments.

As the Chinese Government themselves seem to be sufficiently alarmed, I do not think that the above measure will be necessary, but, should the occasion arise, I trust that Her Majesty's Government will see fit to support it.

## No. 43.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 21.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, May 21, 1900.

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day's date, I had a private interview with my Russian colleague, who came to see me before the matter reached its acute stages. M. de Giers said that there were only two countries with serious interests in China: England and Russia. He thought that both landing guards and naval demonstrations were to be discouraged, as they give rise to unknown eventualities. However, since the 18th instant, he admits that matters are grave, and agreed at once to the joint note.

## No. 44.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, May 22, 1900.*

"BOXER" agitation: Your telegram of the 21st May.

Her Majesty's Government note your concurrence in the measures advocated by the Conference, and will support you.

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## No. 45.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, May 23, 1900.*

CHINA.

Minister for Foreign Affairs is apparently satisfied by a telegram he has just received from Peking that further pressure will be rendered unnecessary by the Chinese Government at last taking sufficiently energetic measures.

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## No. 46.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 24.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 24, 1900.*

HER Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin reported by telegraph yesterday that a Colonel in charge of a party of the Viceroy's cavalry was caught, on the 22nd instant, in an ambush near Lai-shui, which is about 50 miles south-west of Peking. The party were destroyed.

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## No. 47.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 25.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 25, 1900.*

TSUNG-LI Yamên have replied to the note sent by the doyen of the Corps Diplomatique, reported in my telegram of the 21st May.

They state that the main lines of the measures already in force agree with those required by the foreign Representatives, and add that a further Decree, which will direct efficacious action, is being asked for.

The above does not even promise efficacious action, and, in my personal opinion, is unsatisfactory. I have, however, not yet had an opportunity of consulting my colleagues.

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## No. 48.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 27, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to report that at the meeting of the Corps Diplomatique, which took place yesterday evening, we were informed by the French Minister that all his information led him to believe that a serious outbreak, which would endanger the lives of all European residents in Peking, was on the point of breaking out.

The Italian Minister confirmed the information received by M. Pichon.

The Russian Minister agreed with his Italian and French colleagues in considering the latest reply of the Yamên to be unsatisfactory, adding that, in his opinion, the Chinese Government was now about to adopt effective measures. That the danger was imminent he doubted, but said that it was not possible to disregard the evidence adduced by the French Minister. We all agreed with this last remark.

M. Pichon then urged that if the Chinese Government did not at once take action guards should at once be brought up by the foreign Representatives. Some discussion then ensued, after which it was determined that a precise statement should be demanded from the Yamên as to the measures they had taken, also that the terms of the Edict mentioned by them should be communicated to the foreign Representatives.

Failing a reply from the Yamên of a satisfactory nature by this afternoon, it was resolved that guards should be sent for.

Baron von Ketteler, the German Minister, declared that he considered the Chinese Government was crumbling to pieces, and that he did not believe that any action based on the assumption of their stability could be efficacious.

The French Minister is, I am certain, genuinely convinced that the danger is real and owing to his means of information he is well qualified to judge.

## No. 49.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 27, 1900.*

IN continuation of my telegram of to-day, I have to report that I had an interview with Prince Ch'ing and the Yamên Ministers this afternoon. Energetic measures are now being taken against the Boxers by the Government, whom the progress of the Boxer movement has, at last, thoroughly alarmed.

The Corps Diplomatique, who met in the course of the day, have decided to wait another twenty-four hours for further developments.

## No. 50.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, May 27, 1900.*

"BOXER" disturbances.

Your telegram of the 27th instant.

If you consider it necessary for the protection of the lives of Europeans you may send for marine guard.

## No. 51.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received May 29.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, May 29, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 29th May, from the Commander-in-chief, China, relative to the dispatch of two ships of war to Taku.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

## Inclosure in No. 51.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Liukuntau, May 29, 1900.*

IN consequence of unsettled state of affairs at Peking, I have sent "Orlando" and "Algerine" to Taku, ready to land guards if required by Minister.

## No. 52.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 29, 1900.*

SOME stations on the line, among others Yeng-tai, 6 miles from Peking, together with machine sheds and European houses, were burnt yesterday by the Boxers. The line has also been torn up in places. Trains between this and Tien-tsin have stopped running, and traffic has not been resumed yet.

The situation here is serious, and so far the Imperial troops have done nothing.

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## No. 53.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 29, 1900.*

IT was unanimously decided, at a meeting of foreign Representatives yesterday, to send for guards for the Legations, in view of the apathy of the Chinese Government and the gravity of the situation. Before the meeting assembled, the French Minister had already sent for his.

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## No. 54.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 30, 1900.*

PERMISSION for the guards to come to Peking has been refused by the Yamên. I think, however, that they may not persist in their refusal. The situation in the meantime is one of extreme gravity. The people are very excited, and the soldiers mutinous. Without doubt it is now a question of European life and property being in danger here.

The French and Russians are landing 100 men each.

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## No. 55.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 30, 1900.*

LEGATION guards.

My telegram of yesterday's date.

French, Russian, and United States' Ministers, and myself, were deputed to-day at a meeting of the foreign Representatives to declare to the Tsung-li Yamên that the foreign Representatives must immediately bring up guards for the protection of the lives of Europeans in Peking in view of the serious situation and untrustworthiness of the Chinese troops. That the number would be small if facilities were granted, but it must be augmented should they be refused, and serious consequences might result for the Chinese Government in the latter event.

In reply, the Yamên stated that no definite reply could be given until to-morrow afternoon, as the Prince was at the Summer Palace. As the Summer Palace is within an hour's ride we refused to admit the impossibility of prompt communication and decision, and repeated the warning already given of the serious consequences which would result if the Viceroy at Tien-tsin did not receive instructions this evening in order that the guards might be enabled to arrive here to-morrow. The danger will be greatest on Friday, which is a Chinese festival.

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*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, May 31, 1900.*

LEGATION guards.

My télégram of to-day.

Provided that the number does not exceed that of thirty for each Legation, as on the last occasion, the Yamên have given their consent to the guards coming to Peking. A report, which has, however, not been confirmed, has come from Tien-tsin that the French and Russian guard coming up the river to Tien-tsin turned back, owing to threats on the part of the Chinese that they would open fire on them.

It was decided this morning, at a meeting of the foreign Representatives, to at once bring up the guards that are ready. These probably include the British, American, Italian, and Japanese.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received May 31 )*

Sir,

*Admiralty, May 31, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated 31st May, from the Commander-in-chief on the China station.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 57.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Wei-hai Wei, May 31, 1900.*

AS affairs at Peking are becoming more serious, I am leaving at once for Taku with "Centurion" and "Whiting." "Endymion" and "Fame" will follow.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 31.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, May 31, 1900.*

CHINA. Reports of discussions and decisions of foreign Representatives at Peking precisely similar to those contained in Sir C. MacDonald's telegrams have been received by the Russian Foreign Office, but from a later report Count Mouravieff gathers that the danger is now less acute, and his Excellency evidently hopes that more vigorous action of the fresh troops which are being sent by the Chinese Government to check the Boxers may avert the necessity of bringing guards to Peking.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 1, 1900.*

LEGATION guards.

The report that the French and Russian guards were turned back or went back on the 30th ultimo is confirmed.

British, American, Italian, Russian, French, and Japanese guards arrived yesterday. Facilities were given, and there were no disturbances. Our detachment consists of three officers and seventy-five men, and a machine gun.

## No. 60.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)*

(Extract.)

*Paris, May 31, 1900.*

OBSERVING in Sir C. MacDonald's telegram of the 27th May, which your Lordship was so good as to communicate to me, that the French Minister at Peking seemed to be taking the lead in calling upon his colleagues to take precautions against coming danger from the Boxer Associations, I called on M. Delcassé on the 29th instant, and asked him what news M. Pichon had sent him.

His Excellency had before him a telegram which he had just received, and which had been dispatched, I believe, the previous day from Peking, reporting what had passed at the meeting of the Diplomatic Representatives before any decision had been arrived at as to sending for foreign troops to guard the Legations.

M. Delcassé told me that M. Pichon was a very cool and sensible man, and not likely to lose his head; that he had not asked for authority to send for troops to guard the French Legation.

For the rest, said his Excellency, the general instructions of which M. Pichon is in possession give him full authority to send for troops on his own responsibility if ever he should consider the need of them to be urgent.

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## No. 61.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 2, 1900.*

THE city is comparatively quiet, but murders of Christian converts and the destruction of missionary property in outlying districts occur every day, and the situation still remains serious.

The situation at the Palace is, I learn from a reliable authority, very strained. The Empress-Dowager does not dare to put down the Boxers, although wishing to do so, on account of the support given them by Prince Tuan, father of the hereditary Prince, and other conservative Manchus, and also because of their numbers.

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## No. 62.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 2, 1900.*

THIRTY Europeans, most of whom were Belgians, fled from Paoting-fu via the river to Tien-tsin. About 20 miles from Tien-tsin they were attacked by Boxers. A party of Europeans having gone to their rescue from Tien-tsin severe fighting ensued, in which a large number of Boxers were killed. Nine of the party are still missing, including one lady. The rest have been brought into Tien-tsin.

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## No. 63.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 3.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 2, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, I am informed by the French Minister that he has learnt on good authority that the Empress-Dowager is preparing to fly to Sian-fu in Shensi, owing to hostile demonstrations of the Boxers against herself.

The Russian Minister, who came to see me to-day, said he thought it most imperative that the foreign Representatives should be prepared for all eventualities, though he had no news confirming the above report. He said he had been authorized by his Government to support any Chinese authority at Peking which was able and willing to maintain order in case the Government collapsed.

In reply to a question as to whether I shared his opinion, I said I was quite sure that Her Majesty's Government desired the maintenance of law and order by any properly constituted Chinese authority, and would support any measures having that object in view, but that I was without instructions in the matter.

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No. 64.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 3, 1900.*

I APPROVE your reply to the Russian Minister at Peking, as reported in your telegram of yesterday, respecting the attitude of Her Majesty's Government in the event of a collapse of the present Chinese Government.

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No. 65.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)*

My Lord,

*St. Petersburg, May 30, 1900.*

WHEN I attended Count Mouravieff's weekly reception to-day, I found that his Excellency had received from M. de Giers precisely similar reports of the discussions of the foreign Representatives at Peking in view of the serious danger of the Boxer outbreak as were communicated in Sir C. MacDonald's telegrams to your Lordship, which I received this morning.

Count Mouravieff said that the danger of the situation was undoubtedly more serious than it had been when he last spoke to me, inasmuch as the Representatives had apparently thought it necessary to summon the guards to the capital, a step which he seemed to view with some alarm. He said that the French and American sailors had apparently already landed, but he had no report of the Russian or English having done so; he did not think that the Boxers would be able to face European forces, but he still thought that the Chinese Government, which was evidently seriously alarmed, and at last sending a more reliable force to check the movement, would be able to do so without foreign assistance.

He said that the Chinese Minister had just been with him; he had asked him some time ago to send a message from him to his Government, earnestly impressing on them the necessity in their own interest, as well as that of European Governments, to suppress the outbreak with the utmost energy and promptitude, so as to avoid the necessity of foreign Powers taking measures themselves for the protection of the lives and property of their subjects.

He asked Yang-Yu to-day what answer he had received from his Government, and he had replied "none." Count Mouravieff remarked that he trusted that it had been made quite clear that his message had been exclusively inspired by a real regard for China's own interests.

Count Mouravieff then said to me that it was quite clear that the whole of the mischief had been done by the Governor of the province, who had been sent to put down the agitation and keep things quiet, and had evidently secretly encouraged it, and that the first forces sent from Peking had not been seriously concerned to oppose the Boxers, but that his latest news was that the troops, which the Government at Peking, at last seriously alarmed for their own safety, were sending to the seat of disturbance, would be able to master it.

Count Mouravieff seems to have taken the same optimistic view in talking to some of my colleagues who had questioned him on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

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No. 66.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 4, 1900.*

I AM informed by a Chinese courier who arrived to-day from Yung-Ching, 40 miles south of Peking, that on the 1st June the Church of England Mission at that place was attacked by the Boxers. He states that one missionary, Mr. Robinson, was murdered, and that he saw his body, and that another, Mr. Norman, was carried off by the Boxers. I am insisting on the Chinese authorities taking immediate measures to effect his rescue.

No. 67.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, June 4, 1900.*

THE French Minister at Peking has informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the situation has, in his opinion, improved.

No. 68.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 4, 1900.*

PRESENT situation at Peking is such that we may at any time be besieged here with the railway and telegraph lines cut. In the event of this occurring, I beg your Lordship will cause urgent instructions to be sent to Admiral Seymour to consult with the officers commanding the other foreign squadrons now at Taku to take concerted measures for our relief.

The above was agreed to at a meeting held to-day by the foreign Representatives, and a similar telegram was sent to their respective Governments by the Ministers of Austria, Italy, Germany, France, Japan, Russia, and the United States, all of whom have ships at Taku and guards here.

The telegram was proposed by the French Minister and carried unanimously. It is difficult to say whether the situation is as grave as the latter supposes, but the apathy of the Chinese Government makes it very serious.

No. 69.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 5.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 5, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated 4th June, from the Commander-in-chief, China.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 69.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty:*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tong-ku, June 4, 1900.*

"D'ENTRECASTEAUX" (French), "Kasagi" (Japanese), "Zenta" (Austrian), arrived. Twenty-four men-of-war here altogether.

A guard of 75 sent to Peking and 104 to Tien-tsin, matters being reported serious. I remain awaiting developments and further news from Minister.



## No. 70.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 5, 1900.*

MY telegram of yesterday.

I went this afternoon to the Yamên to inquire of the Ministers personally what steps the Chinese Government proposed to take to effect the punishment of Mr. Robinson's murderers and the release of Mr. Norman.

I was informed by the Ministers that the Viceroy was the responsible person, that they had telegraphed to him to send troops to the spot, and that that was all they were able to do in the matter.

They did not express regret or show the least anxiety to effect the relief of the imprisoned man, and they displayed the greatest indifference during the interview. I informed them that the Chinese Government would be held responsible by Her Majesty's Government for the criminal apathy which had brought about this disgraceful state of affairs. I then demanded an interview with Prince Ching, which is fixed for to-morrow, as I found it useless to discuss the matter with the Yamên.

## No. 71.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 5, 1900.*

MY preceding telegram.

I regret to say I have received confirmation of the reported murder of Mr. Robinson. Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin has been informed by the Viceroy of the murder on 2nd June of Mr. Norman, who was supposed to be a prisoner.

## No. 72.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 5, 1900.*

URGENT. I have to-day sent the following telegram to the Admiral:—

"At a meeting of the Consuls held yesterday to form a home guard, a Resolution was passed asking for strong reinforcements. This step I consider to be absolutely necessary. Our passive position intensifies the danger of the situation hour by hour, and I strongly urge the advisability of the guard being permitted to take active measures of hostility.

"I am telegraphing to Her Majesty's Minister, but am doubtful how long communications may remain open with Peking."

## No. 73.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)*

(Extract.)

*Paris, June 5, 1900.*

I ASKED M. Delcassé last evening what news he had from Peking, observing that the telegrams published in the French papers as to the dangerous situation in that capital were confirmed, as far as I knew, by the information sent to your Lordship by Her Majesty's Minister.

M. Delcassé replied that, on the contrary, his latest telegrams from M. Pichon represented that he considered that for the moment all imminent danger was over.

M. Delcassé could not tell me the date of M. Pichon's telegram, but his Excellency seemed to be convinced that it was subsequent to anything that had appeared in the newspapers, and to believe that all the Europeans at first reported missing had escaped.

## No. 74.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 5, 1900.*

AS the wire to Tien-tsin may be cut at any moment, please send immediate instructions to the Admiral.

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## No. 75.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 5, 1900.*

THIS afternoon I had an interview with the Prince and Ministers of the Yamên. They expressed much regret at the murder of Messrs. Robinson and Norman, and their tone was fully satisfactory in this respect.

I pointed out that there was not the slightest indication that the Chinese Government intended to deal severely with the Boxer disturbances, and that insecurity of human life within a few miles of the capital and serious danger of an outbreak occurring within the city itself was the result of this attitude.

I said that this failure to suppress the Boxers was, as far as I could judge, leading straight to foreign intervention, however much friendly Powers might regret such a course.

No attempt was made by the Prince to defend the Chinese Government, nor to deny what I had said. He could say nothing to reassure me as to the safety of the city, and admitted that the Government was reluctant to deal harshly with the movement, which, owing to its anti-foreign character, was popular. He stated that they were bringing 6,000 soldiers from near Tien-tsin for the protection of the railway, but it was evident that he doubted whether they would be allowed to fire on the Boxers except in the defence of Government property, or if authorized whether they would obey.

He gave me to understand, without saying so directly, that he has entirely failed to induce the Court to accept his own views as to the danger of inaction. It was clear, in fact, that the Yamên wished me to understand that the situation was most serious, and that, owing to the influence of ignorant advisers with the Empress-Dowager, they were powerless to remedy it.

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## No. 76.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 6, 1900.*

SINCE the interview with the Yamên reported in my preceding telegram I have seen several of my colleagues.

I find they all agree that, owing to the now evident sympathy of the Empress-Dowager and the more conservative of her advisers with the anti-foreign movement, the situation is rapidly growing more serious.

Should there be no change in the attitude of the Empress, a rising in the city, ending in anarchy, which may produce rebellion in the provinces, will be the result, "failing an armed occupation of Peking by one or more of the Powers."

Our ordinary means of pressure on the Chinese Government fail, as the Yamên is by general consent, and their own admission, powerless to persuade the Court to take serious measures of repression. Direct representations to the Emperor and Dowager-Empress from the Corps Diplomatique at a special audience seems to be the only remaining chance of impressing the Court.

At to-day's meeting of the foreign Representatives, it will probably be decided to ask the approval of their respective Governments for the demand for such an audience, unless it appears that the situation is so critical as to justify them in making it without waiting for instructions.

As no foreign Representative here has Ambassador's privileges it is probable that an audience will be refused, as against precedent, and it is certain to be delayed should the

demand be refused, or unless there is an improvement in the situation (as there may be if the demand itself opens the Empress' eyes).

I am of opinion that strong measures should be taken to enforce compliance.

No. 77.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 6, 1900.*

MY preceding telegram.

A meeting of the foreign Representatives was held this afternoon, and it was decided to postpone till Saturday next the question of demanding an audience.

No. 78.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 6.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 6, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated this day, from the Commander-in-chief, China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 78.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tong-ku, June 6, 1900.*

SITUATION having become more grave, I have ordered "Aurora" and "Phœnix" here from Wei-hai Wei; "Humber" to Shanhaikuan. Several Europeans in isolated positions have been murdered, and there is a strong feeling against all foreign element. Chinese Government appear to be doing nothing to check outrages. Meeting of Senior Naval Officers of the French, German, Italian, Russian, Austrian, United States, and Japanese men-of-war held on board "Centurion" this afternoon to discuss situation and arrange concerted action if necessary.

No. 79.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 6.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 6, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated this day, to the Commander-in-chief, China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 79.

*Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 6, 1900.*

IN case of danger to the foreign Legations at Peking, or to British subjects either there or at T'ien-tsin and in the neighbourhood, take such steps, in concert with the

Commanding Officers of the other squadrons, as you may consider advisable and practicable for their protection. Her Majesty's Government desire to leave you a wide discretion as to the measures to be adopted.

No. 80.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 6, 1900.*

HER Majesty's Minister in China, in his telegram of the 4th instant, of which a copy was communicated to you yesterday, stated that the situation at Peking was such that Her Majesty's Legation might at any time be besieged, with the railway and telegraph lines cut. He requested that in the event of this happening, urgent instructions might be sent to the Commander-in-chief on the China station to consult with the officers in command of the squadrons of other Powers at Taku, with a view to concerted measures for the relief of the foreign Legations at Peking. Sir C. MacDonald added that his telegram was the result of a decision arrived at at a meeting of the foreign Representatives, and that similar telegrams had been sent by the Ministers of Austria-Hungary, Italy, Germany, France, Japan, Russia, and the United States to their respective Governments, all of whom have guards at Peking and ships at Taku.

In a further telegram received to-day, of which a copy has also been transmitted to you, Sir C. MacDonald states that the telegraph to Tien-tsin may be interrupted at any moment, and repeats his request that the instructions suggested in his first telegram may be sent to Admiral Seymour.

The Marquess of Salisbury would suggest that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty should telegraph to the Commander-in-chief in China, that, in case of danger to the foreign Legations at Peking or to British subjects either there or at Tien-tsin and in the neighbourhood, he should take such steps in concert with the Commanding Officers of the other squadrons as he may consider advisable and practicable for their protection; and that Her Majesty's Government desire to leave him a wide discretion as to the measures which, under the circumstances, it may appear to him expedient to adopt.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 81.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 7.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 7, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 7th June, from the Commander-in-chief, China station.

A copy of this telegram has been sent to the Colonial Office and also to the War Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 81.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tong-ku, June 7, 1900.*

IN view of the gravity of the situation, and it being unadvisable to distress ships for men, submit whether troops from Hong Kong may be sent for Tien-tsin and Peking. "Terrible" available for conveyance.

No. 82.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 7.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 7, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 7th instant, from Admiralty to the Commander-in-chief, China.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 82.

*Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 7, 1900.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been addressed by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Her Majesty's Minister, Peking:—

“The situation is difficult, and your discretion must be quite unfettered. You may take precisely what measures you think expedient.”

Report any steps you may take in concert with Minister.

No. 83.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 7, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th instant, I have to inform you that the following instructions were telegraphed yesterday to the Admiral:—

[See Inclosure in No. 80.]

No. 84.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 7, 1900.*

YOUR telegram of the 6th June.

The situation is difficult, and your discretion must be quite unfettered. You may take precisely what measures you think expedient.

No. 85.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 7, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 6th June on the subject of the crisis at Peking, I approve the proposal to demand an audience of the Emperor and Empress-Dowager.

No. 86.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 8.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 7, 1900.*

THERE is a long Decree in the “Gazette” which ascribes the recent trouble to the favour shown to converts in law suits and the admission to their ranks of bad characters. It states that the Boxers, who are the objects of the Throne's sympathy equally with the

converts, have made use of the anti-Christian feeling aroused by these causes, and that bad characters among them have destroyed chapels and railways which are the property of the State.

Unless the ringleaders among such bad characters are now surrendered by the Boxers they will be dealt with as disloyal subjects, and will be exterminated. Authorization will be given to the Generals to effect arrests, exercising discrimination between leaders and their followers.

It is probable that the above Decree represents a compromise between the conflicting opinions which exist at Court. The general tone is most unsatisfactory, though the effect may be good if severe measures are actually taken. The general lenient tone, the absence of reference to the murder of missionaries, and the justification of the proceedings of the Boxers by the misconduct of Christian converts are all dangerous factors in the case.

No. 87.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 8.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 8, 1900.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram of the 8th June from the Commander-in-chief on the China station relative to affairs at Peking.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 87.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tong-ku, June 8, 1900.*

MY telegram of 6th instant.

In case of a sudden march on Peking as regards command, the best course might be for me to undertake it, with Russian Colonel as Chief of the Staff. I think all or most of the foreign officers here would agree to this. Request instructions.

Rear-Admiral would be left in the command of the squadron off Pei-ho.

No. 88.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 8.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 8, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated this day, from the Admiralty to the Commander-in-chief on the China station.

A similar communication has been addressed to the War Office.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 88.

*Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 8, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 7th instant, you are to place yourself in communication with the General Commanding at Hong Kong, and concert with him as to dispatch of any troops from there to the Pei-ho should it be considered desirable.

No. 89.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 8, 1900.*

I HAVE been informed by the Spanish Government that, having no guard to send to protect their Legation at Peking, they would be glad if the British force could undertake that duty.

If the British force is sufficiently strong, you can comply with any application from your Spanish colleague to this effect.

No. 90.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 8, 1900.*

WITH reference to the inquiry of the Commander-in-chief on the China station as to who should be in command of the force from the foreign ships of war in the event of a march on Peking becoming necessary, I am to state that, in Lord Salisbury's opinion, the Senior Officer should command the force, and Sir Edward Seymour should be so informed.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 91.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 8, 1900.*

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of to-day, inclosing a copy of a telegram from the Commander-in-chief on the China station, in which he proposes that, in the event of it being necessary for the forces from the foreign ships of war to march to Peking, he should take command of them, with the Russian Colonel as Chief of his Staff.

Lord Salisbury suggests that Admiral Seymour's proposal should be approved.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 92.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 8, 1900.*

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have communicated to the Marquess of Salisbury a copy of a telegram from the Commander-in-chief on the China station of yesterday, in which he suggests that, in view of the gravity of the situation in Northern China, and the inadvisability of leaving Her Majesty's ships without sufficient crews, troops should be sent from Hong Kong for employment at Tieu-tsin and Peking.

A copy of Admiral Seymour's telegram has been sent to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War.

I am directed by Lord Salisbury to state that he considers it advisable that all the troops that can be spared, not only from Hong Kong, but also from Wei-hai Wei and Singapore, should be concentrated at Taku.



His Lordship would be glad to be informed what steps Lord Lansdowne proposes to take in the matter after communicating with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

## No. 93.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, June 8, 1900.

A VERY bad effect has been produced by the Decree reported in my immediately preceding telegram. There is no prohibition of the Boxers drilling, which they now openly do in the houses of the Manchu nobility and in the temples. This Legation is full of British refugees, mostly women and children, and the London and Church of England Missions have been abandoned.

I trust that the instructions requested in my telegrams of the 4th and 5th instant have been sent to the Admiral.

## No. 94.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, June 8, 1900.

I HAVE received the following telegram, dated noon to-day, from Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin :—

“By now the Boxers must be near Yang-tsun. Last night the bridge, which is outside that station, was seen to be on fire. General Nieh's forces are being withdrawn to Lutai, and 1,500 of them have already passed through by railway. There are now at Yang-tsun an engine and trucks ready to take 2,000 more men.”

Lutai lies on the other side of Tien-tsin, and at some distance. Should this information be correct, it means that an attempt to protect Peking has been abandoned by the only force on which the Yamên profess to place any reliance.

The 6,000 men mentioned in my telegram of the 5th instant were commanded by General Nieh.

## No. 95.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Peking, June 8, 1900.

I HAVE sent the following telegram to-day to Tôkiô :—

“I have been instructed by Lord Salisbury to inform you of the present position here by telegraph.

“The movement against foreigners has been permitted to develop until it has resulted in the burning of railway stations, the interruption for the last five days of communication by rail, the murder in the country, near Peking, of two British missionaries and several foreigners, and in the surrounding districts the destruction of chapels and the pillage of numerous converts. In Peking itself British missionaries have been forced to quit their houses and come for refuge to the Legation, which has a guard of marines for its protection.

“The Chinese Government have been so far moved by these events as to depute high officials to hold parley with the ‘Boxers,’ but give no indication of any intention to suppress them summarily. Probably they still have the power to do so, but sympathy with the movement strongly influences the Throne, and the temper of the troops is uncertain.

“There is a disposition on the part of the Diplomatic Corps to request an audience, in order to represent the seriousness of the situation to the Throne, but as yet I am not aware whether this step will meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.”

## No. 96.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 8, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 5th and 6th instant and my two immediately preceding telegrams, I have to report that the situation is now critical. To-morrow or next day we shall meet to decide the question of a personal audience with the Empress-Dowager and the Emperor. If the demand for an audience is made it is essential, first, that it should be insisted on, and that we should compel the Chinese Government to grant it; secondly, that a definite statement should be made to the Throne, when the audience takes place, putting in plain terms the existence of so deplorable a state of things in North China owing to the Boxers not being repressed, and concluding with a strong intimation that, unless the Chinese Government immediately suppressed the Boxers and re-established law and order, the foreign Powers would be compelled themselves to take measures to that end, as the present state of things is fraught with so much danger to foreign interests.

## No. 97.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 9.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 8, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 8th June, from Admiralty to Commander-in-chief, China, with reference to your letter of to-day, concerning Admiral Seymour's proposal as to the command of any forces sent to Peking.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

## Inclosure in No. 97.

*Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 8, 1900.*

YOURS of the 8th instant.

Your proposal is approved if agreement come to.

## No. 98.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 9.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 9, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated to-day, from Admiralty to the Commander-in-chief, China.

A copy has also been sent to the War Office.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 98.

*Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 9, 1900.*

WITH reference to Admiralty telegram of yesterday, War Office has authorized Hong Kong and Straits Settlements to give such military force as they can spare on your request, should they be required.

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No. 99.

*War Office to Foreign Office. - (Received June 9.)*

Sir,

*War Office, June 9, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of Foreign Office letter of 8th June relative to the situation in China.

In reply, I am to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that the Admiralty has informed the Admiral on the station that the General Officers in command at Hong Kong and Singapore have been instructed to meet any demand for troops that he may make upon them to the extent that they can be spared.

The General Officers concerned have been instructed to comply as far as possible with the demands of the Admiral.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) R. H. KNOX.

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No. 100.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 9, 1900.*

THE Admiral has pointed out the inadvisability of unduly depleting the ships of war.

In consequence of his representation he has been informed that, in the event of his requiring them, troops from Hong Kong and Singapore will be placed at his disposal.

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No. 101.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 9, 1900.*

I CONCUR in the proposal contained in your telegram of yesterday with regard to the intimation to be made to the Emperor and Dowager-Empress at the audience it is proposed to demand.

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No. 102.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 9, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that the Spanish Government, having no guard to send to Peking to protect their Legation there, have requested that that duty may be undertaken by the British force.

I inclose, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram which Lord Salisbury has sent to Her Majesty's Minister in China,\* instructing

\* No. 82.

him to comply with any application to the above effect from his Spanish colleague, if the British force is sufficient.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 103.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 10.)*

Sir, *Admiralty, June 10, 1900.*  
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 10th June, from the Commander-in-chief, China station, reporting his landing for advance to Peking.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 103.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.) *Tong-ku, June 10, 1900.*  
FOLLOWING telegram received from Minister at Peking:—  
"Situation extremely grave. Unless arrangements are made for immediate advance to Peking it will be too late."  
In consequence of above, I am landing at once with all available men, and have asked foreign officers' co-operation.

No. 104.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Tien-tsin, June 10, 1900.*  
AT my request a meeting of Consuls and Naval Commandants was held last night to consider the urgent request of Her Majesty's Minister for the immediate arrangement for the dispatch to Peking of guards.  
The Japanese, Italians, Austrians, and Americans agreed to join with us in dispatching all men available as guards for the protection of the working party which is restoring the railway and for the gradual advance for the relief of the Legations, which was to take place as the line was repaired.  
The French and Russians refused to dispatch guards unless a force of at least 1,500 men was sent or the line was in working order. It was suggested that this or larger force could, if the situation was really as grave as was painted, be asked for from Port Arthur. It was agreed between us to ask the Viceroy to furnish a train, and the detachments will leave this morning, if possible, without awaiting the Russians and French.

No. 105.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 10.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Tien-tsin, June 10, 1900.*  
THE Commander-in-chief on the China station, with 300 British, 100 Americans, 60 Austrians, and 40 Italians left this morning by train.  
Other detachments, including the Russian, French, and German, immediately follow.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 11.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, April 16, 1900.*

IN my despatch of the 16th ultimo I inclosed a copy of the identic note addressed to the Yamên on the 10th March by myself and my colleagues of the United States, Germany, Italy, and France, reiterating our former demand for the publication in the Official Gazette of a Decree prohibiting certain anti-Christian Societies.

More than three weeks passed without a reply, and on the return of M. Pichon, the French Minister, from a visit to the south, a meeting of the five foreign Representatives was held on the 4th instant, at which it was decided that we should send the Chinese Secretaries of our respective Legations to the Tsung-li Yamên next day with a message to the effect that each of us expected to receive an answer within two days.

This was accordingly done, and on the 7th instant we received the note, of which I have the honour to inclose translation herewith. Although not entirely satisfactory in substance, this note contained an indication that the Chinese Government were prepared to meet our wishes as far as possible.

In acknowledging the receipt of the Yamên's note, which we did in similar terms on the 12th instant, we agreed not to press further for a special Decree in the Gazette, in view of the difficulties described by the Yamên; but at the same time we declared that we held the Chinese Government responsible for any further results which might follow their failure to comply with the measure we had recommended.

I had myself previously suggested informally to the Yamên that a way out of their difficulty might be found by the publication in the "Gazette" of Memorials from the Governor-General of Chihli and Governor of Shantung, respectively, embodying and reporting their action on the Imperial Decree denouncing the Societies which had already been issued at the instance of the Tsung-li Yamên.

For a translation of this satisfactory Decree, as embodied in a Proclamation of the Governor-General of Chihli, I have the honour to refer your Lordship to the Yamên's note of the 1st March inclosed in my despatch of the 5th March. The Governor of Shantung's Proclamation quoting the same Decree had also been sent to myself and my colleagues by the Yamên in a note of the 15th ultimo, of which I inclose translation herewith.

The Yamên have made no reference to my suggestion; but in the "Peking Gazette" of the 14th instant, there was published the Memorial from the Governor-General of Chihli, of which I have the honour to forward a translation to your Lordship. A similar Memorial from the Governor of Shantung may be expected to follow in due course.

In any case the fact that an Imperial Decree denouncing the "Boxers" or "Fist of Righteous Harmony" by name has appeared in the Gazette may be accepted as a practical concession of the demands made by my colleagues and myself, our only object all along having been to secure for such a Decree a publicity equal to that accorded to the disturbing and ambiguous Edict of the 11th January. It is true that the Ta Tao Hui ("Big Knife Society") is not mentioned by name, but all my recent information goes to show that I Ho Ch'üan ("Fist of Righteous Harmony") and Ta Tao Hui are but different titles of the same organization, and I therefore attach no significance to this omission.

I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph to-day the publication of this Decree.

As an example of the constant reluctance of the Tsung-li Yamên to admit being influenced by the requests made by foreign Legations, I may instance a recent case in which representations made by me were apparently passed over in silence, although the result at which I aimed was in reality effected.

At the instance of Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin I called the attention of the Yamên, on the 5th March, to the fact that the Magistrate of Tsao-ch'iang, whose dismissal from his post had been promised me by the Viceroy of Chihli as a punishment for his gross neglect of duty in connection with "Boxer" disturbances in his district, had been allowed by the Provincial Treasurer to take leave under plea of illness.

I pointed out that, in view of the expressed intention of the Throne of China to adopt effective measures for the complete suppression of the Societies in question, it amounted to an exhibition of extreme leniency to permit a Magistrate, guilty of allowing rebellious characters to escape and of neglecting to make arrests, simply to

leave his post on the plea of sickness; and I requested that the Viceroy should be directed to carry out his original intention in dealing with this officer.

The Yamên made no reply to my communication; but a Memorial from the Viceroy of Chihli, published in one of the editions of the "Gazette" of the 2nd instant, has come to my notice, in which the Magistrate in question is severely denounced for conniving at the escape of the "Boxer" leader, whom he ought to have caught last January. The Imperial rescript to the Memorial orders him to be deprived of his rank.

I regret to have to conclude by stating that the continued activity of the "Boxer" Society in drilling and enlisting recruits in the neighbourhood of Peking and Tien-tsin indicates that the danger from this source is not yet passed; but, at the same time, I think I am justified in expressing the opinion that the Central Government is at last beginning to give evidence of a genuine desire to suppress this anti-Christian organization.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CLAUDE M. MacDONALD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

*The Tsung-li Yamên to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Peking, April 7, 1900.*

THE Yamên have the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 10th of the moon (10th March) of your Excellency's despatch, requesting the insertion in the "Peking Gazette" of an Imperial Decree with regard to the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and "Big Knife" Societies.

[Despatch summarized.]

The Yamên have the honour to observe that, in the course of the first moon (February), they presented a Memorial to the Throne praying for the prohibition of the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" and the "Big Knife" Society, and had the honour to receive a Decree directing the Viceroy of Chihli and the Governor of Shantung to publish Proclamations. In these Proclamations, as stated by the Yamên in previous despatches, the Imperial Decree is quoted textually in full, while in that published by the Governor of Shantung the "Big Knife" Society is specified by name.

Thus it is evident that the important points covered by your Excellency's request have been already thoroughly dealt with by the Yamên as desired.

With regard to the Imperial Decree previously received, as it has already been directly transmitted to the provinces concerned as a message from the Throne ("t'ing chi": see Yamên's note of the 7th March), it is obviously out of the question that it should be again handed to the Grand Secretariat for publication in the "Peking Gazette." [On this point] the Yamên have already stated the true facts in their previous despatch. The matter is one affected by Standing Regulations, and the Yamên believe that your Excellency will have appreciated their difficulties with regard to it. However, they will not fail, as soon as they have an opportunity, to take into further consideration what can be done to carry out the view expressed in your Excellency's despatch.

They avail themselves, &c.

(Seal of Yamên.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

*The Tsung-li Yamên to Sir C. MacDonald.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

*Peking, March 15, 1900.*

ON the 11th instant we received the following communication from the Acting Governor of Shantung:—

"On the 22nd February I had the honour to receive the Imperial Edict severely denouncing the Society of the 'Fist of Righteous Harmony,' &c.

"With reference to this, I have to report that in the month of January last, after my arrival at my post, I had already issued a Proclamation vigorously denouncing

Boxer Societies, and published it throughout my jurisdiction. In obedience to the Imperial commands now received, I have, as in duty bound, again issued a trenchant Proclamation, and have expressly composed an ode in verses of five characters to be posted from village to village. I have also commanded the local authorities to lead the way in this matter with the gentry, Elders and Headmen of the towns and villages, and on all the market days to expound the ode carefully and truly."

With reference to the above communication, we beg to observe that in the ode composed by the Acting Governor the name of the "Big Knife" Society is definitely mentioned, and that the local authorities are to lead the gentry and Elders in expounding the ode on market days. This is a course of action indicating special zeal and sincerity.

We have the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the draft of the Proclamation and of the ode referred to.

We avail, &c.

(Seal of Yamên.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 106.

*Proclamation by Yüan, Acting Governor of Shantung.*

(Translation.)

A STRINGENT Proclamation and Admonition issued in obedience to Imperial commands.

On the 23rd February, 1900, a message was reverently received from the Grand Council transmitting the following Imperial Decree, received on the 20th February, 1900.

[Here follows Imperial Decree, as embodied in the Governor-General of Chihli's Proclamation. See despatch from Yamên of the 1st March, 1900.]

On receipt of the above message it was immediately, in obedience to the Imperial commands, reverently written out and circulated. Again, on the 25th February, I had the honour to receive a communication from the Tsung-li Yamên forwarding a copy of their original Memorial and a copy of the Imperial Decree.

With reference to the above communications I have to observe that in the month of January last I printed a Proclamation strictly prohibiting the Society of the "Fist of Righteous Harmony," and issued it to be posted everywhere throughout my jurisdiction, that every household and every inhabitant might be made aware of its contents, and that evil practices might be eradicated.

Having now had the honour to receive the further commands above set forth, I have instructed all the officers under my jurisdiction to make continual and vigorous investigation and suppress this evil. To this end I have also expressly composed an ode in verses of five characters, and ordered it to be posted from village to village throughout my jurisdiction for the information of all. I have likewise commanded the local authorities, directing the gentry, Elders, and Headmen of the towns and villages on all occasions of public gatherings to engage the services of lecturers, and at the country and town markets and places frequented by traders and people to expound the contents of this ode carefully and accurately, and to exhort and admonish as required.

In addition to this a copy can be issued to every school and college, large or small, and the students directed to chant the ode from time to time. In this way the ode will be published throughout every village community, and even the women and children will know it. The natural disposition of men for good will thus assert itself and all will be clearly made to understand that they cannot believe in or follow after perverse Societies, and that the Imperial Decree cannot be disobeyed.

It is my most earnest hope that those who are already members of the Societies will tremble for the consequences, and those who are not members take warning from the fate of those in front of you; that both may strive to follow righteousness, and that joy and prosperity may be your reward.



Inclosure 4 in No. 106.

*Extract from the "Peking Gazette" of April 14, 1900.*

(Translation.)

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORIAL BY YÜ LU (GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CHIHILI).—On the 20th day of the first moon of the present year (19th February, 1900), Memorialist had the honour to receive the following Imperial Decree:—

[Here follows Decree as embodied in Yü Lu's Proclamation inclosed in Yamên's note of the 1st March.]

Memorialist humbly submits that having learned some time ago that the Society of the "Fist of Righteous Harmony" (or "Boxers") had spread from Shantung into Chihli, in the neighbourhood of Ho-chien-fu, Shên-chou, and Chichon-Chihli districts bordering upon Shantung, that these centres had been established for the practice of boxing and that outrages were being committed on native converts, he immediately gave orders to Mei Tung-li, now Provincial Commander-in-chief of Kuei-chou, then commanding the right wing of the Huai army, and to Chang Lien Fên, expectant Taotai, to lead their forces to the scene, and in conjunction with the local officials acting under their directions, to suppress effectually and disperse (the rioters), and to station troops for the protection of places where there were Christian churches (or missionary establishments).

On repeated occasions the above-mentioned General and his colleague destroyed "Boxer" head-quarters by fire and arrested ringleaders of the disturbances, and handed them over to the local officials, by whom they were punished.

As for the ignorant folk, who had been enticed by evil-doers, to enter these societies and learn the "Boxers'" arts, they were ordered to find proper securities that they should in future refrain from such practices. Orders were also given to the local authorities that cases arising between converts and ordinary people should be promptly and impartially settled.

On receipt of the Decree above referred to, Memorialist has at once had the Imperial commands reverently transcribed, and has embodied them in a clearly worded prohibitory Proclamation, which has been issued to every Department and district and posted up everywhere. Orders have also been given to the bodies of troops stationed at various points throughout Memorialist's jurisdiction to act with energy in effecting arrests. If any secret Societies are organized or centres established for the practice of boxing, they are to be immediately and in every case suppressed, and not the slightest remissness is to be exhibited.

The above supplementary Memorial reporting the action taken in obedience to the Imperial Decree, and the issue of a Proclamation strictly prohibiting the "Boxer" Societies is hereby humbly submitted for the inspection of the Throne and the Imperial commands are solicited thereon.

*Imperial Rescript.*

NOTED.—It is hereby commanded that the utmost vigilance be shown in the work of suppression in every case, and that not the slightest remissness be permitted.

No. 107.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 11.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, April 18, 1900.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a translation of an Imperial Decree which has since appeared in the "Peking Gazette" deprecating anti-Christian disturbances.

No Societies are mentioned by name; but the reference to those village associations for self defence, which were spoken of with approval in the Decree of the 11th January, seems to indicate that this Decree is intended to correct the mischievous interpretation which had been put upon the former one.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Inclosure in No. 107.

*Extract from the "Peking Gazette" of April 17, 1900.*

(Translation.)

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*Imperial Decree.*

THE organization of trained bands in village communities throughout the provinces for self-preservation and protection of the inhabitants and their families has its foundation in the fitting principle enjoined by the ancients of "keeping mutual watch and giving mutual help," and, provided that the villagers are peaceful and abide by the law, there is no reason why they should not be allowed to act in this regard at their discretion.

But there is reason to fear that, the good and the evil being indiscriminately associated together in this way, there may be found some who make a pretext (of such organizations) to oppress converts, ignoring the fact that the Throne sets no bounds to its principle of regarding all men with equal benevolence. It is the duty of our subjects humbly to carry this principle into effect, and not to find vent for their private resentments, and so to create disturbances, and involve themselves in crime and punishment.

The High Provincial authorities are hereby commanded to give strict orders to the local officials under them to take every opportunity of making it clearly known to all that every man must attend to his own business, and live continually at peace with his fellow men, that so the reiterated and solemn injunction of the Throne may not be disregarded.

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No. 108.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 11.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 10, 1900.*

THIS morning the second detachment, consisting of British, Germans, Japanese, French, and Russians, numbering about 600 in all, left for Peking. The total force sent was about 1,400 to 1,500 men. There is an interruption in the telegraphic communication with Peking.

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No. 109.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 11.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 11, 1900.*

YESTERDAY evening Admiral Seymour had advanced 30 miles with 1,078 men. He had met with no opposition, and he hopes, unless opposed, to reach Peking this evening. Probably total force is not less than 1,700 men. Last night the train reached Lofa Station.

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No. 110.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 11.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 11, 1900.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 11th June, which has this day been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the China station relative to the protection of the Spanish Legation at Peking.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

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## Inclosure in No. 110.

*Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 11, 1900, 1 P.M.*

AFFORD protection to Spanish Legation at Peking on application from British Minister.

## No. 111.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 11.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 11, 1900.*

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of to-day, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 11th June, from Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin, relative to the state of affairs in China.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

## Inclosure in No. 111.

*Consul Carles to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 11, 1900.*

FOLLOWING received from Admiral for transmission:—

“Force now increased by 450 Germans, 90 British.”

## No. 112.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 11, 1900.*

IT is reported that Admiral's party is at Langfang, half-way from Tien-tsin. All communication by telegraph with the latter place is interrupted.

On the 8th June the Boxers attacked student interpreters close to the city walls, who only escaped by using fire-arms.

Some soldiers yesterday assaulted the Secretary of the Belgian Legation at the end of Legation Street.

The summer Legation at the hills which I had officially handed over to the Chinese Government was last night totally destroyed by fire.

I am sending this telegram by the Kiachta route.

## No. 113.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 12.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 12, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 12th June, from the Commander-in-chief, China, relative to the Boxer rising.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

## Inclosure in No. 113.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 12, 1900.*

NOW nearly half-way to Peking; progress much delayed by damage still being done to railway as we advance.

Boxers found in considerable force yesterday afternoon near railway at Langfang, and were engaged. They fled, leaving about thirty-five killed.

No casualties on our side. Our force, increased by 200 Russians and fifty-eight French, who arrived yesterday, is now 2,000 strong.

## No. 114.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 12, 1900.*

THE latest report received from the Russian Minister at Peking, dated the 10th June, confirms the alarming account of the situation there given in Sir C. MacDonald's telegrams of the 8th instant. An audience has not apparently been granted to the foreign Ministers, the Boxers have entered the capital, and the situation is one of danger for the Legations.

In Count Mouravieff's opinion, the real state of things has been concealed from the Empress-Dowager, and, since all the Chinese Councillors having any experience of Europe have been removed, there is none in authority on whose influence it is possible to place any reliance.

Authority has been given to M. de Giers to order up immediately any amount of military force he may consider necessary; but his Excellency understands that, while a very large additional force has been sent by us from Tien-tsin, Russia has only sent up thirty more men.

I replied that, according to the latest telegrams which I had seen from Tien-tsin, all the Commanders were dispatching sufficient forces to restore railway communication with the capital and keep it open, and to secure the safety of the foreign Legations, the primary importance of which his Excellency admitted.

## No. 115.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 12, 1900.*

YESTERDAY a further detachment of 300 men passed up. The total force which had left Tien-tsin up to last night is estimated to number 2,300.

## No. 116.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 12, 1900.*

PRESSING. Inform relief party the mutinous Kansu soldiery, who are to-day in possession of the Peking terminus, may offer them some resistance there. The Government of China seems powerless. It is useless to wait till troops arrive from Singapore; if necessary, I hope Admirals will not have the least hesitation in depleting their ships.

## No. 117.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 12, 1900.*

THE Admiral, who had been fighting with the Boxers yesterday, killing about fifty of them, was at Langfang this morning. Our side suffered no loss. The above-mentioned place is half-way on the road to Peking.

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## No. 118.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 13.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 13, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 13th June, from the Commander-in-chief on the China station relative to the Boxer rising.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

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Inclosure in No. 118.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 13, 1900.*

PROGRESS very slow; railway much broken up, only 3 miles during last twenty-four hours.

No further encounter with Boxers, who are said to be 2 miles in advance in force.

The Russians are landing an additional force of 1,700 troops, and I have requested General to send 650 troops now ready at Hong Kong to Taku in "Terrible."

Trustworthy courier arrived from Peking reports great excitement there at our approach.

General Tung expected to oppose entry within city.

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## No. 119.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, June 13, 1900.*

ALTHOUGH last telegram received from French Minister at Peking was dated yesterday, M. Delcassé has received no news of presence of Boxers in the capital, reported in Sir C. Scott's telegram of 12th June.

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## No. 120.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 13, 1900.*

COUNT MOURAVIEFF, at his reception to-day, appeared to consider that, owing to the agitation of the Reform party, the situation was really more threatening in Southern and Central than in Northern China.

His Excellency counts on the large European force which is now forcing its way to Peking as sufficient to save the situation in the capital.

In his opinion, the Empress-Dowager is at the present moment powerless in the hands of fanatic and ignorant councillors, but she will be both willing to assist and amenable to sounder views when once she has been relieved from their control.

The foreign Representatives on the spot were possessed of the views of their respective Governments as to the necessity of not further endangering or complicating a position of affairs already very serious, and events were moving so rapidly that the only thing to be done was to trust to their judgment and prudence.

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## No. 121.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tókió, June 13, 1900.*

INFORMATION has reached here that 1,700 Russian soldiers were landed yesterday at Taku, including 270 cavalry and 20 guns. Two more ships had arrived with a further contingent of 1,000 men.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has inquired as to the intention of Her Majesty's Government, and wished to know whether British troops can be sent. He said that if foreign naval detachments which have been actually landed should be surrounded or otherwise in danger, the Japanese Government would be ready to send at once a considerable force to their relief, if Her Majesty's Government concurred in such a course, but that otherwise his Government do not intend to send soldiers.

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## No. 122.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 13, 1900.*

A MEMBER of Japanese Legation at Peking, when on his way to station, was killed by General Tung's cavalry, and I believe that Her Majesty's summer Legation has been destroyed by fire. In private letters, dated Peking, the 11th instant, the situation is described as being extremely grave.

Prince Tuan and three other Manchu Ministers have been made members of the Tsung-li Yamên.

Lack of water, and continued injury to railway, delays to a great extent the advance of Naval Brigade, whose entry into Peking the Chinese expect will be resisted. I fear that the delay in their progress makes this more probable than before.

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## No. 123.

*General Officer Commanding, Hong Kong, to the Secretary of State for War.—  
(Communicated by War Office, June 13.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Hong Kong, June 13, 1900.*

I AM sending 950 British and Indian troops, with Maxim and gun, to the Admiral, who has asked for every man available. Some will leave on the 14th instant, on a fast transport vessel; the rest on the 17th instant on Her Majesty's ship "Terrible." The absence of these troops does not compel me to ask for reinforcements at once.

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## No. 124.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 14.)*

Sir.

*Admiralty, June 13, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Secretary of State that the following is a summary of the international forces now under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Seymour on their way to

Peking, compiled from telegrams which have been received from him from time to time :—

British	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	736
German	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	450
American	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Russian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	315
French	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	158
Austrian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Italian	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Japanese	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,876

It will, however, be observed that this does not agree with the total of 2,000 mentioned by the Vice-Admiral in his telegram of the 12th instant, copy of which has already been sent to you.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) C. J. THOMAS,  
*Pro Sec.*

#### No. 125.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, June 14, 1900.*

I AM informed by Russian Minister that 2,000 men embarked at Port Arthur for Taku on 11th June. More probably the date should be 9th June.

The Japanese Secretary of Legation was killed yesterday by Tartar cavalry close to the city gate.

It may be assumed that the Japanese will also send troops to Taku.

#### No. 126.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 14, 1900.*

I HAVE received a letter from Sir C. MacDonald, written on the 12th instant, in which he informs me that Ministers of Yamên had called to say that, if the force did not exceed 1,200 men, Chinese Government would not oppose their coming to Peking.

#### No. 127.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 14, 1900.*

A REPORT, which I do not think it right to disregard, has reached me from Chinese sources that on the 16th June the Empress-Dowager has resolved to destroy the Legations. Boxers here very menacing, and I understand that two bridges beyond Yangtsun have been rendered impassable. Communications with Admiral are interrupted.

#### No. 128.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, June 14, 1900.*

I HAVE received no exact information as to the situation in the north, but news seems to be worse.

I am convinced that, if there is any likelihood of it resulting in a breach with the Peking Government, we ought at once to come to an understanding with the Hankow



and Nanking Viceroys. I have every confidence that they will do all they can to keep peace in their districts if they can rely on Her Majesty's Government for effective support.

There is no doubt that great loss would be caused and probably considerable loss of life would be entailed by any outbreak in the Yang-tsze Valley. It is necessary that prompt action should be taken; the situation is serious.

## No. 129.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 14, 1900.*

CHINA crisis: Your telegram of the 13th June.

You should inform Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs of the application for troops made by our Admiral, and of the numbers which are being sent from Hong Kong.

## No. 130.

*Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bruce.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 15.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 15, 1900.*

ADEQUATE means for protecting life and property on Yang-tsze should be provided, using ships from Philippines and Southern Division for this purpose.

Take action and inform Commander-in-chief when you can.

## No. 131.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 15.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 15, 1900.*

THE native city is practically in the hands of the Boxers and the mob, who have burnt down the chapels and compelled Chinese officials to get out of their chairs in the streets.

The action of the Viceroy has been very correct.

Communication with the Admiral is cut off.

The situation here is more serious than he is aware of.

A portion of the Russian troops still remains in this place.

## No. 132.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 15.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 15, 1900.*

THE Chinese Government are taking measures to concentrate troops along the approaches to Tien-tsin and on Taku.

I am informed that, in consequence of this, the Admirals may be compelled to seize the Taku forts without delay.

## No. 133.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 15.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 15, 1900.*

ON the evening of 13th June the Boxers entered Peking and destroyed the old Custom-house quarters and the establishments of several Missions.

It appears that many Chinese were massacred, but that there were no casualties among the Europeans.

No. 134.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1900*

MURDER by Chinese troops of the Chancellor of the Japanese Legation at Peking.

Inquire what steps, if any, the Japanese Government contemplate taking.

No. 135.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1900.*

PROTECTION of British interests on the Yang-tsze.

Your telegram of the 14th June.

We are in communication with the Admiralty as to the dispatch of a man-of-war to Nanking, and the message to the Viceroy there and at Hankow which you suggest, assuring them of British protection in maintaining order.

You are authorized, in the meantime, to inform the Viceroy at Nanking that he will be supported by Her Majesty's ships if measures are taken by him for the maintenance of order.

You should inform Her Majesty's Consul-General at Hankow that he may give to the Viceroy there a similar assurance.

No. 136.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin\* relative to the state of affairs at that place.

Mr. Carles reports that the Viceroy has acted very correctly.

In these circumstances his Lordship proposes, should their Lordships see no objection, to instruct Mr. Carles to inform the Viceroy that, in the event of his believing himself to be in personal danger, it will be open to him to take refuge on board one of Her Majesty's ships.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 137.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a telegram from Shanghai, which has been communicated by the China Association to this Department, relative to the importance of having a sufficient force on the Yang-tsze for the protection of the interests of this country during the present crisis.

Mr. Pelham Warren, Acting Consul-General at Shanghai, in his telegram of the 14th instant,† of which a copy has been sent to you, also urges the necessity of British interests on the Yang-tsze being efficiently protected, and states that it would, in his opinion, be advisable to send a large man-of-war to Nanking, and to assure the Viceroy that he will receive the support of Her Majesty's Government in maintaining order.

Lord Salisbury concurs in Mr. Warren's view as to the desirability of arriving at some understanding on the subject with the Viceroy both at Nanking and Hankow, and he would be glad if arrangements could be made for the dispatch of one of Her

\* No. 131.

† No 128.

Majesty's ships to Nanking with instructions to communicate with the Viceroy in the sense suggested, and for a similar intimation being conveyed to the Viceroy at Hankow.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

Inclosure in No. 137.

*Telegram from Shanghai Committee to General Committee.*

WITH a view to preventing possible disturbance Yang-tsze River, it is very important that there should be adequate force prepared to protect our interests. There are at present above Hankow the "Esk," "Woodlark," "Woodcock," and "Snipe." Nothing below.

Key to the situation—Kiang-yin.

No. 138.

*Foreign Office to India Office.\**

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 15, 1900.*

IN view of the considerable force of British and Indian troops which is being sent from Hong Kong to Taku on the requisition of the Naval Commander-in-chief on the China station, the Marquess of Salisbury desires to submit, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, the question of replacing them by the dispatch to Hong Kong of one or two battalions of native troops from India. It is possible that more may be required.

The men who have been landed from the British squadron at Taku cannot be spared for long from the ships; and having regard to the present state of affairs in China, and the impossibility of foreseeing the course which events in the Far East may take, it appears to his Lordship very desirable that the British garrisons should be maintained at their full strength.

A similar letter has been addressed to the War Office.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ST. JOHN BRODRICK.

No. 139.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 16.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 16, 1900.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 15th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you to state to the Marquess of Salisbury that they concur in his proposal that in the event of the Viceroy of Tien-tsin being in personal danger on account of his correct attitude, he should be allowed to take refuge on board one of Her Majesty's ships.

Copy of a telegram on the subject which has been this day sent to the Rear-Admiral at Taku is inclosed for information.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) H. J. VAN SITTART NEALE.

\* Also to War Office.

Inclosure in No. 139.

*Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bruce.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 16, 1900.*

IN event of Viceroy, Tien-tsin, being in personal danger owing to his loyalty to British, he is to be afforded an asylum on board one of Her Majesty's ships.

Foreign Office is informing Consul accordingly.

No. 140.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 16.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 16, 1900.*

IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated this day, which has been sent to the Senior Naval Officer, Shanghai.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 140.

*Admiralty to Senior Naval Officer, Shanghai.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 16, 1900.*

"HERMIONE" proceed Nanking and communicate with Viceroy, assuring him of support of Her Majesty's Government in preserving order and protecting British interests; in the event of disturbance, consult with Consul, Shanghai, before leaving.

"Linnet" to proceed to Hankow for similar purpose and to give similar assurance to Viceroy there, and to communicate with Consul there.

"Undaunted" leaves Hong Kong to-day for Woosung.

No. 141.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tokio, June 16, 1900.*

JAPANESE troops are to leave Ujina on the 21st June, and should arrive about the 24th June at Taku. They will consist of one battalion with two or three guns, making about 1,200 men in all.

The cruiser "Yoshino" left for Taku this morning with Admiral Dewa.

No. 142.

*Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 16.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, June 16, 1900.*

THE last intelligence we possess is that on the night of the 13th June there were serious disturbances in Peking, when hundreds of converts and servants of foreigners were murdered. It is stated that no Europeans were killed. Many buildings belonging to foreigners were destroyed.

It is not probable that communication with Tien-tsin, which is now interrupted, will be restored at any early date.

No. 143.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Consul Carles.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 16, 1900.*

IF possible, communicate with Admiral by runner. You should inform him that 950 troops have been ordered to Taku from Hong Kong. You should also ascertain his position, whether he needs reinforcements or supplies, and what his prospects are.

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No. 144.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Consul Carles.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 16, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 15th June, you should inform Viceroy that it is open to him to take refuge on one of Her Majesty's ships in the event of his considering himself in personal danger.

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No. 145.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 16, 1900.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 16th April, reporting further negotiations with the Chinese Government on the subject of anti-Christian Societies in the Provinces of Shantung and Chihli.

I approve your proceedings in the matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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No. 146.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 16, 1900.*

THE Japanese Chargé d'Affaires called at this Office on the 11th instant and communicated the substance of a telegram which he had received from Viscount Aoki, instructing him to ascertain the attitude of Her Majesty's Government in the present crisis in China, and to inquire confidentially what action Her Majesty's Government would take should the Chinese Government prove themselves incapable of restoring peace and order and of protecting foreigners in China.

By my direction, Mr. Villiers informed Mr. Matsui that a force from the various squadrons at Taku was advancing on Peking, and that it was impossible to predict what the position of affairs would be on its arrival; that Her Majesty's Minister and the British Admiral had been left a wide discretion as to the best course to pursue, and that it was the desire of Her Majesty's Government to act with Japan and the other Powers interested in the restoration of order.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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No. 147.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 17, 1900.*

ACCORDING to information I have received, either to-morrow or Tuesday the "Official Gazette" will announce the issue of orders for the immediate dispatch of a force from Port Arthur to relieve the situation in Peking; this force will vary from

2,000 to 5,000 strong, according to necessity. A statement of the exact number of troops to be sent will be made on receipt of a telegram which is expected.

An explanation will accompany the announcement to the effect that to co-operate in the general interest for the protection of European lives and property is the sole aim of this expedition, and that it in no way indicates any desire to depart from the Emperor's settled peaceful and unaggressive policy.

## No. 148.

*Commander Gaunt to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 17.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Luu-lun-tao, June 17, 1900.*

WRITING on the evening of the 15th instant, the Rear-Admiral tells me that the Commander-in-chief is cut off 40 miles from Peking by Chinese troops and Boxers. If 2,000 Chinese troops, which were stated to be trying to cut Tien-tsin off from Taku, advanced, the Council of Admirals have decided to shell the Taku forts. Her Majesty's ship "Phoenix" is at Chifu, and Her Majesty's ship "Peacock" is here. The telegraphic communication with the north is interrupted.

I send the above because I am in doubt as to whether you have been informed of the present situation.

## No. 149.

*Count Mouravieff to M. de Staal.—(Communicated by M. de Staal, June 18.)*

(Traduction.)

(Télégraphique.)

*Saint-Petersbourg, le 3 (16) Juin, 1900.*

DÈS le moment où les événements alarmants ont surgi en Chine, tous les efforts du Gouvernement ont tendu à attirer l'attention des Ministres Chinois sur les suites dangereuses que la surexcitation de la nation pourrait provoquer et à convaincre le Tsung-li Yamèn d'appliquer les mesures les plus énergiques pour le rétablissement de l'ordre et de la sécurité dans le pays. Malheureusement les conseils amicaux donnés par le Représentant de la Russie ainsi que ceux des autres Puissances à Pékin ont échoué; la révolte des Boxers devient de plus en plus menaçante; la vie et la propriété des sujets étrangers se trouvent en danger; enfin, les chemins de fer étant détruits et les lignes télégraphiques coupées, les Gouvernements sont dans l'impossibilité de rester en rapports directs avec leurs Légations à Pékin. Par conséquent il est indispensable de prendre des mesures les plus efficaces afin d'assurer la sécurité de la Légation Impériale et des sujets Russes résidant dans le pays. Dans ce but Sa Majesté l'Empereur a daigné ordonner d'envoyer un contingent de 4,000 soldats à la disposition du Ministre de Russie à Pékin. Le danger de l'état actuel des choses est reconnu par tout le monde; ainsi, le Représentant de la Grande-Bretagne s'est adressé à notre Légation pour se renseigner dans quelle mesure le Gouvernement Impérial était prêt à contribuer aux efforts tendant à mettre fin aux complications existantes. Quelques autres collègues de M. de Giers ont sollicité, de leur côté, l'aide et la protection de la Légation Russe pour leurs nationaux. Il est entendu que l'envoi temporaire du détachement de troupes Russes a en vue en premier lieu la sécurité de la Légation Impériale et celle des sujets Russes résidant dans le nord de la Chine et ne comporte aucune intention hostile à l'égard de ce pays avec lequel nous entretenons des rapports d'amitié et de bon voisinage. Au contraire, il est prescrit au détachement d'agir d'accord avec les troupes de descente des autres Puissances et de prêter aide, en même temps, au Gouvernement Chinois dans l'œuvre du rétablissement de la tranquillité si nécessaire aux intérêts primordiaux de la Chine elle-même.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 3 (16), 1900.*

FROM the moment of the occurrence of events of an alarming nature in China the Government has exerted every effort to draw the attention of the Chinese Ministers to the dangerous consequences which might result from the excessive

national excitement, and to induce the Tsung-li Yamên to adopt more vigorous measures for the re-establishment of order and security in the country.

Unhappily, the friendly counsels of the Russian Representative, as well as those of the other Powers at Peking, have failed. The revolt of the Boxers constantly assumes a more menacing aspect. The life and property of foreign subjects are in danger. Finally, the destruction of the railways and the cutting of the telegraph lines has rendered it impossible for the Governments to remain in direct communication with their Legations at Peking.

Consequently, it becomes imperative to take more effective measures to assure the safety of the Imperial Legation and of Russian subjects residing in the country. With this object, His Majesty the Emperor has deigned to order the dispatch of a contingent of 4,000 soldiers, to be placed at the disposal of the Russian Minister at Peking.

The danger of the existing situation is universally recognized.

The British Representative applied to our Legation to ascertain how far the Imperial Government was prepared to co-operate with the efforts now being made to put an end to the existing complications. Certain other colleagues of M. de Giers have on their part solicited the aid and protection of the Russian Legation for their countrymen.

It is agreed that the temporary dispatch of the detachment of Russian troops has for its primary object the security of the Imperial Legation and that of Russian subjects resident in the north of China, and is actuated by no hostile designs with regard to that country, with which we maintain friendly and neighbourly relations.

On the contrary, instructions have been given to the detachment to co-operate with the troops landed by the other Powers, and to assist the Chinese Government at the same time in the work of re-establishing order so necessary in the primary interests of China herself.

#### No. 150.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, June 18, 1900.*

I HAVE received the following from Her Majesty's Consul at Hankow:—

"I have given Lord Salisbury's message verbally to the Viceroy. Should there be disturbances he will apply for assistance. He professed to be confident of the ability of the Nanking Viceroy, with whom he is in communication, and himself to preserve order and to be taking the necessary steps for that purpose."

#### No. 151.

*Lord Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 18.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Washington, June 18, 1900.*

I LEARN from the United States' Secretary of State that orders have been sent to an American Regular Regiment now at Manila to proceed to Tien-tsin, and act in concert with the other Powers for the protection of foreign life and property and the suppression of disorder.

They will be accompanied by suitable artillery.

#### No. 152.

*India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 19.)*

Sir,

*India Office, June 18, 1900.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th June, and to state, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that Lord George Hamilton has,



on a requisition received from the War Office, requested the Government of India to replace the regiments at Hong Kong and Singapore by native regiments from India.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. STEDMAN, *Major-General,*  
*Military Secretary.*

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No. 153.

*Memorandum communicated by Chinese Minister, June 19, 1900.*

THE Chinese Minister has been requested by the Viceroy of Huquang to communicate to the Marquess of Salisbury the purport of a telegram which he has just received from his Excellency with reference to a communication which Her Majesty's Consul at Hankow had been instructed to make to the Viceroy on the part of his Lordship.

The communication consisted of an offer of assistance which the Consul said Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to give to the Viceroy in preserving order and tranquillity in the provinces under his jurisdiction, in the event of the "Boxer" movement now agitating the Provinces of Chihli and Shantung extending to those on the Yang-tsze.

The Viceroy tenders his grateful acknowledgments to Lord Salisbury for his friendly offer, and will gladly avail himself of it in case of need. He, however, is persuaded that he and his colleague, the Viceroy of Nanking, with whom he has been in communication on the subject, will be more than able to cope with the "Boxers" or any other elements of disorder who, contrary to his expectations, may attempt to disturb the peace and tranquillity of the Yang-tsze provinces.

Both he and the Viceroy of Nanking have at their disposal very sufficient, well-equipped, and well-disciplined forces, on which they can implicitly depend; and these they will so dispose and employ as to give the fullest measure of protection to all residing within their respective jurisdictions, whether natives or foreigners, and of whatever religion.

Under these circumstances, the Viceroy would deprecate any obtrusive demonstration of British naval force on the Yang-tsze as being calculated rather to make difficulties for the Chinese authorities than to aid them in maintaining tranquillity and good order in the riverine provinces.

*Chinese Legation, June 19, 1900.*

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No. 154.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 19.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 19, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 18th instant, from the Commanding Officer, Her Majesty's ship "Endymion," at Liu-kun-tau, respecting Chinese affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

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Inclosure in No. 154.

*Commanding Officer of "Endymion" to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Liu-kun-tau, June 18, 1900.*

TAKU forts opened fire at 1 o'clock in the morning of the 17th June on the ships of the allied squadron. After six hours' engagement forts were silenced and occupied by the allied forces. Additional men for storming forts were sent inshore from the ships previous afternoon. British ships up the river engaged were "Algerine," "Fame,"

and "Whiting." Two latter captured four Chinese torpedo-boat destroyers. Casualties: "Algerine," slight; storming party and others unknown. Chinese second-class cruiser flying Admiral's flag detained outside Taku by the allied Admirals. No information of Commander-in-chief, China's, return Tien-tsin Bay had been received by the Rear-Admiral by 2 P.M., 17th June. Rear-Admiral not desiring to detach Chinese regiment, "Peacock" remains Wei-hai Wei. All British ships at Taku much depleted by men landed. Am leaving at once for Taku.

## No. 155.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tókió, June 19, 1900.*

BESIDES the troops mentioned in my telegram of 16th June, it is stated by the Japanese Naval Department that, in four or five days, 1,300 additional troops will be sent to Taku.

## No. 156.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 20.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 20, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 19th instant, from the Commanding Officer, Her Majesty's ship "Hermione," relative to affairs in China.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 156.

*Commanding Officer of "Hermione" to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shia-ku-an, June 19, 1900.*

I HAVE had interview with Viceroy, and saw telegram received from Viceroy, Hankow, in which latter suggested to him that it is undesirable for any ship to be in Yang-tsze Kiang at present time. Viceroy, Nanking, considered two ships should be sufficient. Viceroy claims they are quite able to preserve order should any disturbance take place, which, they assert, is extremely unlikely.

In my opinion, present strength in Yang-tsze Kiang should not be reduced, and I have made arrangements to send ships to each Treaty port. Purpose leaving 20th June for Wuhu to await arrival of "Snipe" there, then returning to Nanking.

Consul concurs.

## No. 157.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 20.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 20, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extract of a telegram, dated 17th-18th June, from Rear-Admiral Bruce.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

## Inclosure in No. 157.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Taku (via Chefoo), June 20, 1900.*

June 17.—Taku fort captured by allied forces this morning. Bombardment commenced 12.50 A.M., ended about 6.30 A.M. Details later on. Chinese Admiral present with allied fleet; flag flying in cruiser. At Council meeting this morning he agreed to anchor with fleet, putting out fires.

June 18.—Situation getting worse. All north China under arms. No news from Commander-in-chief and advanced guard. Tien-tsin now cut off. Heavy fire heard there last night.

\* \* \* \* \*

My communications with allied authorities most harmonious.

## No. 158.

*Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bruce.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 20.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 20, 1900.*

EIGHT hundred seamen and marines leave by freight as soon as possible for Hong Kong to wait orders, and ships on station will be reinforced.

## No. 159.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 20, 1900.*

COUNT MOURAVIEFF explained to me to-day that the 4,000 troops mentioned in the telegram to the Russian Embassy consist of 2,000 who are understood to be already at Taku or the mouth of the river, and of the 2,000 at Tien-tsin who, last week, while the other foreign troops defended the foreign Settlements, attacked and dispersed with loss the Boxers threatening that town.

For the last four days no direct news from Taku or Tien-tsin, and for seven days no knowledge of the situation at Peking or confirmation of the reported return of Admiral Seymour's expedition, have been received by the Russian Foreign Office, but Count Mouraviëff takes a sanguine view of the situation, and appears to expect that not only will communication for news from Tien-tsin and probably Peking be opened up at once by the capture of the Taku forts, but that it will also exercise a salutary impression on the Empress-Dowager, who has been hesitating between her fear of the Boxers and her fear of the intervention of the foreign Powers.

His Excellency still regards the state of things in Central and Southern China as more threatening, and believes that in a fortnight the crisis will be over.

## No. 160.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, June 20, 1900.*

MUCH damage was done last night to the line north of Tien-tsin by Boxers, and a great number of Chinese houses, together with the Roman Catholic Cathedral and Mission chapel, were burnt. There was no visible effort made to restrain them by the Chinese troops. The Boxers attacked the Settlement, and about 100 were killed by the foreign guard.

## No. 161.

*Acting Consul-General Fraser to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Hankow, June 20, 1900.*

I AM assured by the Viceroy that every possible measure to maintain order is being taken by him and the Viceroy of Nanking, and they have no doubt of their power. In view of the probability of popular alarm and suspicion being caused thereby he deprecates any naval demonstration, though, of course, understanding that this protest does not include the ordinary movements of Her Majesty's ships.

## No. 162.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 20, 1900.*

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a Memorandum\* given to his Lordship by the Chinese Minister relative to the offer of assistance made by Her Majesty's Government to the Viceroy of Hankow and Nanking in preserving order.

Their Excellencies, while grateful for the offer, consider the forces at their disposal sufficient to cope with any disturbances which may arise, and deprecate any obtrusive demonstration on the part of the British naval force.

I am to suggest that instructions be issued to the Officer Commanding Her Majesty's ships on the Yang-tsze River to avoid any demonstrations, but to inform the Viceroy that Her Majesty's ships will be ready to co-operate with them whenever co-operation becomes necessary for the protection of the lives and property of Europeans, or to support the measures taken by the Viceroy for the maintenance of order.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

## No. 163.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 21.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 21, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a decypher of a telegram, dated the 21st instant, from the Rear-Admiral on the China Station relative to affairs in China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 163.

*Rear-Admiral, Taku, to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic)

*Chefoo, June 21, 1900.*

LATEST information from Tien-tsin by runner, 20th June.

Reinforcements most urgently required. Casualties have been heavy. Supplies of ammunition insufficient. Machine-guns or field-guns required. Beware ambushes near Tien-tsin. Russians at railway station hard pressed. Chinese maintain incessant fire with large guns on European Concession, nearly all which burnt.

There are not reinforcements to send.

No. 164.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 21.)*

Sir, *Admiralty, June 21, 1900.*  
 I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated this day, from the Rear-Admiral on the China Station, relative to affairs in China.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 164.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.) *Taku, via Chefoo, June 21, 1900.*  
 NO communication from Commander-in-chief for seven days or with Tien-tsin for five days. Allies hold Taku forts and Tongku securely, and they will advance for relief of Tien-tsin when in sufficient strength. Troops expected from Hong Kong to-morrow, and 300 from Wei-hai Wei day after to-morrow.  
 Believe that fighting is constantly going on around Tien-tsin. Our garrison there should be about 3,000.

Following Proclamation was agreed to this morning, to be at once [issued] :—  
 "The Admirals and Senior Naval Officers of the allied Powers in China desire, to make known to all Viceroys and authorities of the coasts and rivers, cities, and provinces of China that they intend to use armed force only against Boxers and peoples who oppose them on their march to Peking for the rescue of their fellow-countrymen."

No. 165.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Chihchen Loféngluh.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 21, 1900.*  
 I HAVE received a letter from the Upper Yang-tsze Syndicate (Limited), stating that they are anxious with regard to the safety of their staff now employed in the Province of Szechuen. Their staff consists of Mr. Archibald Little, Mr. Herbert Way, and Mr. James W. Nicolson, and the last news received was a telegram from Mr. Way, dated Chengtu, the 17th instant.

I have received a similar communication from Mr. W. Pritchard-Morgan relative to Dr. Jack and his assistants, Messrs. Robert Jack, J. F. Morris, and T. H. Bush, who are employed by him in the same province. The latest news received from Dr. Jack was dated Chengtu, the 16th instant.

I have the honour to request that, if you are able to communicate with the Viceroy at Hankow, you will be so good as to inform him by telegraph that the above-mentioned gentlemen are within the limits of his authority, and to request his Excellency to take measures for their protection.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 166.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 21, 1900.*  
 WITH reference to the telegram from the Officer Commanding Her Majesty's ship "Hermione," of which a copy was inclosed in your letter of the 20th instant, reporting the result of an interview with the Viceroy of Nanking relative to the preservation of order on the Yang-tsze, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to request you to

inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that his Lordship concurs in the opinion expressed by Captain Cumming, that the present strength of the British naval force on the Yang-tsze should not be reduced. Lord Salisbury would further suggest that the arrangements made by Captain Cumming for sending a ship to each Treaty port should be approved.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

## No. 167.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin via Chefoo, June 21, 1900.*

June 18.—No news yet received from the front. We have been attacked at various points, but have repelled the enemy.

The Chinese commenced shelling the Settlement yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, and a few buildings were slightly damaged. A force composed of Austrians, British, Germans, and Italians, and numbering 175, attacked the Military College, destroyed the guns, killed nearly all the occupants, and finally burnt the College, in which there was a considerable and valuable store of ammunition.

The behaviour of the Russians, who were throughout the day engaged in various quarters, was splendid, and their large force and heavy field-guns, of which they had four, saved the situation. During the day all were engaged on their respective sections. The following is list of casualties: Russians, 7 killed, 5 wounded; British, 1 killed, 5 wounded; Italians, 2 wounded; Germans, 1 killed.

Last night an attempt was made by the Chinese to seize a bridge of boats, but they were repulsed with loss, which included, it is said, one of their Generals.

Our communications have been cut.

## No. 168.

*Admiralty to Senior Naval Officer, Woosung.*—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 22, 1900.*

WITH reference to Admiralty telegram of the 16th June to Senior Naval Officer, Shanghai,\* and with reference to telegram from "Hermione" of the 19th June to Admiralty,† instruct Commanding Officers of Her Majesty's ships at Nanking and Hankow to avoid any obtrusive demonstration of naval force on the river, but to inform the Viceroy that Her Majesty's ships will be ready to co-operate with them whenever co-operation becomes necessary for the protection of European life and property, or in support of the measures taken by them for the maintenance of order.

## No. 169.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tôkiô, June 22, 1900.*

I LEARN that eleven large steamers averaging 3,000 tons gross, and four small steamers of 400 tons gross, have been chartered by the Japanese Government; of these, six of the large ones are to be used as colliers and store-ships for the navy, the remainder to serve as transports of the troops.

The "Akitsusima" has been dispatched to Chefoo to protect the telegraph.

According to the Foreign Minister, there is no present intention on the part of Japan of sending any more troops than the 3,000 now *en route* to Taku.

\* Inclosure in No. 140.

† Inclosure in No. 156.

No. 170.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 22, 1900.*

YOU should inform Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs of the critical condition of the foreign Legations at Peking, and also, I fear, of the international force sent to relieve them under Admiral Seymour. State that Her Majesty's Government have sent orders to the Government of India for the dispatch of a considerable number of troops to China, and ascertain whether it is not the intention of the Japanese Government to send a further force to their succour.

The urgency of immediate action and the favourable geographical situation of Japan makes her intentions a matter of very grave importance in this difficulty.

No. 171.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Lord Pauncéfote.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 22, 1900.*

CHINA. Strong appeals are being made to Her Majesty's Government for reinforcements, and the crisis at Tien-tsin and Peking appears to be urgent. Orders have been sent to India for the dispatch of a considerable body of troops, but some time must elapse before they can arrive.

You should suggest to Mr. Hay that any troops which it would be possible to send from Manila would be of very great value, as it is probable that the United States' Legation is in great danger as well as those of other Powers.

No. 172.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 22, 1900.*

YOU should inform Viceroy, with reference to your telegram of to-day's date, that he may count on the fullest support of Her Majesty's ships in any efforts he may make to restore order.

No. 173.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Consul Scott.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 22, 1900.*

LI HUNG-CHANG'S departure from Canton.

The Chinese Minister, at an interview to-day, communicated to me a message which he had received from Li Hung-chang to the effect that he had received a summons to proceed to Peking in order to bring about a solution of the crisis in North China. He wished to know whether, notwithstanding the fact that the Taku forts had fired on the international forces without orders from the Government at Peking, the Powers consider themselves at war with the Chinese Government. His visit to Peking would be without utility if it were considered that a state of war existed. In the contrary event, he felt sure of being able to restore order and to suppress the Boxers.

In reply, I informed the Chinese Minister that there is no reason that it should be considered that a state of war exists if the Taku forts had fired without orders from the Government at Peking, and if the attacks on the international troops are without authority; and I strongly advised that if he could be of use in suppressing disorder, and if he could do so with safety to himself, Li Hung-chang should go to Peking, but that he must be judge as to the risk to be run in doing so.



No. 174.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 22, 1900.*

THE Chinese Minister called on me this morning, and stated that the Viceroy of Nanking entirely adopted the Memorandum which he handed to me on the 19th instant. He was greatly obliged for our offer of assistance which he would make use of if required, but he was anxious on account of his people to avoid anything like a demonstration.

The Minister went on to say that Li Hung-chang had been ordered to go to Peking, and rather wanted our advice. I strongly advised that he should go there if he could be of any use in suppressing disorder so long as he could do so with safety, but that we should be sorry if his life should be in danger.

I said that he must be the best judge of the risk, as he knew his own countrymen better than I did.

Sir Chilchen replied that Li knew his own countrymen, and was quite convinced of his power of repressing disorder amongst them, and had not the least fear that the Boxers would not submit to him. But before he acted in that sense, he wanted to know, and the Empress also wanted to know, what were the intentions of the Powers and especially of Her Majesty's Government who could influence the Powers with reference to the political conditions after the suppression of the outbreak. What were the changes or revolutions, if any, which the Powers intended to introduce?

I replied by disclaiming energetically any responsibility for the acts of other Powers, but said that Her Majesty's Government had no intention whatever at present of taking any steps to affect the existing political position at Peking. Their one object was to restore order and secure life and property. I was obliged to say that their action could not but be affected by the action of the Chinese Government and in some degree of the other Powers, so that he must take my assurances as not necessarily applying beyond the present time. The sooner the Empress had quelled the disorder which had broken out at Peking, the safer she would be from any such changes as those she apprehended.

The Minister told me that the attack by the Taku forts had been made without any order from above.

I replied that if that were so, and that the attacks on the international troops were without authority, there was no reason for considering that a state of war existed, but I warned him that the destruction of property which had taken place would have to be met by an indemnity on the part of the Chinese Government.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 175.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Herbert.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 22, 1900.*

THE French Ambassador came to this Department in the forenoon to-day to inform me of a message received by M. Delcassé from the Viceroy Li, and to inquire what my opinion on it might be.

M. Cambon stated to Mr. Bertie that M. Delcassé had spoken to the Chinese Minister at Paris on the grave state of affairs in Yünnan, and the perilous position of French officials and private individuals in that province. This had probably caused the Chinese Minister to communicate by telegraph with Li Hung-chang, the result being that the Viceroy had sent a message to M. Delcassé to the following effect:—

The Government at Peking had summoned the Viceroy to Peking with the view of bringing about a solution of the crisis in the north of China. He would be ready to go to Peking and take measures for the suppression of the Boxers, and felt confident of his ability to do so, provided that the Powers would not consider themselves in a state of war with the Chinese Government. Li Hung-chang stated that the Taku forts had fired on the international forces without orders from the Government at Peking, but that if notwithstanding this act having been unauthorized the Powers considered

themselves at war with China his mission to Peking would be without utility, and he should not go.

Soon after M. Cambon had left the Foreign Office, and just before the meeting of the Cabinet, the Chinese Minister brought to me a message from Li Hung-chang, generally to the same effect as the one sent by his Excellency to M. Deleassé, and I have informed the French Ambassador that the answer which I made was that if the forts at Taku fired without orders from the Government at Peking, and the attacks on the international troops are without authority, there is no reason that it should be considered that a state of war exists; and that if Li Hung-chang thinks that his life will be safe at Peking, and that he can suppress the Boxers and restore order, his mission will be viewed favourably by Her Majesty's Government.

The details of my conversation with Lofêngluh are given in my despatch of to-day to Sir C. MacDonald, of which I have sent to you a copy.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 176.

*Foreign Office to M. Cambon.*

Dear Ambassador,

*Foreign Office, June 22, 1900.*

SINCE I saw your Excellency this morning Lord Salisbury has received from Li Hung-chang a message generally to the same effect as the one sent to M. Deleassé.

Lord Salisbury has replied that if the forts at Taku fired without orders from the Government at Peking, and the attacks on the international troops are without authority, there is no reason that it should be considered that a state of war exists, and that if Li Hung-chang thinks that his life is safe at Peking and that he can suppress the Boxers and restore order his mission will be viewed favourably by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS BERTIE.

No. 177.

*Sir Chihchen Lofêngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)*

My Lord,

*Chinese Legation, June 22, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of yesterday's date, expressing the anxiety felt by the Upper Yang-tsze Syndicate (Limited) and Mr. Pritchard-Morgan with regard to the safety of their employés in the Province of Szechuen, and, in reply, I beg leave to inform you that, conformably to your Lordship's request, I have telegraphed to the Viceroy of that province requesting that proper measures may be taken for their protection.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LOFÊNGLUH.

No. 178.

*Lord Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Washington, June 23, 1900.*

THE Secretary of State, to whom I communicated the substance of your telegram of the 22nd instant, informs me that in addition to a full regiment, 300 marines have been ordered from Manila to Tien-tsin, and that telegraphic inquiries are being made as to what further force can be spared. His Excellency states that the Chinese Minister here reports assurances from the Viceroys of their ability to maintain order in their provinces.

The Circular of the French Government to the Powers respecting Li Hung-chang's

message has been delivered by the French Ambassador to Mr. Hay, who has replied that the United States' Government are favourable to the offer being accepted, and that, all the facts not being known, they do not think that a state of war necessarily exists.

## No. 179.

*Lord Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Washington, June 23, 1900.*

I AM informed by the Chinese Minister that, in reply to his inquiry as to the safety of the United States' Minister, he has received a telegram from the Viceroy of Nanking, dated 22nd June, in the following words:—

"All the Ministers are well," but how the news reached the Viceroy he could not say.

## No. 180.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tōkiō, June 23, 1900.*

AT 9 this morning I attended a meeting, convened by the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, of the Representatives of Powers who have naval forces at Taku.

Two telegrams from the Japanese Admiral at Taku describing the extreme gravity of the situation, and urgently demanding the immediate dispatch of troops, were read to us by his Excellency.

The Minister, while refusing to make any suggestion himself, said that in view of the imminent danger of the situation and the critical position of international forces, his Government, desirous of conforming their resolves to those of the Powers interested, were anxious to know what measures our Government proposed to take immediately to meet the actual necessities of the case.

## No. 181.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tōkiō, June 23, 1900.*

I AT once personally communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your telegram of the 22nd instant, which I received after the meeting reported in my immediately preceding telegram. Though doubtful as to what decision would be taken, his Excellency promised to submit it to the Cabinet without delay.

The second time I visited the Foreign Office the Minister said that, of course, Japan has troops at her disposal, but that it was impossible to foresee the consequences of sending them.

## No. 182.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 24.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, June 24, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a decypher of a telegram, dated the 23rd instant, from the Rear-Admiral, China, at Taku, received via Chefoo, relative to affairs in China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 182.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, June 23, 1900.*

RECEIVED your telegrams.

The allied Admirals are working in perfect accord with Russian Vice-Admiral as Senior Officer, and as the Council of Admirals has supreme control over all the operations, in order to avoid opportunities of friction, the Officer Commanding land forces should belong to same nation, as Senior Admiral, President of Council, as is case now.

A Russian Major-General, with the Russians, and German second in command, and Captain Warrender, are in charge of the operations from Taku forts for relief of Tien-tsin under general control of Russian Major-General. All Admirals in command are together off Taku bar.

Have just received news that Americans and Russians attempted yesterday to relieve Tien-tsin, and were repulsed by Chinese with some loss. Expect Hong Kong regiments to-morrow, and know of no more reinforcements coming.

Russians have landed altogether about 4,000. Russian Admiral told me yesterday he expected no more troops. Germany has landed about 1,300, and expects no more. Other forces landed besides ours small numerically.

No. 183.

*Consul Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Canton, June 24, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 22nd instant :

I had yesterday an interview with Li Hung-chang. That morning he had sent a message to Peking asking for definite instructions as to going or remaining, and saying that, unless the Central Government were prepared beforehand to follow his advice, his Mission to the north would be absolutely futile. According to what his Excellency told me he will remain if the matter is left to his own decision ; but that, if he is unconditionally ordered to go, he must do so at any risk.

His Excellency does not expect a reply within a week, as telegraphic communication with Peking and Tien-tsin is closed. I was requested by him to convey to your Lordship his thanks for your thoughtful consideration of his position and for your advice.

No. 184.

*Consul Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Canton, June 24, 1900.*

ON being informed by the French Consul that he had received official intelligence of the bombardment of the Concessions at Tien-tsin by Government troops, I considered it advisable, in view of the probable effect of the news here, to apply for a gun-boat as a precautionary measure, and to allay excitement and anxiety among the foreign community.

Otherwise the state of things here is fairly quiet.

No. 185.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 24, 1900.*

UNDER instructions from his Government yesterday, the French Minister was to inform the Russian Government that his Government had learnt from Canton that Li Hung-chang had been summoned to Peking by the Dowager-Empress, but, before

proceeding there, he had desired to be informed whether the action at Taku was regarded by the foreign Powers as constituting a state of war with the Chinese Government. The French Government desired to ascertain the view of the Russian Government on the subject.

The opinion of Count Lamsdorff was that, as it was not to be assumed that the Chinese troops were acting on instructions from the Chinese Government, but by compulsion of the Boxers, the Powers were not in a state of war with China.

I met M. de Witte yesterday, and he took the same view as that expressed on Wednesday by Count Mouravieff with regard to the situation in the north of China. The summons to Li Hung-chang he regarded as a favourable sign of the Empress' desire to arrange matters with the Powers.

He said that he expected that before any reinforcements from Europe could arrive the whole trouble would be over.

### No. 186.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce, at Taku, to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 25.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Despatched from Port Arthur, June 17, 1900.*

(Delayed on Chinese lines.)

COUNCIL of Admirals this morning decided to attack Taku forts 2 o'clock in the morning 17th June, if not previously surrendered, for purpose of trying to relieve Commander-in-chief and allied forces marching on Peking, and situation of affairs at Tien-tsin.

Presented ultimatum to Chinese Governor at Tien-tsin and Commandant of forts this afternoon.

Chinese telegraph lines interrupted. Situation of affairs over all China very critical. Towns on the Yang-tze-Kiang anxious for protection. Commander-in-chief is still cut off from all communication.

Report arrived to-day that the Legations at Peking have been attacked. Tuan, now Head of Foreign Affairs in China, in my belief is head of the Boxers. [Am] saving such missionaries as I hear reach coast.

### No. 187.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 25.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, June 24, 1900.*

TOTAL force which left Tien-tsin with Commander-in-chief for Peking about 2,000, composed of detachments of the allied ships.

German and American Flag Captains were with Commander-in-chief.

Captain Bayly, "Aurora," has been the commander, heart and soul, of the defence of Tien-tsin, assisted by Captain Burke, "Orlando."

No action could be possibly taken to relieve the Commander-in-chief, because it was only known he was cut off by Tien-tsin being invested. Tien-tsin has been fighting for its life ever since. It was on receipt of information that Chinese army had ordered trains for attacking Tien-tsin, ravaged Tongku, and were reinforcing Taku, as well as mining the mouth of the Peiho, that it was promptly determined to seize Taku just in time, since when every effort has been made to relieve Tien-tsin.

Have commandeered small coasting steamer for taking troops sick and wounded across the bar and to Wei-hai Wei, where I intend making temporary base hospital and asylum for refuge until South China has settled down.

No. 188.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. Scott.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 25, 1900.*

I REQUEST that you will inquire of the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs whether his Government will give their approval to dispatch of a Japanese force of from 20,000 to 30,000 men, if Japanese Government are willing to undertake it, for the restoration of order at Tien-tsin and Peking.

No. 189.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. Scott.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 25, 1900.*

IN your conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject mentioned in my telegram of to-day, you may draw his Excellency's attention to the following considerations: Her Majesty's Government assume that the Russian Government will further reinforce their troops speedily, and are themselves sending some 10,000 troops from India; but it is clear that these reinforcements will not arrive in time to rescue the two forces at present surrounded or the Legations at Peking.

No. 190.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 25, 1900.*

THE Japanese Chargé d'Affaires requested to see me to-day. He asked me what arrangements the Powers were making with respect to the China crisis. I informed him of the troops that were being sent by the various Powers, and that the officers on the spot were left to arrange with each other the measures that were most suitable for relieving the nationals of the various Powers who were in danger. I pointed out to him that considerable time must elapse before the relief from India or Europe could arrive, and that Japan was situated in a manner more favourable for immediate action. I asked him how long it would take to send a considerable force from Japan. He said that would depend upon the locality in Japan from which the force was sent, but he thought that if all preparations were complete, four days would be required for the passage. He did not, however, intimate that there was any chance of an immediate completion of the preparations. He said that he had received no instructions from his Government, but that, in his own opinion, it was not likely they would send a very large force.

He thought some assurance would be required that there was no objection on the part of other Governments which have interests in the East.

I have telegraphed to St. Petersburg to ascertain whether the Russians would approve of an expedition of 25,000 or 30,000 troops, and have urged upon the German Government that they should support us in this appeal.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 191.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Gough.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 26, 1900.*

THE crisis in China.

Please inform Minister for Foreign Affairs that I have telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg to inquire whether the Russian Government would approve of a force of from 20,000 to 30,000 men being sent by Japan to Taku.

I gather from the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires, with whom I had an interview late last night, that his Government, unless they receive some assurance that it will not lead to complications with other Powers interested, will not give effective assistance.

I hope the German Emperor will concur in our wish to procure such an assurance from Russia, and that His Majesty will be willing to lend us his assistance in obtaining it.

## No. 192.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, June 26, 1900.*

A TELEGRAM has been received from the Governor of Shantung, Yuan-shih-Kai, to the effect that he has frequently sent out scouts to get news, but that, as a rule, the Boxers have killed them all. According to his latest information the foreign Ministers in Peking were unharmed up to the 20th instant.

## No. 193.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tókió, June 26, 1900.*

JAPANESE reinforcements.

Your telegram of the 22nd instant.

I received official information this morning from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that it has been decided by the Japanese Government to mobilize and hold ready one division, which, including the force already sent, will make a total of about 13,000 men. If emergency arises, he states that transports will be available at any moment.

## No. 194.

*Sir Chihchen Loféngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)*

My Lord Marquis,

*Chinese Legation, June 26, 1900.*

REFERRING to my letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in reply to the telegram I sent requesting that special precautions should be taken in the Province of Szechuen for the protection of the foreigners there employed by Mr. Pritchard-Morgan and the Upper Yang-tsze Syndicate, I have received the following telegram from his Excellency the Viceroy of Huquang:—

“Your telegram has been received, and the Viceroy of Szechuen has been requested to give the desired protection.

“In the Upper and Lower Yang-tsze, the Viceroy of Nanking and myself will, under any circumstances, afford adequate protection to foreign merchants, missionaries, and native Christians residing in our respective Governments. Please assure Lord Salisbury that no apprehension need be entertained as to this.”

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOFÉNGLUH.

## No. 195.

*Sir Chihchen Loféngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 26)*

THE Chinese Minister presents his compliments to the Marquess of Salisbury, and, at the request of the Viceroy of Huquang, has the honour to communicate to his Lordship the following translation of a telegram he has received from his Excellency, dated 6 A.M., the 23rd June:—

The rebels in the northern provinces, called by the name of “Boxers,” have, in defiance of the Imperial Decree, overrun and devastated a large tract of country in the



vicinity of Peking, taking the lives of many persons, natives as well as foreigners of various nationalities, including a member of the Japanese Legation at Peking.

The present lamentable state of affairs, which the Imperial Government deplore as a national calamity, is doubtless attributable to the culpable negligence of the provincial authorities, who surely could never have foreseen the large proportions which the Boxer movement was fated to take; otherwise they would have suppressed it in the commencement.

I am very apprehensive lest the continued occupation of the Taku forts should lead to a breach of harmonious relations between China and the Treaty Powers. The Enipress-Dowager and the Emperor have summoned Li Hung-chang to Peking by telegraph, in order to concert measures with the Government to the end that an understanding may be come to with the Treaty Powers; but a fortnight must necessarily elapse before he can arrive, and meanwhile the Treaty Powers are dispatching additional troops to China, which may have the effect of aggravating the gravity of the situation, and of, perhaps, precipitating matters beyond recall; thus creating new opportunities for other disaffected factions to join the Boxers, or even to act independently of them in their fell work of murder, rapine, and plunder.

The intentions of the Imperial Government are entirely pacific and in favour of friendly relations with the Treaty Powers. This is shown by the absence of any instructions to the provincial authorities to take measures with a view to defence.

You should endeavour to induce the Governments to whom you are accredited to instruct their respective naval Commanders in the neighbourhood of Tien-tsin to remain on the defensive until such time as Li Hung-chang shall have arrived in Peking and memorialized the Throne, with respect to the satisfaction to be given to the Powers. In this way, freed from the dread of drifting into war with them, we shall be at liberty to devote all our energies to the suppression of the rebellion.

The Viceroy of the provinces bordering on the Yang-tsze having taken precautions against the possibility of any troubles occurring within their respective jurisdictions, no apprehension need be entertained as to their ability and readiness to afford the fullest measure of protection to foreigners residing at the riverine ports. It might, however, be otherwise, should hostilities be continued at Tien-tsin.

The situation, then, being so critical, I would impress on you the necessity of your exerting yourself to the utmost in order to induce Great Britain to be forbearing, and not to press matters unduly in the north. The provincial authorities of the central provinces all agree with me as to the extreme desirability of these recommendations being attended to, and join me in requesting you to bring to the notice of the Foreign Secretary all the considerations I have given expression to in this telegram.

*Chinese Legation, June 26, 1900.*

# No. 196.

*Sir Chihchen Loféngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)*

My Lord Marquis,

*Chinese Legation, June 26, 1900.*

WITH reference to the telegram from the Viceroy of Huquang, dated Wuchang, the 23rd June, which I have had the honour of communicating to your Lordship, I beg leave to state that I have received another telegram from his Excellency, instructing me to inform you that the under-mentioned Viceroys and Governors of provinces, being in complete accord with him as to the views expressed by him in the said telegram, have expressed a desire to be considered as co-Signatories with him of that communication:—

Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of the Two Kwangs.  
Lieu Kwun Yih, Viceroy of the Two Kiangs.  
Wang Chi Chün, Governor of Anhwei.  
Yüen Shi Kai, Governor of Shantung.  
Yü Lin San, Governor of Hunan.

In requesting your Lordship to take note of this, I venture to express the hope that the adherence of these important functionaries to the telegram of the Viceroy of Huquang may be viewed by your Lordship as lending additional weight to the considerations advanced by him in favour of a policy of abstention, on the part of the

Treaty Powers, from extreme measures in the present unhappy condition of a part of Northern China.

I have. &c.  
(Signed) LOFENGLUH.

No. 197.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 26.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, June 26, 1900.*

COMMANDER CRADOCK, commanding British contingent, Tien-tsin relief, reports Tien-tsin communicated with and reinforced 23rd June. Commander-in-chief reported 10 miles from Tien-tsin, hampered by sick and wounded, and engaged with enemy.

Force landed :—

German, 1,340; American, 335; Russian Naval Brigade, 235, troops, 3,500; Japanese Naval Brigade, 602, troops, 1,050, expected 26th June, 2,100; Austrians, 26; Italian, 138; French, 421, 3 p.m. 25th June French expect one battery artillery, one battalion infantry.

No. 198.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 26, 1900.*

THE Chinese Minister called to-day, and communicated to me the following telegram, which he had received from the Viceroy of Huquang, dated the 23rd June :—

“The rebels in the northern provinces, called by the name of ‘Boxers,’ have, in defiance of the Imperial Decree, overrun and devastated a large tract of country in the vicinity of Peking, taking the lives of many persons, natives as well as foreigners of various nationalities, including a member of the Japanese Legation at Peking.

“The present lamentable state of affairs, which the Imperial Government deplore as a national calamity, is doubtless attributable to the culpable negligence of the provincial authorities, who surely could never have foreseen the large proportions which the Boxer movement was fated to take. Otherwise, they would have suppressed it in the commencement.

“I am very apprehensive lest the continued occupation of the Taku forts should lead to a breach of harmonious relations between China and the Treaty Powers. The Empress-Dowager and the Emperor have summoned Li Hung-chang to Peking by telegraph, in order to concert measures with the Government, to the end that an understanding may be come to with the Treaty Powers, but a fortnight must necessarily elapse before he can arrive, and meanwhile the Treaty Powers are dispatching additional troops to China, which may have the effect of aggravating the gravity of the situation, and of perhaps precipitating matters beyond recall, thus creating new opportunities for other disaffected factions to join the Boxers, or even to act independently of them in their fell work of murder, rapine, and plunder.

“The intentions of the Imperial Government are entirely pacific, and in favour of friendly relations with the Treaty Powers. This is shown by the absence of any instructions to the provincial authorities to take measures with a view to defence.

“You should endeavour to induce the Governments to whom you are accredited to instruct their respective Naval Commanders in the neighbourhood of Tien-tsin to remain on the defensive until such time as Li Hung-chang shall have arrived in Peking and memorialized the Throne with respect to the satisfaction to be given to the Powers. In this way, freed from the dread of drifting into war with them, we shall be at liberty to devote all our energies to the suppression of the rebellion.

“The Viceroys of the provinces bordering on the Yang-tsze having taken precautions against the possibility of any trouble occurring within their respective jurisdictions, no apprehension need be entertained as to their ability and readiness to

afford the fullest measure of protection to foreigners residing at the riverine ports. It might, however, be otherwise should hostilities be continued at Tien-tsin.

"The situation, then, being so critical, I would impress on you the necessity of your exerting yourself to the utmost in order to induce Great Britain to be forbearing, and not to press matters unduly in the north. The provincial authorities of the central provinces all agree with me as to the extreme desirability of these recommendations being attended to, and join me in requesting you to bring to the notice of the Foreign Secretary all the considerations I have given expression to in this telegram."

The Chinese Minister also informed me that the Viceroy of Huquang had, in a subsequent telegram, requested him to inform me that the under-mentioned Viceroys and Governors of provinces being in complete accord with him as to the views expressed in the telegram already quoted, have expressed a desired to be considered as co-Signatories with him of that communication :—

Li Hung-chang, Viceroy of the Two Kwangs.

Lieu Kwun Yih, Viceroy of the Two Kiangs.

Wang Chi Chün, Governor of Anhwei.

Yüen Shi Kai, Governor of Shantung.

Yü Lin San, Governor of Hunan.

Lofêngluh said that he hoped that the adherence of these important functionaries to the telegram of the Viceroy of Huquang may be viewed as lending additional weight to the considerations advanced by him in favour of a policy of abstention on the part of the Treaty Powers from extreme measures in the present unhappy condition of a part of Northern China.

I replied that we were actuated in the steps we had taken by anxiety for Her Majesty's Minister and Sir E. Seymour, and the other British subjects whose lives were in danger. If he would procure from them a written assurance that they were in safety, and a request that all military operations should be arrested, that result would, so far as we were concerned, immediately take place.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

#### No. 199.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)*

(Telegraphic)

*Shanghai, June 27, 1900.*

ACTING under instructions from the Viceroy, the Taotai of Shanghai asked the foreign Consuls to meet him yesterday in order to discuss the situation. He asked the Consuls at the meeting to telegraph to their respective Governments, suggesting that they should declare neutral all the districts other than those north of where fighting is actually in progress, and that if that were done they would then be able to guarantee the maintenance of order.

The allied Admirals' Proclamation, dated the 20th June, was the Consuls' reply. They declared that the foreign Powers were only fighting against the Boxers and those persons who opposed the forces sent to Peking to rescue their countrymen there. That the duty of keeping the peace rested with the Chinese officials, and that they need have no apprehension of any attack on our part if no breach of peace or act of war was committed by China.

#### No. 200.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, via Chefoo, June 27, 1900.*

BRITISH column, under Major F. Morris, R.W.F., and Naval Brigade, under Commander Cradock, arrived at noon, 550 men strong; 1,500 Russians are reported to be at Tien-tsin Railway Station; 150 Americans and 50 Italians have also arrived 23rd June.

## No. 201.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 27, 1900.*

HEAVY firing has been heard for thirty-six hours north of Tien-tsin, where the Commander-in-chief is believed to be at a place named Pei-tsang, about 9 miles from here.

A note was received yesterday morning by the Commissioner of Imperial Customs from the Inspector-General, dated 19th June, 4 P.M., stating that the Legations had been ordered to leave Peking within twenty-four hours.

## No. 202.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 27, 1900.*

COUNT LAMSDORFF has been at Peterhof with the Emperor all day, and early to-morrow morning he has to return there, but I have been able to communicate in writing to him the sense of your Lordship's telegrams of 25th June, and he promises that as soon as he is enabled to do so he will give me an immediate reply.

There is an utter absence of news at the Russian Foreign Office with regard to the present situation in and near Tien-tsin.

## No. 203.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, June 27, 1900.*

M. DELCASSÉ informs me that, beyond the two declarations he has already made in the Chamber, he has no statement to offer for the information of the Government of Japan in connection with the meeting of the foreign Representatives which the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs convoked at Tôkiô.

On the question of the co-operation of Japan on a large scale, his Excellency did not give me any intimation of his opinion.

On the whole, M. Delcassé's language was less optimistic than that which seems to have been held at St. Petersburg to Her Majesty's Ambassador.

## No. 204.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, June 27, 1900.*

YOUR telegram of to-day.

Your answer to the Taotai is approved.

## No. 205.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Chihchen Lofêngluh.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 27, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday's date, containing a telegram received by you from his Excellency the Viceroy of Huquang relative to the protection of foreigners and native Christians residing in the Yang-tsze provinces.

I have to thank you for your action in the matter.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 206.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, via Chefoo, June 24, 1900.*

NEWS was brought yesterday by Bigham's servant, who is quite trustworthy, of the Commander-in-chief. He was being bombarded by a large number of guns in a small arsenal called Wuku, north of Tien-tsin, which he had seized. His losses were about 40 killed and 70 wounded, and relief was urgently needed. Force to succour him leaves to-night.

Comparatively slight damage was done to the foreign Settlements, which were shelled from the 18th to the 23rd June, except in the French Concession, which suffered severely; the British Consulate was also a good deal knocked about. The British casualties up to date of relief are 4 killed and 50 wounded, among the latter being 6 officers.

No. 207.

*Admiralty to Rear-Admiral Bruce.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, June 28, 1900.*

IT is proposed to make Wei-hai Wei the base for troops in the north of China, and all ships containing stores will be directed to call at Hong Kong for orders.

No. 208.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 28, 1900.*

FOLLOWING official telegram from Admiral Alexieff, dated Port Arthur, the 26th June, published by Russian War Office this evening:—

“On 24th June, General Stessel forced his entrance into Tien-tsin and effected junction with Anisimoff. Losses not great; details later.”

No. 209.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 28, 1900.*

FURTHER official telegram from Admiral Alexieff, Port Arthur, 27th June. During night of 26th, detachment from Tien-tsin, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Shirinsky, and consisting of four Russian companies and similar number of foreigners, liberated Seymour detachment, escorting it to Tien-tsin; 200 of Seymour detachment wounded.

No. 210.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 28, 1900.*

I COMMUNICATED your Lordship's telegram of the 25th June to Lamsdorff, and have just received his Excellency's reply. The Russian Minister at Tôkiô has been instructed by telegraph to make the following reply to the Government of Japan:—

“We can only highly appreciate the sentiments expressed by Japan in present circumstances, as also her view of Chinese affairs. We have no desire to hinder her liberty of action, particularly after her expression of a firm intention to conform her action to that of the other Powers.

"As regards Russia, her intentions have been clearly defined by the official communiqué published on the 24th instant.

"Admiral Alexieff has further received orders to regulate the measures which he might find necessary eventually to take in accordance with the developments in North China."

## No. 211.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, June 28, 1900.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Chungking for transmission to your Lordship:—

"In order to have a possible means of escape for the women and children, I have taken it upon myself to detain the British merchant-steamer "Pioneer" at Chungking. A state of great anxiety prevails here owing to there being no gun-boat. I communicated with the Admiral by telegraph on the 19th June through the Consulate-General at Shanghai, but I have not as yet received any reply. There are no means of communicating with Sir C. MacDonald. I am sending by mail a full report of what has been done."

## No. 212.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, June 28, 1900.*

I HAVE received the following message from the Nanking Viceroy:—

"I received the following Imperial Rescript on 25th June by telegraph:—

"'The Imperial Government continues as usual to accord every protection to the foreign Legations at Peking.'"

## No. 213.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tôkiô, June 28, 1900.*

I HAVE to-day been informed by Viscount Aoki that the division now mobilized would probably be very shortly embarked.

Viscount Aoki further stated that the communication, which in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 22nd instant I made to the Japanese Government, was considered by them to be not so much a mere inquiry as a suggestion. It was possible for them to reply directly or indirectly, and they have chosen what seemed the preferable course by mobilizing their troops.

## No. 214.

*Consul Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Canton, June 28, 1900.*

I AM informed by Li Hung-chang that he has received an Imperial Edict, by which he is commanded to remain in residence for the present, so as to insure the preservation of order in the district.

No. 215.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, June 28, 1900.*

THE Chinese Minister called on me to-day, and said that the Viceroys Li Hung-chang had requested him to inform me that the foreign Representatives at Peking were safe at Pei-stang, a station on the Tien-tsin-Peking Railway, some 16 miles to the north of Tien-tsin.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 216.

*Count Lamsdorff to M. de Staal.—(Communicated by M. de Staal, June 29.)*

(Traduction.)

(Télégraphique.)

*Saint-Pétersbourg, le 15 (28) Juin, 1900.*

NOUS avons été renseignés sur l'intention du Japon de participer au rétablissement de l'ordre en Chine par Sir Charles Scott et par M. Isvolsky. Ce dernier a été muni à cet effet des instructions suivantes :—

En appréciant hautement les sentiments d'amitié qui animent le Japon, et qui ont dicté à Mr. Aoki les ouvertures qu'il vous a faites, ainsi que l'attitude parfaitement correcte de cette Puissance en vue des événements survenus en Chine, nous ne voudrions pas entraver la liberté d'action du Cabinet de Tôkiô, d'autant plus qu'il est tout disposé à faire concorder cette action avec celle des autres Puissances. Quant aux intentions de la Russie, le Gouvernement Impérial les a fait connaître dans le communiqué officiel récemment publié.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, June 15 (28), 1900.*

WE have been informed of the intention of Japan to take part in the re-establishment of order in China by Sir C. Scott and M. Isvolsky. The latter has been furnished with the following instructions in regard to the matter :—

While appreciating the friendly sentiments which animate Japan, and which have suggested to Mr. Aoki the overtures made by him to you, as well as the perfectly correct attitude adopted by that Power in view of the events which have occurred in China, we do not wish to hinder the liberty of action of the Tôkiô Cabinet, especially as the latter is quite disposed to act in harmony with the other Powers. As to the intentions of Russia, the Imperial Government has stated them in the recently-published official communiqué.

No. 217.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, June 29, 1900.*

DISPATCH of Japanese expedition to China.

Your telegram of 26th June.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs is absent with the Emperor, and the German Government has not yet given any answer.

No. 218.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, via Chefoo, June 29, 1900.*

A MESSAGE to the effect that the Legations are still in Peking has been received by a foreign Resident through the Customs Taotai.



Admiral Seymour's force, together with the relief force, arrived on the 26th instant. The casualty returns of the foreign detachments are incomplete; the British casualties are: killed, Captain Beyts and twenty-four men; wounded, seven officers and ninety-one men.

## No. 219.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, June 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, June 29, 1900.*

HAVE returned Tien-tsin with force, unable to reach Peking by rail. On the 13th June two attacks on advanced guard made by Boxers, repulsed with considerable loss to Boxers, none our side. 14th June Boxers attacked train at Langfang in large numbers with great determination, but were repelled with loss of about 100 killed. Our loss, five Italians.

Same afternoon Boxers attacked British guard left to protect Lofa Station. Reinforcements were sent back and enemy driven off, 100 being killed—two of our seamen wounded. Guards pushed forward to Anting, engaged enemy 13th and 14th June, inflicting loss of 175—no casualties our side.

Extensive destruction of railway in our front having made further advance by rail impossible, it was decided, 16th June, to return Yangtsun, where proposed to organize advance by river to Peking.

After my departure from Langfang two trains left to follow on were attacked 18th June by Boxers and Imperial troops from Peking, who lost 400 to 500 killed. Our casualties: six killed, 48 wounded. These trains joined me Yangtsun same evening. Railway at Yangtsun found entirely demolished, and train immovable, forces short of provisions, and hampered with wounded, forcing us to withdraw on Tien-tsin, with which there had been no communication for six days, and supplies cut off 19th June, wounded and necessaries started by boats, forces marching alongside river.

Opposition experienced during whole course of river from nearly every village, rebels when defeated in one village retiring on next, and skilfully retarding advance by occupying well-selected positions, from which they had to be forced, often at point of bayonet, in face of galling fire difficult to locate.

23rd June made night march, arriving at daylight opposite Imperial Armoury, above Tien-tsin, where, after friendly advances, treacherous heavy fire was opened while men were exposed on opposite bank.

Enemy kept in check by rifle fire in front, while position was turned by party of marines and seamen under Major Johnstone, who rushed and occupied one of salient points, seizing a gun.

Germans lower down silenced two guns, then crossed river, capturing them. Armoury then occupied by combined forces. Determined attempt to retake it made same and following days, unsuccessful. Found immense stores of guns, arms, ammunition, latest pattern.

Several guns mounted for our defence and shelled Chinese forts lower down—having found ammunition and rice could have held out some days, but being hampered by large number of wounded, sent to Tien-tsin to ask for relieving force, which arrived morning of 25th June. Armoury evacuated, and forces arrived Tien-tsin, 26th June. On leaving armoury destroyed it by fire.

Casualties to date:—

						Killed.	Wounded.
British.	..	..	..	..	..	27	97
American	..	..	..	..	..	4	25
French	..	..	..	..	..	1	10
German	..	..	..	..	..	12	62
Italian	..	..	..	..	..	5	3
Japanese	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Austrian	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Russian	..	..	..	..	..	10	27

## No. 220.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, vid Chefoo, June 29, 1900.*

AT a Consular meeting held to-day it was unanimously agreed to make the following suggestion to our respective Governments, viz., that the Chinese Government should be informed that in case the persons of the foreign Ministers are touched, the Mausolea of the dynasty will be destroyed by the European troops.

The Commander-in-chief gave his support to this decision on the 26th instant, and it is to be communicated to all the Admirals.

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## No. 221.

*Consul Tratman to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, June 29, 1900.*

NOTHING definite is known of Ministers, but they are supposed to be still in Peking. The damage done to Tien-tsin has been exaggerated; English ladies are still there and likely to remain. Admiral Seymour has been relieved, and has returned to Tien-tsin with a loss of 62 killed and 212 wounded.

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## No. 222.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received June 30.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, June 29, 1900.*

THE following has been received from a reliable source, and the language of the Viceroy Liu and the Shanghai Taotai confirms its general terms:—

“The Viceroy has received through the Governor of Shantung a Secret Decree dated the 20th June. This Decree, which is very curiously worded, is considered by the Chinese as the testamentary command of a dying Government. The Governors and Viceroys are ordered to protect the provinces under their administration, and to render assistance at the same time in the critical situation of affairs at Peking. The Chinese are of opinion that its language practically gives absolute authority to the Viceroys.

“A message has been received by Li Hung-chang from Jung-lu dated the 21st June, telling him to pay no further attention to Decrees from the capital. In combination with the Yang-tsze Viceroys, Li Hung-chang has agreed no longer to recognize the Peking Government.

“A copy of the Secret Decree is in my possession. The language employed is non-committal, but I consider that Prince Tuan probably usurped the Imperial power about the 21st June. It is reported that Jung-lu is attempting to co-operate with the Chinese Viceroys and is opposed to him.”

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## No. 223.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received July 1.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, July 1, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 30th June, from Rear-Admiral Bruce, concerning the situation in China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

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## Inclosure in No. 223.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Via Chefoo, June 30, 1900.*

THE conduct of Commander Stewart, "Algerine," and Commander Lanz, "Iltis" (German), at bombardment Taku forts was magnificent, and elicited admiration of allied ships.

River route to Tien-tsin, 51 miles from Taku, now open. Railhead now 9 miles from Tien-tsin, and road inwards not [now?] quite safe. Communication with Commander-in-chief, Tien-tsin, difficult. Force with Cradock had to fight way into Tien-tsin. Cradock also Commander storming party previously forts at Taku. Fort which commanded river 13 miles above Taku was found deserted by Lieutenant and Commander Keyes, and blown up by him, leaving passage up the river free. Keyes reports to-day arsenal Tien-tsin captured 27th June.

Naval brigade losses: Five men killed. Lieutenant Colomb, "Endymion," slightly wounded; Gunner May and twenty-one men wounded. No further details. Warrender quite well, doing very good work, taking charge of all our forces on river and along lines of communication.

Vice-Admiral Alexieff, Governor-General of Port Arthur and Liaotung Province, Commander-in-chief of all Russian forces in the East, has just arrived on his way to Tien-tsin, taking supreme command of Russian forces. Captain Jellicoe shot through lung, doing very well.

Forces landed to date :—

						Officers.	Men.
Germany	..	..	..	..	..	44	1,300
British	..	..	..	..	..	184	1,700
Austria	..	..	..	..	..	12	127
America	..	..	..	..	..	20	329
France	..	..	..	..	..	17	387
Italy	..	..	..	..	..	7	131
Japan	..	..	..	..	..	119	3,709
Russia	..	..	..	..	..	117	5,817
Total	..	..	..	..	..	520	13,500

With 53 field guns, 36 machine guns.

No details yet of killed and wounded with Commander-in-chief.

## No. 224.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, July 1, 1900.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 26th June respecting the Japanese expedition, I have the honour to state that the German Government have sent me the following reply :—

"No particulars ('modalitäten') of the proposed Japanese intervention are in their possession; they are unable to judge whether the interests of third Powers would be affected by it, or whether the responsibility of supporting it could be undertaken by Germany.

"Order can be restored in China, and the Empire's existence and the peace of the world be continued only by the maintenance of the accord which has hitherto existed among the Powers.

"Germany would therefore only take part in the steps which Her Majesty's Government have proposed, if, from the outset, she felt certain that the above-mentioned indispensable accord would not be thereby endangered."

I am sending by post to-night copy and translation of the reply of the German Government.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, July 1, 1900.*

THIS morning news has been received here from Peking up to the 26th ultimo; all the power is in the usurper Tuan's hands and the situation is very grave. The Empress-Dowager and the Emperor are both in Peking but powerless. Tung-fu-hsiang, the Mahommedan General with 15,000 well-drilled Kansu men and Tuan with Manchu troops, are determined to resist foreign troops. Jung-lu beseeches foreign Powers to rescue their subjects while there is time. Viceroys and Governors of all the southern and central provinces have united to resist the usurper and ask for assurance from Powers that the war shall not spread south however bad the situation at Peking may become. I have again given them assurances that Her Majesty's Government will not land troops except in the north while the Chinese authorities continue to maintain order. News has reached Shêng from Paoting-fu that German Minister has been murdered. I consider the position of foreigners in Peking extremely critical. They are said to have taken refuge at the British Legation.

No. 226.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, July 1, 1900.*

I TELEGRAPHED to-day to Yuan-shih-Kai, Governor of Shantung, for the purpose of urging him to follow the example of the three great Viceroys in standing firm in the cause of order.

His reply is as follows:—

“With regard to your telegram of to-day: My views are the same as those of the Viceroys. The rebels have reached Peking, have for a long time interrupted communication and have overrun the country. A messenger reached me on the 26th June with information that the foreign Representatives were still in the capital.”

No. 227.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, July 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, July 1, 1900.*

ARSENAL north-east of Tien-tsin Settlement captured the 27th June by combined forces. British engaged were Naval Brigade and 1st Chinese Regiment.

No. 228.

*Consul Tratman to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, July 1, 1900.*

ON the 13th June the German Minister at Peking was murdered by native troops. On the 23rd June there were only three Legations remaining. It is not stated which they were.

No. 229.

*Lord Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)*

My Lord,

*Rome, June 28, 1900.*

I ASKED M. Visconti-Venosta to-day what steps the Italian Government intended to take with regard to events in China.

He said that they wished to take part in any concerted action that may be taken

by the Powers for the protection of Europeans, and for the re-establishment of order. They could not contribute as largely to these ends as most of the other Powers interested in the Far East, but small contingents had already been landed from the Italian ships, and had acted with the international forces. There were at present only two Italian men-of-war in Chinese waters, but another was on its way, and two more would start in a few days, and would be provided with extra crews, so as to strengthen the ships already on the station and provide men for landing parties. Another vessel would be got ready with all dispatch. So that in a short time the Italian Squadron in Chinese waters would be composed of six vessels.

It was not decided to send any soldiers at present, as it was uncertain whether they would be required, but, in the event of circumstances making it desirable that Peking or any other point should be occupied by an international force, Italy would be ready to send a contingent to take part in such occupation, and would reserve her decision as to any larger force that might be eventually required.

It was impossible at present to judge how far the movement in China was likely to spread, and what efforts might be required to cope with it.

It was the wish of the Italian Government, M. Visconti-Venosta said, to co-operate with Great Britain and the other Powers, and he would be very glad to learn whether the course which they proposed to follow met with the concurrence and sympathy of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CURRIE.

No. 230.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)*

My Lord,

*Berlin, June 29, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Emperor has appointed Major-General von Hoepfner, Inspector of the Marine Infantry, to the command of the reinforcements which have been ordered to China. In the Imperial Order notifying this appointment it is directed that when the General arrives on the East Asiatic Station he is to place himself under the orders of the Commander of the Cruiser Squadron. In any land operations, however, General von Hoepfner is to assume the command of the forces employed.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of an Imperial Order, published in yesterday's papers, directing the formation of the expeditionary corps for China, and specifying the number of officers and men, &c., of which it is to consist.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) GOUGH.

Inclosure in No. 230.

*Imperial Cabinet Order respecting the Formation of an Expeditionary Corps for China.*

(Translation.)

I COMMAND—

1. An expeditionary corps to be dispatched to China, is to be formed from my navy, consisting of the 1st and 2nd Marine Battalion, of a horsed field battery, and of a detachment of Pioneers.

2. To the Commander of the expeditionary corps I grant the jurisdictional and disciplinary authority of a Commander of a division.

3. His Staff consists of—one Staff Officer as Chief of the Staff, one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Staff Surgeon, one Paymaster, one Evangelical and one Catholic Naval Chaplain, and the necessary subordinates.

4. A reserve battalion is to be formed as soon as possible in Kiel and in Wilhelms-haven for the 1st and 2nd Marine Battalion. Executory orders are issued by the Secretary of State for the Imperial Department of Marine.

5. The dispatch of and arrangements for transport devolve upon the North Sea Naval Station.

Kiel, on board my yacht "Hohenzollern."

(Signed) WILLIAM.

Kiel, on board my yacht "Hohenzollern,"  
June 25, 1900.

No. 231.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received July 2.)*

Sir,

*Admiralty, July 2, 1900.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram, dated the 1st July, from Rear-Admiral Bruce, relative to the crisis in China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 231.

*Rear-Admiral Bruce to Admiralty.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Chefoo, July 1, 1900.*

GERMAN Admiral reports Chinese runner, three days from Peking, arrived Tien-tsin yesterday; brought despatches to say all Europeans in great distress; situation desperate; hoping for relief every hour. German Minister has been murdered by Chinese regular troops, and large Chinese army advancing on Tien-tsin. Have had long conversation with Russian Governor-General. He agrees with me that, with all reinforcements expected, Russian and Japanese, it will only bring total to about 20,000 men, which would enable us to hold the base from Tuku, Tien-tsin, and probably Pei-ta-ho, but impossible to advance beyond Tien-tsin. 4 P.M., 30th June.

No. 232.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 2.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, July 2, 1900.*

COUNT VON BÜLOW left here for Wilhelmshafen in order to consult with the Emperor, upon receiving the official confirmation of the murder of the German Minister at Peking.

I was sent for this morning by Baron von Richthofen, who informed me as follows:—

The German Consul at Tien-tsin has sent a telegram, dated the 29th June, in which it is stated that a Chinese messenger had arrived from Peking that day, bringing the following message, addressed to the Commander of the international forces, which had been dispatched by the Second Secretary in the German Legation, Herr von Bergen:—

"Foreign community besieged in the Legations. Situation desperate. Hasten your coming. Sunday, 4 P.M.

(Signed) "ROBERT HART."

The 24th June is assumed to be the date of the above message.

A further telegram has been received from the German Consul at Tien-tsin, stating that a second messenger, sent by a missionary, arrived on the 29th ultimo, having left Peking on the 25th. He reported that the military escorts of the Legations are suffering from want of ammunition, and he confirmed the murder of the German Minister and the burning of the majority of the Legations.

In view of the above information, and of that contained in Reuter's telegrams, the situation of all foreigners in Peking would appear to be most critical, if, indeed, they are still living. It is believed in the German Foreign Office that the foreign women and children, among them being the wife of the late German Minister, still remain in Peking.

Taking these facts into consideration, Baron von Richthofen then asked me, though he had not received any positive instructions from his Government to do so, whether Her Majesty's Government were prepared to propose any better measure, the effect of which would be immediate, than the one which the Consuls at Tien-tsin had proposed, namely, that a threat to destroy the Imperial tombs should be made, and whether to refuse a proposal which the best-informed persons on the spot had unanimously made, would not be to assume a great responsibility.

No. 233.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Gough.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 2, 1900.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 2nd July respecting proposal of Consuls at Tien-tsin to threaten destruction of the Imperial Mausolea, you should inform Baron Richthofen that the proposal reaches us without any information as to the manner in which it is viewed by the Naval or Military Commanders on the spot.

We believe the Mausolea to be situated near Moukden and Hingking, in Manchuria, and it is probable that their destruction could only be effected by the dispatch of an expedition of considerable strength from Talienwan or Newchwang. The distance which would have to be covered would vary, according to the route and place of departure, from 100 to 200 miles.

We therefore feel unable to sanction a measure which would be so offensive to European opinion.

The threat appears, at first sight, very unlikely to have any effect upon mutinous soldiery or a riotous mob, and these are the factors which place the Legations in so perilous a situation.

No. 234.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Viscount Gough.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 2, 1900.*

CHINA: My telegram of to-day's date.

Ask Baron Richthofen whether the German Government would be disposed to agree that a collective declaration should be made by all the Powers that if any act of violence is committed against the Legations, all authorities at Peking, of whatever rank, will be held responsible in person and property.

No. 235.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 2, 1900.*

THE crisis in China.

With reference to Rear-Admiral Bruce's telegram of 1st July repeated to you to-day, inquire of Japanese Government whether, in the circumstances, they propose to take any additional measures.



No. 236.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)*

My Lord,

*Berlin, July 1, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy and translation of a Memorandum, delivered to me last night by Count von Bülow, on the subject of a proposed Japanese expedition to Taku.

A copy of the Memorandum to which the above forms a reply is likewise inclosed.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) GOUGH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 236.

*Memorandum.*

HER Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed to inform his Excellency Count von Bülow that the Marquess of Salisbury has telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg to ascertain whether a Japanese expedition to Taku would be approved by the Imperial Russian Government.

The expedition would number from 20,000 to 30,000 men.

Her Majesty's Government hope that the Imperial German Government will agree in wishing to procure some assurance from the Russian Government that the proposed expedition would not lead to a collision between Russia and Japan, and also hope that the Imperial German Government will be willing to assist in obtaining such an assurance from Russia.

The Marquess of Salisbury has gathered from the Japanese Representative in London that Japan will not give effective help without some such assurance.

*British Embassy, Berlin, June 27, 1900.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 236.

*Memorandum.*

(Translation.)

THE Chargé d'Affaires of Her Britannic Majesty has mentioned here that the Japanese Government would be disposed to send an expeditionary force of from 20,000 to 30,000 men to Taku, provided that the consent of the Imperial Russian Government could be obtained. In connection with the above, the Chargé d'Affaires asked, in accordance with his instructions, whether Germany would be ready to use her interest in this sense with the Russian Government.

The Government of His Majesty the Emperor, which, in principle, welcomes with sympathy any steps which appear calculated to contribute to the restoration of order in the Chinese Empire, is at present not informed ("orientirt") upon the particulars ("modalitäten") of the intended Japanese intervention. Only after a clearing up of this point could an opinion be formed whether the intended Japanese action leaves the interests of third Powers untouched, and whether, therefore, Germany can undertake the responsibility, which, in the present general situation of affairs, is inseparably connected with a support of the Japanese project of intervention.

The Government of His Majesty the Emperor thinks that it is only by preserving the accord which has hitherto been maintained among the Powers, if even then, that it will be possible to succeed in restoring order in the Chinese Empire, and in securing its continued existence as well as that of the peace of the world. The Imperial Government would, therefore, only take part in such steps where they from the outset possess the certainty that those steps could not imperil that so necessary accord.

*Berlin, June 28, 1900.*

## No. 237.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, July 3, 1900.*

GERMAN Government have decided to dispatch 1st Division of 1st Squadron to China, namely, 1st protected cruisers. An extraordinary brigade made up of soldiers volunteering will likewise be formed, about 7,000 strong.

Emperor's departure for Norway postponed. In His Imperial Majesty's speech yesterday to other force already sent, he said :—

"I will not rest until the German flags united with those of the other Powers float victoriously over those of China, and, planted on the walls of Peking, dictate the terms of peace."

## No. 238.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, July 3, 1900.*

CHINA. I am informed by German Minister that the answer of his Government to your Lordship's inquiry regarding the Japanese expedition was communicated by him to Count Lamsdorff yesterday.

His Excellency said that the view held by the Russian Government was identical; in face of so grave a crisis there were objections to a mandate being given to any one Power; but they would welcome all available forces which could be sent promptly by any Power to act in accord and co-operation with the other Powers, as Japan professed to desire and intend to do. At the present moment any step which, by occasioning rivalry or jealousy, might endanger this accord, would be fatal.

German Minister said that Count Lamsdorff was far from taking the sanguine view of the situation professed by Count Mouravieff. His Excellency anticipated that an immediate march on Peking would be necessary in order to rescue the Legations and set up some orderly form of Government, and was embarrassed at not having been supplied with sufficient information by the foreign Commanders to enable him to form an opinion as to what additional force it would be necessary to send.

## No. 239.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, July 3, 1900.*

CHINA. The foreign Representatives will be received to-morrow by Count Lamsdorff, who has been all day at Peterhoff with the Emperor. In a conversation with the German Minister, who saw him again late last night after the desperate news from Peking had been received, his Excellency expressed the opinion that there could not any longer be a hope of finding some Chinese authority at Peking to support or treat with, as Northern China was in a state of hopeless anarchy. In his opinion the only thing to be done now was that a desperate effort should be made to rescue the Legations and Europeans and bring them to the coast in safety, and the conflagration in the interior could be left to burn itself out while we occupied our present position in strength.

This evening I communicated to his Excellency, who had not heard of it, the opinion expressed by the British and Russian Admirals, that with present forces and expected reinforcements it would be impossible to advance beyond Tien-tsin.

No. 240.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, July 3, 1900.*

THE following Decree from Peking has been sent to all the Viceroys and Governors in Southern and Central China. It was sent for transmission to the Superintendent of Telegraphs and all telegraph-offices on the 28th June from the Pao-ting-fu telegraph-office:—

“Whereas open war has broken out between China and the foreign Powers and the Boxer Society round Tien-tsin, and throughout Chihli, co-operating with the Imperial troops have been victorious,—we have already issued Decrees praising their bravery. These loyal people are to be found throughout the Empire, and all Governors and Viceroys, if they can raise forces from their number, can rely on them to oppose insolence of the foreigners with greatest success. The high provincial authorities shall, therefore, memorialize immediately regarding their plans of campaign. The Viceroys of the Yang-tsze and coast provinces are hereby commanded to use their most strenuous endeavours to put these instructions into effect.”

We are informed by the Viceroys and Governors that they consider Prince Tuan as a rebel, and have decided not to obey Decrees from Peking. Decrees will probably soon be issued degrading the Viceroys, and troops will be sent to support the Viceroys appointed by Prince Tuan. Civil war would in consequence break out throughout the country, and a strong force should be in readiness here to support the loyal Viceroys.

The feeling of unrest among the Chinese is decidedly increasing, and I think that it will be necessary before long to withdraw the foreign communities from some of the small ports. I hear that the Hang-chow Governor intends to obey the orders contained in the above Decree. Thousands of Chinese have left here in consequence of the Decree, which they consider certain to stir up mischief.

No. 241.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Extract.)

*St. Petersburg, June 29, 1900.*

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions on the 26th instant, desiring me to ascertain from the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs whether his Government would give their approval to the dispatch of an expedition of a Japanese force of from 20,000 to 30,000 to restore order at Peking and Tien-tsin in case the Japanese Government are willing to undertake that task, I called at once at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and, in the absence of Count Lamsdorff, who had been summoned to Peterhof by the Emperor, I saw M. Hartwig, the acting Head of the Asiatic Department.

I begged M. Hartwig to have your Lordship's inquiry communicated to Count Lamsdorff immediately on his return, and to beg his Excellency to favour me with a reply as soon as he could do so. I represented the gravity of the situation, and said that, although we were sending a force of 10,000 men from India, and we presumed that on her side Russia was making every effort to dispatch reinforcements to the scene of disturbances as speedily as possible, it was clear that these reinforcements could not arrive in time to rescue the Legations at Peking and relieve the two European forces which appeared at present to be surrounded.

This must, I thought, be our first object, and if Japan was willing and able to furnish at once a sufficient force to insure its success, her offer of co-operation ought to command favourable consideration.

M. Hartwig said that Count Lamsdorff was attending a sitting of the Siberian Railway Committee under the presidency of the Emperor at Peterhof, and he expected his return in the course of an hour or so, and he would then at once communicate my message to his Excellency, who would have to return to Peterhof again early next morning, and could then take His Majesty's pleasure.

I said that I would not trouble Count Lamsdorff by pressing to see him, and wrote to his Excellency a private letter, inclosing a French paraphrase of your Lordship's telegrams, to which he at once replied that he would write to me the moment he could give an answer to your Lordship's question.

Last night I received the reply of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, sending me a copy of the instructions which had just been telegraphed to the Russian Minister at

Tôkiô, and which his Excellency evidently regards as answering the question I had been instructed to put to him.

I had the honour to telegraph the text of Count Lamsdorff's communication to your Lordship last night, and as soon as his Excellency is able to receive me I shall endeavour to ascertain whether any further communication has been received from Tôkiô.

The Russian Foreign Office is still without any official news of the safety or present whereabouts of the Legations in China, but seems to attach credit to the Chinese reports that they are still in safety in Peking.

Communication with Port Arthur, I understand, can only now be had by telegraph to Chefoo and thence by water, and I believe that the Imperial Government is seriously alarmed by some news received to-day of serious disturbances in the vicinity of the Manchurian line, and it is rumoured that the Boxers are attacking and destroying the line north of Mukden and have cut off telegraphic communications with Vladivostock.

The Chinese Legation is much alarmed by this report, as they had been seriously warned that the slightest movement against the safety of the Russian line would be followed by instant and forcible action by Russia, and Admiral Alexieff has been given the full powers of a Commander-in-chief in time of war in the territory of Kwan-tung.

Inclosure 1 in No. 241.

*Count Lamsdorff to Sir C. Scott.*

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Saint-Pétersbourg, le 15 (28) Juin, 1900.*

JE demande mille fois excuse à votre Excellence de n'avoir pu répondre plus tôt à son billet d'avant-hier.

En vous faisant parvenir la petite notice ci-jointe, je vous prie, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien agréer, &c.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency, *St. Petersburg, June 15 (28), 1900.*

I MUST apologize for not having been able to reply sooner to your note of two days ago. In transmitting to you the accompanying letter, I have, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 241.

*Memorandum.*

LE Ministre de Russie à Tôkiô, ayant de son côté informé le Gouvernement Impérial que le Japon serait prêt à contribuer au rétablissement de l'ordre en Chine, le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères s'empresse de faire part à son Excellence Sir Charles Scott, en réponse à sa lettre du 13 (26) courant, que M. Isvolsky a été chargé de faire au Gouvernement Japonais la communication suivante :—

“ Nous ne pouvons qu'apprécier hautement les sentiments témoignés par le Japon dans les circonstances présentes, ainsi que sa manière de voir sur les affaires de Chine ; aussi nous ne voudrions pas entraver sa liberté d'action, surtout du moment où il exprime la ferme intention de conformer sa façon d'agir à celles des autres Puissances.

“ Pour ce qui concerne la Russie, ses intentions ont été définies par le communiqué officiel publié en date du 11 (24) Juin courant.

“ L'Amiral Alexieff a, d'ailleurs, reçu l'ordre de régler les dispositions qu'il se verrait dans le cas de prendre ultérieurement sur la marche des événements qui se déroulent en Chine.”

*Saint-Pétersbourg, le 15 (28) Juin, 1900.*

(Translation.)

THE Russian Minister at Tôkiô having, on his part, informed the Imperial Government that Japan would be ready to assist in re-establishing order in China, the Minister for Foreign Affairs hastens to inform his Excellency Sir C. Scott, in reply to his letter of the 13th (26th) instant, that M. Isvolsky has been instructed to make the following communication to the Japanese Government :—

"We appreciate highly the sentiments expressed in the present circumstances by Japan, as also her views on the affairs of China; we should not wish therefore to hinder her freedom of action, especially when she evinces the firm resolve of conforming her action to that of the other Powers.

"As far as Russia is concerned, her course of action has been defined by the official notification published on the 11th (24th) June.

"Moreover, Admiral Alexieff has been instructed to so regulate his plans as events in China may demand."

*St. Petersburg, June 15 (28), 1900.*

No. 242.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, via Chefoo, June 29, 1900.*

THIS morning the following written message was received, addressed to "Officer Commanding any European troops," signed "R. Hart," and dated Sunday, 4 P.M. :—

"Foreign community besieged in British Legation.

"Situation desperate.

"Make haste."

No. 243.

*Consul Carles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, via Chefoo [undated].*

MY telegram of 29th instant.

The runner who brought Sir R. Hart's message states that several of the Legations have been destroyed and only two or three remain standing. The German Minister was murdered outside the Tsung-li Yamên by Kansu troops.

The Consular Body held a meeting to-day, and decided that, under the circumstances, the military authorities must now take control and take such measures as they thought necessary.

Admiral Seymour and General Dordard were both present at the meeting.

No. 244.

*Viceroy of Nanking to Chinese Minister.—(Communicated by Sir Chihchen Loféngluh, July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Nanking, July 3, 1900.*

WE, the Viceroys of the Liang Kiang and Liang Hu Provinces, undertake to hold ourselves responsible for the security of foreign life and property within our respective jurisdictions, as well as in the Province of Chekiang, so long as the Treaty Powers do not land troops in either the Yang-tsze Valley or the Province of Chekiang.

(Signed)

LIEU KUN YIH.  
CHANG CHITUNG.

No. 245.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, June 30, via Chefoo, July 3, 1900.*

CHINESE couriers arrived from Peking with short message dated 24th June, stating that condition there desperate, and asking for help at once. Couriers interrogated state all Legations except British, French, German, and part of Russian destroyed. Europeans gathered in British Legation, have provisions, but ammunition scarce. One gate of city near Legation held by Europeans with guns captured from Chinese. Five of Marine Guard killed and one officer wounded; not much sickness at

present. I propose to remain at Tien-tsin at present unless naval operations in Yang-tsze or elsewhere. Vice-Admiral Alexieff is expected. Chinese inundated country near here yesterday from Grand Canal; object probably for defence of city to the south. No injury to us. General health good. All agreed that no advance on Peking possible for many days at least, owing to want of force and transport.

## No. 246.

*Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*St. Petersburg, July 4, 1900.*

COUNT LAMSDORFF, whom I have just seen, held language almost identical with that reported in my telegrams of the 3rd instant on the authority of the German Chargé d'Affaires.

Russian Admiral evidently finds difficulty in communicating home, and his Excellency is awaiting with anxiety some more definite information from him as to what is being done, and what can possibly be done, as the Admiral has been given the fullest power, and it is not possible to suggest a course from here.

The gloomy opinion arrived at in agreement with British Admiral had not been reported by the Russian Admiral. If it were confirmed the fate of the foreign Legations in Peking seemed sealed, and, in his Excellency's opinion, it was inconceivable that the Russian and other Ministers should have allowed their Governments to underrate the gravity of the situation, and should not have withdrawn in time to the coast. The 12th ultimo, when M. de Giers telegraphed that diplomacy was exhausted and the Admirals must act, would have been the moment for doing so.

In his Excellency's estimation, the Russian force at present landed amounted to 10,000 men, and he would welcome a Japanese or any other force of 20,000 to 30,000 men to co-operate in the common aim which all the Powers must exclusively set before them, sinking every other consideration.

Another week must apparently elapse before the full Japanese reinforcements can arrive.

Count Lamsdorff said that we were at present dealing with a country which was in a complete state of anarchy, and which had no Government or constituted authority which it could be useful to menace, or even address, but we were in a state of war with Anarchists, and not with China.

His Excellency promised to inform me at once of any later information received by the Foreign Office here, and appeared anxious for any news or suggestions which your Lordship could communicate.

## No. 247.

*Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, July 4, 1900.*

I AM informed by M. Delcassé that instructions have been sent to-day to the French Representatives to make the following proposal to the Governments of the various Powers interested: that they should publish a collective or identic warning addressed to the *de facto* Government or authorities at Peking, by which they declare that they will hold these responsible personally for the safety and lives of the whole European community in the city.

His Excellency expressed the opinion that such a warning would, it might be conjectured, reach Peking in some way or another, while it would serve, on the other hand, to demonstrate the solidarity of the accord existing between the Powers in the eyes of Europe and of the world at large.

It is essential, his Excellency added, that unity of action and unity of direction on the spot should not be hindered by any afterthought or jealousy, as the deliverance of the Europeans who are in Peking was for the moment the object which must be most urgently aimed at, and that there should be no want of concentration which would have the effect of weakening still further the efficiency of the collective European forces, too inconsiderable already.

He said he felt it was unnecessary to assure me that he had personally at this moment no other thought—and the same, he was sure, was the case with his colleagues—than the rescue, if that were still possible, of those who are in danger.

He hoped the Japanese Government would at once dispatch the mobilized division which it was said was available.

## No. 248.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tókió, July 4, 1900.*

I COMMUNICATED yesterday to Viscount Aoki the substance of your telegrams of the 2nd instant. He promised that he would immediately submit these to the Prime Minister. He said, however, that, in his opinion, it was not possible to relieve the Legations, as the approach of a foreign army would be the signal for a massacre. He had attempted to communicate with the Chinese Government, if such a thing exists, by means of the southern Viceroy, but they are also out of touch with the capital. His Excellency considers that 70,000 men at least would be necessary for a military expedition to Peking, as at this season the difficulties are very great.

## No. 249.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, July 4, 1900.*

I AM in receipt of a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Hankow stating that according to information given him by the Viceroy, Peking is reported by Jung-lu to be in a state of anarchy.

I think it would be a good thing if I could give assurances to both the Viceroy, that they may count on every assistance being given them by Her Majesty's Government in any endeavours to resist attacks on the part of either the Boxers or the usurping Prince Tuan in these districts, and also that for this purpose a strong naval force will be concentrated at Woosung.

Her Majesty's Consul at Chungking telegraphs that danger is imminent there and asks that the "Woodcock" may be sent at once.

## No. 250.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 4.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, July 4, 1900.*

SHENG TAOTAI has received following from Yuan Shih Kai:—

"A messenger has reached here who started on the 27th June from Peking. He stated that the two Legations were being attacked by rioters and soldiers, over 100,000 in number, who had surrounded them, but had not yet succeeded in breaking through their defence. The Boxer Society has been joined by those connected with the Palace inside, as well as outside of it, even to the Princes.

"The city gates are half-opened daily during half the day, and every one is worshipping the god of Boxers."

## No. 251.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 4, 1900.*

REPORT approximately the number of Europeans in Yang-tsze ports, and their distribution. If their lives should be in great peril, where and how would you recommend that they should be concentrated?

Communicate with the Consuls on the Yang-tsze if you think proper.



No. 252.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 4, 1900.*

FOLLOWING just received from Admiral Seymour:—

[Repeats Admiral Seymour, 30th June, communicated by Admiralty 4th July.\*]

This indicates a position of extreme gravity. You should communicate telegram at once to Japanese Ministers. Japan is the only Power which can send rapid reinforcements to Tien-tsin. No objection has been raised by any European Power to this course.

No. 253.

*Brigadier-General Dorward to the Secretary of State for War.—(Communicated by War Office, July 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, via Chefoo, July 4, 1900.*

OWING to further news from Peking, it has been decided, 29th June, at a meeting of Consular Body Tien-tsin to hand over situation to military authorities. Military situation as follows:—

Russians, 4,000 strong, occupy left bank river here. Settlements on right bank occupied by about 2,500 troops of other nations, inclusive of naval contingents. About 3,500 troops, other than Russian, British, and chiefly consisting of Japanese, daily expected.

Owing want of transport, no possibility of advance all the troops on Peking for the present. There is possibility, but not great probability, of attack upon Settlements by Chinese troops in force within the next fortnight. In that case positions held by French, British, Japanese, American, Italian forces would be unfavourable, owing to proximity of enemy's batteries and densely populated city.

Russian position is a good one till rainy season; German Settlement has only a few buildings, and is not an unfavourable defensible position.

At a meeting of officers commanding foreign troops 29th June, we considered what steps should be taken to resist the attack upon Settlements by strong force of Chinese. I pointed out if enemy were allowed to enter city French Settlement would be hardly tenable, and British, American, Italian, Japanese, troops would be very unfavourably placed. I advised that steps should be taken by occupation of defensible positions well outside city to deny it to enemy. All officers present agreed to recommendation except German, Russian, who prefer to resist the attack in their present positions on ground that, in their opinion, combined forces were not strong enough to hold positions outside. Russian General Officer Commanding was not present, but was represented by Chief of the Staff. Impossible to deny city to strong enemy without help from Russians. Meeting was presided over by Admiral Seymour, and was adjourned pending arrival of Admiral Alexieff, Governor-General, Eastern Siberia, and Japanese General Fuksima. Both expected shortly. Steps will be taken to at once improve defensive position [of] French and British Settlements. Water supply can only be diminished—not destroyed—by Chinese.

Advance to Peking can be made best up the river owing to want of rain. It is said that crops have been planted only on the bank of river, leaving open country on both sides [of] planted strips. However high crops grow, these strips will not be disadvantageous to advance by river, which can be carried on to within 15 miles from Peking. Boats suitable for river traffic are being collected. Steps are being taken to repair line of railway and telegraph line here to Taku. Line of railway to Peking appears to be completely destroyed. Taking into consideration latest information of strength of enemy between this and Peking, and disjointed nature of mixed forces, 25,000 men will be necessary for advance to Peking.

## No. 254.

*Vice-Admiral Sir E. Seymour to Admiralty.—(Communicated by Admiralty, July 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tien-tsin, July 2, vid Chefoo, July 4, 1900.*

AT the Council to-day it was decided to attack remaining arsenal and the city 3rd July. Courier from Peking reports having passed on 1st July from 8,000 to 10,000 Chinese troops marching towards Tien-tsin about 28 miles distant. Have been forced to conclusion that quite 40,000 troops will be required for advance on Peking and to keep communications.

Forces now in Tien-tsin:—American, 218; British, 1,940; French, 840; German, 650; Japanese, 1,095; Russian, 4,480. Total, 9,223.

## No. 255.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, July 5, 1900.*

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegrams of the 2nd instant with reference to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for a declaration by which all the authorities at Peking should be made responsible for the safety of the foreigners there.

In the opinion of the German Government, no means, with any chance of success, should be left untried for saving the foreigners in Peking, and, although they do not count on any distinct result, they are quite prepared to join in the collective declaration proposed, and to send instructions accordingly to the German Consul at Tien-tsin.

The above step, they appear to think, could have been taken in addition to the step which was proposed by the Consuls at Tien-tsin, if the Powers had approved that proposal. It was urged by the Consuls that the effect on the rioters would have been salutary, especially as the Prince, who is their principal leader, belongs to the very dynasty, whose tombs were to be threatened.

The German Consul also describes the tombs as being situated near to Peking—probably not in Manchuria, but the so-called "Eastern" tombs at Malamyu, on this side of the Great Wall.

## No. 256.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 5, 1900.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 28th ultimo.

I request that you will inform Her Majesty's Consul at Chungking that Her Majesty's Government approve his action in detaining steamer. The return of gun-boat there before October is not possible.

## No. 257.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 5, 1900.*

INFORM all the Viceroys, and any other Chinese authorities who, in your opinion, ought to know, that I have made the following communication to the Chinese Minister:—

"The Chinese Minister is requested by Her Majesty's Government to transmit, by telegraph, in such manner as will insure the message reaching the Government at Peking, notice that they will be held to be personally guilty if the members of the European Legations, and other foreigners in Peking, suffer injury."

No. 258.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 5, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day respecting safety of Europeans on the Yang-tsze, you should inform Her Majesty's Consul at Chungking that he must use his discretion as to bringing Europeans down the river should the position there be dangerous.

No. 259.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Lord Currie.*

My Lord,

*Foreign Office, July 5, 1900.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 28th ultimo, reporting a conversation you had had with the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to events in China, and the steps which the Italian Government are taking to strengthen their naval force in the China Seas.

With reference to M. Visconti-Venosta's statement that the Italian Government would be prepared to send a regiment to take part in the occupation of Peking in the event of circumstances making such action desirable, and the desire expressed by him to know whether the course they proposed to follow meets with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, I have to request you to convey to his Excellency my best thanks for his courteous communication, and to state that Her Majesty's Government highly appreciate the desire of the Italian Government to co-operate with the other Powers in the restoration of order in China, and in the future arrangements to be made in regard to that country.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 260.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tókió, July 5, 1900.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, a Memorandum, which is briefly as follows, was left by the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs with me last night:—

"Japanese Government consider troubles in north of China much more deep-rooted and of far wider bearings than might appear. While prepared to take full share in concerted action, they realize that expedition to Peking is extremely difficult and will require a very large force. In view of this they think it highly advisable that Powers concerned should now exchange views as to joint measures to be taken to meet eventualities."

The Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs is, I believe, sending this to all the Governments concerned. No suggestion was made by his Excellency as to what these joint measures should be, but I understand that he means that his Government will send a large military expedition if, by previous agreement among the Powers, they are assured that Japan will be protected from complications, and will be reasonably indemnified for outlay of money and men. The Japanese Government are dispatching about 2,500 men at once, in addition to those already sent, in order to assist in holding Taku and Tien-tsin.

## No. 261.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, July 5, 1900.*

ALL Consuls here are sending following to-day to their Governments:—

“Situation very grave. Boxer movement growing, and should the allied forces at Tien-tsin fail to check it it will extend down to the centre and south of China and become a national movement, resulting in expulsion or murder of all foreigners in interior and total ruin to foreign trade.

“In view of this it is necessary that a force should be sent to check the advance and support Viceroy in keeping order.”

## No. 262.

*Acting Consul-General Warren to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Shanghai, July 6, 1900.*

FOLLOWING is number of Europeans at Yang-tsze ports:—

Shanghai, 7,000; Suchow, 37; Hangehow, 37; Chinkiang, 130; Nanking, 59; Kinkiang, 740; Wu-hu, 50; Hankow, 400; Ichang, 60; Chungking, 75.

There is a man-of-war at all the Yang-tsze ports but Chungking. In case of serious danger, it would be best for Europeans to withdraw to Shanghai. Except in the case of Ichang and Chungking, river steamers arrive and depart at each port daily.

## No. 263.

*Viscount Gough to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, July 6, 1900.*

WHEN I communicated to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the notice sent through Chinese Minister to Peking Government by Her Majesty's Government, he gave me to understand that a similar notice would be sent by the German Government to the Taotai Shêng, who, it is believed, has the means to forward it.

## No. 264.

*Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Vienna, July 6, 1900.*

I HAVE communicated to Austro-Hungarian Government warning sent to Peking by your Lordship.\*

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs conveys his thanks for this message, and states that a proposal for a similar collective warning was received on the 5th July from Paris and agreed to although Austro-Hungarian Government feared it would come too late.

I was told by Count Szécsen that the Consul-General for Austria-Hungary, at Shanghai, reported the position of affairs there to be threatening.

Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London has therefore been instructed to ask that a refuge on board Her Majesty's ships may be given to the Austro-Hungarian subjects and Consular authorities in case of danger.

\* See No. 257.

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No. 265.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 6, 1900.

JAPAN is the only Power which can act with any hope of success for the urgent purpose of saving the Legations, and, if they delay, heavy responsibility must rest with them. We are prepared to furnish any financial assistance which is necessary in addition to our forces already on the spot.

Her Majesty's Government wish to draw a sharp distinction between immediate operations which may be still in time to save the Legations and any ulterior operations which may be undertaken. We may leave to future consideration all questions as to the latter.

No. 266.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Whitehead.*

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 6, 1900.

JAPANESE troops for China: My telegram of to-day.

In the circumstances we are prepared to undertake this financial responsibility, since a fatal expenditure of time would result from international negotiations on the point.

No. 267.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Tókió, July 6, 1900.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 4th July, I have just received a visit from the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, who informs me that reinforcements to make up the Japanese force to 20,000 men will be sent as rapidly as possible.

No. 268.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.*

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 6, 1900.

YOUR telegram of 4th July.

We have suggested to Japanese Government that they should dispatch reinforcements to China as soon as possible.

Inform French Government.

No. 269.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. Scott.*

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 6, 1900.

THE crisis in China.

With reference to your telegram of 4th July, you should inform Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government have suggested to the Japanese Government that they should, with as little delay as possible, dispatch reinforcements to China.

No. 270.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 6, 1900.*

DO you suggest in your telegrams of the 4th and 5th instant that the Viceroy, or any one of them, are now prepared to welcome the presence of a British force at the Treaty ports of the Yang-tsze ?

No. 271.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Acting Consul-General Warren.*

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 6, 1900.*

YOU may give the assurances to the Viceroy you suggest in your telegram of the 4th instant.

There are thirteen ships on the Yang-tsze already, and, as ships become available, the force will be added to.

No. 272.

*Admiralty to Senior Naval Officer, Woosung.—(Communicated by Admiralty, July 6.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Admiralty, July 6, 1900.*

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN Government ask that Her Majesty's ships may afford protection to Consulate Shanghai, and, if necessary, receive staff on board.

You are to afford such protection as may be possible.

No. 273.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 9)*

My Lord,

*Peking, May 21, 1900.*

IN my despatch of the 16th April I had to report to your Lordship that in spite of the commencement of a firmer attitude on the part of the Chinese Government towards the anti-Christian movement in North China, there still existed indications of danger in this neighbourhood from the "Boxer" Society.

The long-continued impunity accorded to this organization, and the supineness and procrastination which the Government had displayed in face of the constantly repeated representations of the foreign Ministers ever since the month of January, undoubtedly rendered the task of the Chinese authorities, when at last forced to awaken to the danger of the situation, much more difficult than it would have been if taken in hand at an earlier date. The result was that the activity of the "Boxers" showed no signs of diminution; reports of depredations in country districts indicated that armed bands of them were approaching daily nearer to Peking; while in the city itself the frequent spectacle of numbers of young lads practising in a kind of hypnotic frenzy, the peculiar gymnastic evolutions inculcated by the craft, and the appearance of numerous virulent anti-foreign placards posted in conspicuous places, combined to create considerable alarm amongst the native Christians of all denominations, a feeling which they were not slow in trying to communicate to their foreign spiritual directors.

I take this opportunity of inclosing a translation of one of these placards as a specimen of the silly superstitions which the leaders of this movement work on to further their designs. Several similar documents have been forwarded to this Legation, most of them less literary in composition, and containing more scurrilous abuse of foreigners, but all having for their theme the necessity of putting all foreigners to death. I have called the attention of the Yamên more than once to the posting of such placards, and have been assured that steps were being taken to put a stop to this dangerous practice.

The inclosed copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Tien-tsin dated the 2nd May shows the elements of danger that exist in the north of the province generally.

On the 18th instant I received news through the London Mission of the destruction by "Boxers" of one of their chapels about 40 miles south-east of Peking, and the murder of a native preacher. I at once wrote to the Yamên—copy of letter inclosed—informing them of this outrage, and urging the necessity of strenuous measures to avoid further disturbances. I also called the same day at the Yamên to ask what steps were being taken, and to lay special stress upon the necessity of protecting outlying country districts.

The Ministers present admitted that the Chinese Government had now come to regard the situation as serious. A Decree had been issued the day before calling on the Governor of Peking, the police censors, and the Peking Gendarmerie to concert measures for the immediate suppression of the movement, and to report within a few days what steps had been taken. As regards the country districts, the Viceroy of Chihli had been given special instructions to put down the "Boxers" rigorously. They discussed frankly the practical difficulties which had to be surmounted, but they assured me most solemnly for the information of Her Majesty's Government, that these difficulties would be surmounted, and that this Society could not fail to be suppressed within a short time.

The tone and temper of the Ministers, even more than their words, gave me the impression of a distinct change for the better in their attitude, and I was encouraged to find that in this respect, at least, my efforts and those of my colleagues during the past six months had not been fruitless.

The next day, 19th May, the Spanish Minister, as doyen of the Diplomatic Body, circulated the letter from the French Minister, and its inclosure, of which I have the honour to forward copies herewith, and called a meeting of the foreign Representatives for the following day to discuss their contents.

Your Lordship will observe that, in Mgr. Favier's letter to M. Pichon, the situation at Peking is painted in very dark colours. The Bishop declares that the conditions now are precisely similar to those preceding the Tien-tsin massacre of 1870, and asks that a guard of marines should be sent to protect the lives of French missionaries.

At the meeting of the Diplomatic Body which took place, accordingly, yesterday, the French Minister showed that he was profoundly impressed by the apprehensions of Mgr. Favier, and by reports which he had received from other sources. He expressed complete disbelief in the genuineness of the measures of which the Yamên had spoken to me, and declared that it was impossible to exaggerate the danger of the outlook.

Mgr. Favier has lived in Peking for over thirty years, and is in constant touch with Chinese of all classes, so that it was generally felt that, after making all due allowances for the colour which might have been lent to his words by the fears of his converts, his deliberately expressed opinion on the situation could not be treated with indifference. At the same time, we did not consider that the circumstances, so far as we were as yet in a position to judge, were such as to justify the bringing up of Legation Guards, and M. Pichon did not insist upon the immediate necessity for such a step. He produced the draft of a joint note which he proposed the doyen should be authorized to address to the Tsung-li Yamên, in which certain specific measures for the suppression of the "Boxers" were demanded, and, after some discussion, the terms of this note were accepted by the meeting.

It was sent in to the Yamên to-day, and I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

The German Minister laid stress at the meeting on the importance of deciding on some common action if the Yamên did not return a satisfactory reply to the note, or if the Chinese Government failed to carry out the measures demanded by the foreign Representatives. He considered that in such an event the calling up of guards was not sufficient to bring the Chinese Government to a sense of their obligations. He thought that the most effective means of bringing pressure on the Government would be by a concentration of ships of war near Shanhaikuan, from which parties could be landed, if necessary, to march for the protection of foreigners in Peking.

This proposal was supported by the majority of the Representatives, and it was decided that we should recommend it to our respective Governments as a contingent measure.

In concurring in this decision, I was largely guided by the fact that the joint note demands little more than the Chinese Government have already professed to be their principle in dealing with the disturbances, and that I, therefore, see no reason to anticipate an unfavourable answer.

I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph to-day the substance of what passed at yesterday's meeting.

As regards my own opinion as to the danger to which Europeans in Peking are



exposed, I confess that little has come to my own knowledge to confirm the gloomy anticipations of the French Fathers. The demeanour of the inhabitants of the city continues to be quiet and civil towards foreigners, as far as my experience and that of my staff is concerned, although, from the undoubted panic which exists amongst the native Christians, it may be assumed that the latter are being subjected to threats of violence. I am convinced that a few days' heavy rainfall, to terminate the long-continued drought which has helped largely to excite unrest in the country districts, would do more to restore tranquillity than any measures which either the Chinese Government or foreign Governments could take. As this cannot be counted upon, my judgment as to the probability of continued security must be suspended until the Chinese Government shows by its action within the next few days, whether or not it has the will and the power to do its duty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MacDONALD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 273.

*Placard posted in West City, Peking.*

(Translation.)

IN a certain street in Peking some worshippers of the I-ho Ch'üan ("Boxers") at midnight suddenly saw a spirit descend in their midst. The spirit was silent for a long time, and all the congregation fell upon their knees and prayed. Then a terrible voice was heard saying:—

"I am none other than the Great Yü Ti (God of the unseen world) come down in person. Well knowing that ye are all of devout mind, I have just now descended to make known to you that these are times of trouble in the world, and that it is impossible to set aside the decrees of fate. Disturbances are to be dreaded from the foreign devils; everywhere they are starting Missions, erecting telegraphs, and building railways; they do not believe in the sacred doctrine, and they speak evil of the Gods. Their sins are numberless as the hairs of the head. Therefore am I wrath, and my thunders have pealed forth. By night and by day have I thought of these things. Should I command my Generals to come down to earth, even they would not have strength to change the course of fate. For this reason I have given forth my decree that I shall descend to earth at the head of all the saints and spirits, and that wherever the I-ho Ch'üan are gathered together, there shall the Gods be in the midst of them. I have also to make known to all the righteous in the three worlds that they must be of one mind, and all practice the cult of the I-ho Ch'üan, that so the wrath of heaven may be appeased.

"So soon as the practice of the I-ho Ch'üan has been brought to perfection—wait for three times three or nine times nine, nine times nine or three times three\*—then shall the devils meet their doom. The will of heaven is that the telegraph wires be first cut, then the railways torn up, and then shall the foreign devils be decapitated. In that day shall the hour of their calamities come. The time for rain to fall is yet afar off, and all on account of the devils.

"I hereby make known these commands to all you righteous folk, that ye may strive with one accord to exterminate all foreign devils, and so turn aside the wrath of heaven. This shall be accounted unto you for well doing; and on the day when it is done, the wind and rain shall be according to your desire.

"Therefore I expressly command you make this known in every place."

This I saw with my own eyes, and therefore I make bold to take my pen and write what happened. They who believe it shall have merit; they who do not believe it shall have guilt. The wrath of the spirit was because of the destruction of the Temple of Yü Ti. He sees that the men of the I-ho Ch'üan are devout worshippers and pray to him.

If my tidings are false, may I be destroyed by the five thunderbolts.

4th moon, 1st day (April 29, 1900).

\* Meaning obscure.

Inclosure 2 in No. 273.

*Consul Carles to Sir C. MacDonald.*

Sir,

*Tien-tsin, May 2, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the measures taken by the authorities in this neighbourhood to repress the activity of the "Boxers" have produced some result, though placards of an offensive character are still widely distributed.

At Yung Ching the author of some placards attacking the English Mission there had to apologise to the Rev. Mr. Norman, and the hostility of the people since then has apparently died away.

The Magistrate at Tung-an-hsien, who has done his utmost to repress the "Boxers," had issued a reward for the arrest of the leaders and information as to their lodges, when instructions received by him, as it was reported, from the Empress Dowager, but which probably were those contained in the recent Edict, led to the sudden withdrawal of the rewards posted, and to an immediate display of hostility by the people in the town towards native Christians of so marked a character that Mr. Grant, a missionary residing there, withdrew his family at once.

The Viceroy, on my representing the matter to him, sent soldiers there, and within a few days an improvement was manifested.

The worst placards I have seen emanate from Ta-ching-hsien. I communicated them to the Viceroy, and his Excellency at once issued orders for their suppression, and the punishment of their authors, if possible.

M. du Chaylard informed me on the 22nd April last that he had received a telegram from Pao-ting, stating that the Christians of the environs of Lung-lu had been killed in great numbers in the village of Chiang-chia-chuang on the previous day.

Two days later he told me that the affray had, it was true, been of a serious character, but that only one Christian had lost his life, and that seventy "Boxers" had been killed. He also informed me that, acting on his advice, the Roman Catholic priests had placed fire-arms in the hands of their converts. The only further details regarding this affair which have reached me came from Pao-ting-fu, and were to the effect that 1,100 "Boxers" had been threatening the place, and that a collision occurred between them and the Roman Catholics, with the result mentioned by the French Consul-General.

I am sorry to have to qualify my report as to the improvement by adding that in the north and north-east of the province considerable uneasiness seems to exist. Brigandage in the country between Chao-yang and Chin-chou has broken out again, and in the neighbourhood of Jehol, Ping-ch'üan, and Ta-tzu-k'ou: the "Chin Tan" and "Tsai Li" Societies are said to be preparing to revenge themselves for the punishment inflicted on the latter Society in 1891.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. R. CARLES.

Inclosure 3 in No. 273.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Tsung-li Yamén.*

MM. les Ministres,

*Peking, May 18, 1900.*

I HAVE just heard that at a place called Kung Ts'un, south of Ku-an and Chou-chou, a chapel belonging to the London Mission has been destroyed by "Boxers," and that a native preacher, named Chao Ting-chün, has been killed after barbarous treatment.

I also hear that at Wu-ch'ing, Fangshan, and other districts to the south of Peking, the people are in a state of dangerous unrest owing to the activity of this lawless organization, and that threats are openly made to attack Mission stations and put converts to death.

I have the honour to remind your Highness and your Excellencies that for the last six months I have unceasingly, both by written communications and personal interviews, striven to awake the Chinese Government to the extreme danger involved by their continued failure to take adequate measures for the complete suppression of the "I-ho-chüan" and the "Ta-tao-hui."\* My representations have been invariably met by assurances

\* "Fist of righteous harmony," and "Big knife" Societies.

that the dangers I apprehended were exaggerated, and that the Chinese Government were doing all that was necessary in the interests of peace.

Now that riotous attacks on foreign Missions are taking place within a few miles of the capital, I trust that your Highness and your Excellencies will at last cease to treat my representations with the apathy which has hitherto characterized the attitude of the Yamên, and it is in this hope that I hasten to bring to your notice this latest lamentable outrage, of which I have as yet received no detailed particulars.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 273.

*M. Pichon to M. de Cologan.*

M. le Doyen et cher Collègue,

*Légation de France à Pékin, le 19 Mai, 1900.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien communiquer à nos collègues la lettre ci-incluse qui vient de me parvenir. En présence des informations qu'elle soutient, et qui confirment celles qui me viennent de toutes parts ; en présence aussi de l'impossibilité d'obtenir du Gouvernement Chinois par une action isolée les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la sécurité des étrangers dans le Tche-ly et à Pékin, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien convoquer d'urgence une réunion du Corps Diplomatique dans le but de délibérer sur la situation.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) S. PICHON.

(Translation.)

Sir and dear Colleague,

*French Legation, Peking, May 19, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to beg that you will kindly communicate the contents of the inclosed letter, which has just reached me, to our colleagues.

In view of the opinions that it upholds, which confirm those reaching me from all sides, and, further, owing to the impossibility of obtaining from the Chinese Government the necessary measures for insuring the safety of foreigners in Chih-li and in Peking by isolated action, I have the honour to request that you will kindly summon a meeting at once of the Diplomatic Corps for the purpose of discussing the situation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. PICHON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 273.

*Père Favier to M. Pichon.*

*Vicariat Apostolique de Pékin et Tche-ly Nord,*

*Pékin, le 19 Mai, 1900.*

M. le Ministre,

DE jour en jour la situation devient plus grave et plus menaçante. Dans la Préfecture de Paoting-fu, plus de soixante-dix Chrétiens ont été massacrés ; trois autres néophytes ont été coupés en morceaux. Plusieurs villages ont été pillés et livrés aux flammes ; un plus grand nombre d'autres ont été complètement abandonnés. Plus de 2,000 Chrétiens sont en fuite, sans pain, sans vêtements et sans abri ; à Pékin seulement, environ 400 réfugiés, hommes, femmes et enfants, sont déjà logés chez nous et chez les sœurs ; avant huit jours nous en aurons probablement plusieurs milliers ; nous allons être obligés de licencier les écoles, les collèges et tous les hôpitaux pour faire place à ces malheureux.

Du côté l'est le pillage et l'incendie sont imminents ; nous recevons à chaque heure les nouvelles les plus alarmantes. Peking est cerné de tous côtés ; les Boxeurs se rapprochent chaque jour de la capitale, retardés seulement par l'anéantissement qu'ils font des Chrétiens. Croyez-moi, je vous prie, M. le Ministre, je suis bien informé et je

n'avance rien à légère. La persécution religieuse n'est qu'un rideau ; le but principal est l'extermination des Européens, but qui est clairement indiqué et écrit sur les étendards des Boxeurs. Leurs affiliés les attendent à Peking ; on doit commencer par l'attaque des églises et finir par celle des Légations. Pour nous, ici au Pei-t'ang, le jour est même fixé ; tout la ville le connaît, tout le monde en parle, et l'effervescence populaire est manifeste. Hier soir encore, quarante-trois pauvres femmes avec leurs enfants, fuyant le massacre, sont arrivées chez les sœurs ; plus de 500 personnes les accompagnaient, en leur disant que, si elles ont échappés une fois, celles y passeront bientôt ici avec les autres.

Je ne vous parle pas, M. le Ministre, des placards sans nombre qui sont affichés dans la ville contre les Européens en général ; chaque jour il en paraît de nouveaux, plus clairs les uns que les autres.

Les personnes qui ont assisté, il y a trente ans, aux massacres de Tien-tsin, sont frappées de la ressemblance de la situation d'alors avec celle d'aujourd'hui ; mêmes placards, mêmes menaces, mêmes avertissements, et même aveuglement. Alors aussi, comme aujourd'hui, les missionnaires ont écrit, supplié, prévoyant l'horrible réveil.

Dans ces circonstances, M. le Ministre, je crois de mon devoir de vous prier de vouloir bien nous envoyer, au moins au Pei-t'ang, quarante ou cinquante marins pour protéger nos personnes et nos biens. Cela s'est fait déjà dans des circonstances beaucoup moins critiques ; et j'espère que vous prendrez en considération mon humble supplique.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) ALPH. FAVIER, *Ev. Vic. Ap. de Pékin.*

\_\_\_\_\_, *Ev. Coadjuteur.*

C. M. GUILLAUME, *Vic. Gén.*

(Translation.)

*Apostolic Mission of Peking and North Chih-li,  
Peking, May 19, 1900.*

M. le Ministre,

THE situation becomes daily more and more serious and threatening. In the Prefecture of Paoting-fu more than seventy Christians have been massacred, three other neophytes have been cut to pieces. Several villages have been looted and burnt, a great number of others have been completely deserted. Over 2,000 Christians are fugitives, being without food, clothes, or shelter ; in Peking alone about 400 refugees—men, women, and children—have already been given shelter by us and the Sisters of Charity ; in another week's time we shall probably have several thousands to look after ; we shall be obliged to disband the schools, colleges, and all the hospitals, to make room for these unfortunate people. On the east pillage and incendiarism are imminent ; we receive more and more alarming news every hour. Peking is surrounded on all sides ; the Boxers are daily approaching the capital, being only delayed by their measures for exterminating all Christians.

I beg you will be assured, M. le Ministre, that I am well informed and am making no statements at random. The religious persecution is only a blind, the main object is to exterminate the Europeans, and this object is clearly indicated and written on the Boxers' standards.

Their accomplices in Peking are awaiting them ; they are to begin by an attack on the churches, and are finally to assault the Legations. For us, indeed, here at Pei-t'ang, the day of attack has actually been fixed ; the whole town knows it, everybody is talking about it, and the popular excitement is clearly manifest. Last night, again, forty-three poor women, with their children, flying from massacre, arrived at the Sisters' Home ; over 500 people accompanied them, telling them that, although they had succeeded in escaping once, they would soon all perish here with the rest.

I will not speak of the numberless placards, M. le Ministre, which are posted in the town against Europeans in general ; new notices appear daily, each more clearly expressed than the last.

People who were present at the massacres in Tien-tsin thirty years ago are struck by the similarity of the situation then with that of to-day ; there are the same placards, the same threats, the same notices, and the same want of foresight. Then also, as to-day, the missionaries wrote and begged, foreseeing the horrible awakening.

In these circumstances, M. le Ministre, I think it is my duty to request you to send us, at least to Pei-t'ang, forty or fifty sailors, to protect us and our belongings.

This has been done on much less critical occasions, and I trust you will favourably consider my humble supplication.

I have, &c.  
 (Signed) ALPH. FAVIER, *Ev. Vic. Ap. de Pékin.*  
 ———, *Ev. Coadjuteur.*  
 C. M. GUILLAUME, *Vic.-Gén.*

Inclosure 6 in No. 273.

*M. de Cologan to the Tsung-li Yamén.*

*Pékin, le 21 Mai, 1900.*

J'AI l'honneur de communiquer à votre Altesse et à vos Excellences le texte d'une résolution prise hier par les Représentants des Puissances étrangères accrédités à Pékin :—

“ Le Corps Diplomatique, s'appuyant sur les Décrets Impériaux déjà rendus qui ont édicté la dissolution des Boxeurs, réclame :—

“ 1. L'arrestation de tout individu se livrant aux exercices de cette association, provoquant des troubles sur la voie publique, affichant, imprimant ou distribuant des placards qui contiendraient des menaces contre les étrangers ;

“ 2. L'arrestation des propriétaires et gardiens de temples ou autres endroits où les Boxeurs se réuniraient, et l'assimilation aux Boxeurs eux-mêmes de ces complices de provocations criminelles.

“ 3. Le chatiment des agents de la force publique qui se rendraient coupables de négligence dans la repression dont ils seront chargés ou qui seraient de connivance avec les émeutiers ;

“ 4. L'exécution des auteurs d'attentats (meurtre, incendie, &c.) contre les personnes ou les propriétés ;

“ 5. L'exécution des individus qui subventionnent et dirigent les Boxeurs dans les troubles actuels.

“ 6. La publication dans Pékin, dans le Tche-ly, et les autres provinces du nord, portant ces mesures à la connaissance de la population.”

Je suis en outre chargé par le Corps Diplomatique d'informer votre Altesse et vos Excellences qu'il attend dans le plus bref délai une réponse satisfaisante à cette demande.

Je profite, &c.  
 (Signé) B. J. DE COLOGAN.

(Translation.)

*Peking, May 21, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Highness and to your Excellencies the text of a Resolution which was adopted yesterday by the Representatives of the foreign Powers who are accredited to Peking :—

“ The Corps Diplomatique, relying on the Imperial Decrees which have already been issued for the suppression of the Boxers, demands :—

“ 1. The arrest of every individual who takes part in the drill of this Association, or creates disturbances in the streets, or who further posts, prints, or distributes placards containing threats against foreigners.

“ 2. The arrest of the proprietors and guardians of the temples or localities where the Boxers assemble, and the assimilation to the Boxers themselves of their accomplices in criminal actions.

“ 3. The punishment of agents of the public force who are guilty of negligence in the measures of suppression with which they have been charged, or are in connivance with the rioters.

“ 4. The execution of the authors of attempts (at murder or incendiarism) against persons or property.

“ 5. The execution of individuals who have assisted and directed the Boxers in the present troubles.

“ 6. The publication in Peking, and in Chih-li and the other northern provinces, of these measures, so as to bring them to the notice of the public.”

I am further charged by the Corps Diplomatique to inform your Highness and your Excellencies that a satisfactory answer to this demand is awaited with as short a delay as possible.

I avail, &c.  
(Signed) B. J. DE COLOGAN.

No. 274.

*Sir C. MacDonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 9.)*

My Lord,

*Peking, May 28, 1900.*

IN continuation of my despatch of the 21st instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a translation of the Yamên's reply to the doyen's note of that date, on the subject of the Boxer disturbances.

The Yamên's note as it stands cannot, as your Lordship will perceive, be considered a satisfactory reply to the demands made by the foreign Representatives for specific measures of suppression. It alludes to the Edict, of which the Ministers had already informed me at my interview of the 18th instant, without mentioning what the terms of the Edict were, and it states vaguely that the measures contemplated for the suppression of the Boxers are on the lines of those suggested by the Diplomatic Body, without indicating what is actually being done.

I had, accordingly, the honour to telegraph to your Lordship on the 25th instant to the effect that the Yamên's reply seemed to me most unlikely to be accepted as satisfactory, but that I was awaiting the opinion of my colleagues thereon.

The note in question having been circulated to the foreign Representatives a meeting was summoned by the doyen on the evening of the 26th instant to consider the situation.

The French Minister began by expressing in forcible terms his opinion of the unsatisfactory nature of the Yamên's reply, and proceeded to describe the results of his investigation into the causes of the alarm that existed in the Roman Catholic Missions. He said that all his information proved that this alarm was amply justified. At Mission stations, both outside and inside the city, where soldiers had been sent ostensibly to protect the Missions, the soldiers were fraternizing with the Boxers, and helping to terrorize the Christians, alleging that the real object of their arrival was to prevent the latter from escaping before the time fixed for their massacre. In the city the Proclamations, which had been posted by the authorities, were being torn down by the populace amidst angry maledictions against the Government for daring to denounce so patriotic a body as the "Fist" Society; and priests and converts alike were everywhere received with menaces and abuse. So audacious had the Boxers become that they actually lighted fires in the streets as signals for assembly. M. Pichon stated his conviction that there was grave danger of a very serious outbreak, and that protection was urgently required for all Europeans in Peking. If the Chinese Government failed to adopt immediate and effective measures, the foreign Representatives ought to bring up Legation guards in sufficient numbers to prevent the possibility of a rising.

The Italian Minister confirmed from his own experiences many of the facts adduced by M. Pichon, and also expressed the opinion that the Yamên's reply was most unsatisfactory.

M. de Giers, the Russian Minister agreed with his colleagues as to the unsatisfactory nature of the Yamên note, but said he had reason to believe that it did not adequately represent the intentions of the Chinese Government, who were genuinely determined to take effective measures. He could not believe that the danger was so imminent as the French Minister described it. He admitted, however, that the latter had sources of information which put him in a better position than his colleagues for judging of the situation, and he felt, as we all did, that it was, therefore, impossible to disregard the views expressed by M. Pichon.

During the discussion that followed the German Minister, Baron von Ketteler declared that it was utterly useless either to expect the Chinese Government to do anything effective, or to take any action ourselves, such as bringing up guards, based on the belief that that Government could remain stable, or on the desire to assist in propping up its crumbling structure.

It was eventually decided that the doyen should address a note to the Tsung-li Yamên, and send it in the same evening, demanding that the terms of the Edict which

they had mentioned should be communicated to the foreign Representatives, and that a categorical statement should be furnished of the measures taken for the suppression of the anti-foreign movement.

Both the Russian Minister and myself had appointments to meet Prince Ch'ing at the Yamên next day on business connected with the Boxers, and our colleagues requested and authorized each of us to lay the views of the whole Diplomatic Body before the Prince, and to press for a favourable reply. We were to meet our colleagues again in the evening after our interviews, and it was resolved that if by that time the Yamên had not answered satisfactorily, Legation guards should be sent for without further delay.

I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship yesterday the substance of what passed at the meeting.

At my interview yesterday with Prince Ch'ing and the Ministers of the Yamên, which took place immediately before that of M. de Giers, I accordingly delivered the message with which I was charged. I found it unnecessary to lay stress on the dangers of the situation, as it was evident that the Ministers had already heard the worst that could be said on the subject, and the Prince at once interrupted me to express the lively concern with which the Throne regarded the recent manifestations of the Boxers' activity. It was apparent that unrest and dissatisfaction was being excited not only against foreigners and native Christians, but against the Chinese Government also. The strictest instructions had been given to the Viceroy of Chihli to arrest and punish the ringleaders and disperse their dupes. Inside the city, also, all possible measures were being taken, and his Highness, as Commander of the Peking field force, said he was willing personally to undertake the protection of all foreigners.

Another Yamên Minister, Ch'ung Li, who is at the head of the Peking gendarmerie, described the investigations he had himself made in his capacity as a "local authority," and the measures he had taken in obedience to the Imperial Edict.

I was requested to convey the above assurances to my colleagues, and to say, with regard to the joint note, that a despatch was now being prepared communicating the terms of the Imperial Edict already referred to, and stating in full detail the various measures which were being adopted to maintain order. If these measures did not prove efficacious, further steps would be taken and communicated in a supplementary despatch.

Speaking as a personal friend of Prince Ch'ing's, I warned his Highness that, rightly or wrongly, the Representatives of all the Powers viewed the situation as extremely serious, and were reporting to their Governments accordingly. If they could not obtain from the Chinese Government the protection they sought, their means of self-protection would take the form of bringing up Legation guards. Whether these should be sent for or not would probably be decided that same afternoon, and, if they were sent for, they would no doubt come in much larger numbers than before.

I said this with a lively recollection of the desperate efforts made by Prince Ch'ing eighteen months ago to prevent the arrival of the guards, and I was somewhat surprised at the calmness with which he received the suggestion which, he said, had already been made to him. It may possibly be that the Chinese Government, now awake to the strength of the Boxer movement, would be disposed to welcome the additional security afforded by the presence of foreign troops. The Prince only reiterated his assurances that the Legations could count on receiving all the protection due from host to guests, and again laid stress on the fact that the Boxers were the enemies of the country.

At the meeting of the foreign Representatives which subsequently took place it was decided, in view of the Yamên's assurances to wait another day for the receipt of the promised despatch, and to delay till this evening any decision with respect to the Legation guards.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLAUDE M. MACDONALD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 274.

*The Tsung-li Yamên to M. de Cologan.*

(Traduction.)

(Réponse officielle.)

*Pékin, le 24 Mai, 1900.*

LE 21 Mai dernier nous avons reçu la dépêche par laquelle votre Excellence nous communiquait la texte détaillée d'une Résolution prise le 20 Mai au sujet de la question des "Boxeurs" dans une réunion des Représentants des Puissances accrédités à Pékin.



(Vous ajoutiez que le Corps Diplomatique) attendait dans le plus bref délai une réponse satisfaisante.

Notre Yamên a pris connaissance de cette communication dans tous ses détails et s'est convaincu de l'importance qu'attachent à cette question les Ministres étrangers établis à Pékin. Il constate qu'en cette affaire, dès avant l'arrivée de votre dépêche, il avait, le 17 Mai, reçu un Décret ordonnant au Yamên du Gouverneur Militaire, à la Préfecture de Pékin et aux (censeurs des) cinq villes d'élaborer pour le mieux un règlement destiné à assurer une stricte répression. Le système maintenant adopté concorde d'ailleurs dans ses grandes lignes avec les idées exprimées dans la dépêche que nous avons reçue de votre Excellence.

Notre Yamên demande de nouveau qu'un Décret ordonne au Vice-Roi du Tche-li, ainsi qu'aux divers Yamêns chargés de l'administration de la capitale, de prendre immédiatement des mesures efficaces sans qu'il soit permis de se couvrir par de vaines paroles.

Nous pensons que la Société des "Boxeurs" se trouvera ainsi dissoute sans retard et qu'elle n'en arrivera pas à causer de nouveaux désordres.

Il convenait que nous adressions cette réponse officielle à votre Excellence pour son information, en la priant de vouloir bien la communiquer aux Représentants des Puissances accrédités à Pékin.

(Translation.)

(Official reply.)

*Peking, May 24, 1900.*

ON the 21st May last we received the despatch in which your Excellency communicated to us the full text of a Resolution adopted on the 20th May at a meeting of the Representatives of the Powers accredited to Peking concerning the question of the Boxers. You further added that the Diplomatic Body expected a satisfactory reply with the least possible delay.

Our Yamên has taken note of this communication with all its details, and it is convinced of the importance which the foreign Ministers at Peking attach to this question. It affirms that in this matter the Yamên had received a Decree on the 17th May, before the arrival of your despatch, ordering the Yamên of the Military Governor, the Prefecture of Peking, and the Censors of the five towns to draw up proper Regulations in order to insure a strict system of repression. The plan now adopted is, moreover, on general lines, in accordance with the ideas expressed in the despatch that we have received from your Excellency.

Our Yamên again requests the issue of a Decree ordering the Viceroy of Chihli, as well as the various Yamêns charged with the administration of the capital, to instantly take effective steps without being allowed to take refuge in meaningless phrases merely.

We think that the Boxers' Society will thus be dissolved without delay, and that it will not succeed in causing fresh disturbances.

We think it right to address this official reply for your Excellency's information, requesting that you will have the goodness to communicate it to the accredited Representatives of the Powers in Peking.

Inclosure 2 in No. 274.

*M. de Cologan to the Tsung-li Yamên.*

*Pékin, le 26 Mai, 1900.*

J'AI l'honneur d'adresser à votre Altesse et à vos Excellences le texte de la Résolution prise aujourd'hui par les Représentants étrangers.

Le Corps Diplomatique constate que la dépêche du Tsung-li Yamên en date du 24 de ce mois ne répond pas à la question posée par les Représentants des Puissances étrangères dans leur dépêche du 21 de ce mois.

Le Tsung-li Yamên déclare que les procédés adoptés par le Gouvernement Impérial pour la répression des "Boxeurs" concordent dans leurs grandes lignes avec les idées exprimées par les Ministres accrédités à Pékin.

Il ne dit pas s'il a accepté toutes ces mesures.

Le Tsung-li Yamên ajoute qu'il a demandé qu'un nouveau Décret ordonne au Vice-Roi du Tche-li, ainsi qu'aux divers Yamêns chargés de l'administration de la capitale,

de prendre immédiatement des mesures efficaces sans qu'il soit permis de se couvrir par vaines paroles.

Cet Édit n'est encore ni publié ni communiqué aux Ministres étrangers.

Le Corps Diplomatique demande que les mesures qui auraient été prises conformément à sa dépêche du 21 lui soit immédiatement communiquées, ainsi que l'Édit précité.

Veuillez, &c.  
(Signé) B. J. DE COLOGAN.

(Translation.)

*Peking, May 26, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to address to your Highness and to your Excellencies the text of the Resolution passed yesterday by the foreign Representatives.

The Diplomatic Body states that the despatch of the Tsung-li Yamên of the 24th ultimo does not answer the question asked by the Representatives of the foreign Powers in their despatch of the 21st instant.

The Tsung-li Yamên declares that the measures adopted by the Imperial Government for the suppression of the Boxers are for the most part in accordance with the views expressed by the foreign Ministers at Peking.

The Tsung-li Yamên does not state whether all these measures have been approved.

The Tsung-li Yamên adds that a request for a fresh Decree has been made, ordering the Viceroy of Chihli as well as the various Yamêns charged with the administration of the capital to immediately take effective steps without being allowed to take refuge in empty phrases only.

This Edict has not yet been published or communicated to the foreign Ministers.

The Diplomatic Body request that the measures, which should have been taken in accordance with their despatch of the 21st instant, may be instantly communicated to them as well as the above-mentioned Edict.

Accept, &c.  
(Signed) B. J. DE COLOGAN.

No. 275.

*Sir Chihchen Lofêngluh to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 12)*

My Lord Marquis,

*Chinese Legation, London, July 11, 1900.*

I HAVE the honour to forward your Lordship the inclosed translation and Chinese text of a telegram from the Emperor of China to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, and to request that you will have the goodness to have them presented at their high destination as soon as possible.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) LOFÊNGLUH.

Inclosure in No. 275.

*The Emperor of China to Her Majesty the Queen.*

(Translation.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Peking, July 3, 1900.*

THE Emperor of China to Her Majesty the Queen of England, Empress of India, sendeth Greetings :

Since the opening of commercial intercourse between foreign nations and China, the aspirations of Great Britain have always been after commercial extension, and not territorial aggrandizement.

Recently, dissensions having arisen between the Christians and the people of Chihli and Shantung, certain evilly-disposed persons availed themselves of the occasion to make disturbances, and these having extended so rapidly, the Treaty Powers, suspecting that the rioters might have been encouraged by the Imperial Government, attacked and captured the Taku forts. The sufferings arising from this act of hostility have been great, and the situation has been much involved.

In consideration of the facts that of the foreign commerce of China more than 70 per cent. belongs to England, that the Chinese Tariff is lower than that of any other country, and that the restrictions on it are fewer. British merchants have during the last few decades maintained relations with Chinese merchants at

the ports as harmonious as if they had both been members of the same family. But now complications have arisen, mutual distrust has been engendered, and the situation having thus changed for the worse, it is felt that, if China cannot be supported in maintaining her position, foreign nations, looking on so large and populous a country, so rich in natural resources, might be tempted to exploit or despoil it; and, perhaps, differ amongst themselves with respect to their conflicting interests.

It is evident that this would create a state of matters which would not be advantageous to Great Britain, a country which views commerce as her greatest interest.

China is now engaged in raising men and means to cope with these eventualities, but she feels that if left to herself she might be unequal to the occasion should it ever arrive, and therefore turns to England in the hope of procuring her good offices in bringing about a settlement of the difficulties which have arisen with the other Treaty Powers.

The Emperor makes this frank exposure of what is nearest to his heart, and hopes that this appeal to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress may be graciously taken into her consideration, and an answer vouchsafed to it at the earliest possible moment.

## No. 276.

*Mr. Whitehead to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received July 12.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tōkiō, July 12, 1900.*

I HAVE informed Admiral Seymour by telegraph that Lieutenant-General Teranchi, second in the General Staff, is being sent by Japanese Government to discuss with him and Admiral Alexieff a scheme of combined operations.

## No. 277.

*Chinese Imperial Edict.—(Communicated by Sir Chihchen Loféngluh, July 13.)*

Translation of an Imperial Edict dated Peking the 29th June, received by the Privy Council, and by the Board of War forwarded to the Provincial Treasurer of Chihli for transmission to the Chinese Ministers residing at the various Courts in Europe, America, and Japan, through the Taotai of Shanghai.

IN view of the circumstance that the Treaty Powers have unexpectedly assembled considerable forces in China, it is expedient that the Chinese Ministers accredited to foreign countries should be made acquainted with the situation of affairs at present, and the causes that have led to it.

We therefore command that the following account of what has recently taken place in Peking be communicated to them, in order that they may the better be the interpreters of our intentions with respect to the Treaty Powers.

The present unsatisfactory state of affairs originated in the formation of a Society consisting of disorderly persons in the provinces of Chihli and Shantung. The ostensible object of the Society was the practise of athletics, attended by strange rites founded on the pretended possession by its members of supernatural powers.

At first the authorities, viewing it as harmless, took no notice of the Society or set with any measures for its suppression, but soon, spreading like wild-fire, branches of it were found everywhere, and in the matter of a month great numbers of its adherents were found even in Peking, where they were considered as a mystical sect to which crafty and designing persons introduced anti-Christian proclivities.

About the 10th June its enmity towards Christianity was no longer a matter of doubt. In spite of every effort to control them, they then set fire to some of the missionary buildings in Peking, and at the same time killed some of the native Christians.

When things began to assume a serious aspect, the foreign Representatives in Peking requested permission to bring up some soldiers for the protection of the Legations, and, the situation appearing critical, this was agreed to, and the Legation guards were accordingly increased by the number of about 500 men of the different nationalities. This is an evidence of the desire of the Chinese Government to maintain friendly relations with foreign Powers.

On other occasions, when foreign soldiers had been called up to Peking for the protection of the Legations, the men were confined to the premises of the several diplomatic establishments, so no collision ever occurred between them and the populace, but on this occasion, no sooner had they arrived than they were sent with their arms to patrol the streets, and sometimes they used their arms to fire on the people. Nor did they seem to be kept under proper control, but were allowed to roam, apparently at their own will, wherever they liked; some of them having been stopped in an attempt to enter the Tung Hwa môn, a gate leading to the Imperial Palace, by which entrance is strictly forbidden. These acts on the part of the foreign soldiers so incensed the people that, lending ear to the false rumours that were being industriously disseminated amongst them by members of the Society, many of the people joined the latter, and, setting the law at defiance, proceeded to assist them in murdering the Christians and committing other outrages.

At this point the foreign Representatives called for more troops, but the advance of the reinforcements that were sent having been opposed by the combined forces of the Shantung and Chihli rebels, they have not, as yet, succeeded in reaching Peking.

It was not from any reluctance on the part of the Imperial Government that they did not adopt stronger measures for the suppression of the Boxer movement as soon as its real object became evident, but because of the danger to which, in the meantime, the Legations and Europeans in the disturbed districts would have been exposed. It was necessary to temporize, in order that the Society should not be provoked into attacking the Legations and committing further acts of hostility towards the Christians whilst the Imperial Government were preparing to deal an effectual blow. Any failure to do this at the first blow, might have led to the perpetration by the Boxers of acts which the Imperial Government would have viewed as a national calamity.

It was in view of these considerations that the Imperial Government thought of the expedient of requesting the Diplomatic Body to temporarily absent themselves from Peking, and it was whilst this project was being debated by the Tsung-li Yamên that Baron von Ketteler, the German Minister, was killed whilst on his way to the Yamên. On the previous day he had written to the Yamên asking for an appointment, but in consequence of the menacing attitude of the populace who then thronged the streets, it was not considered safe for him to be seen outside of the Legation. The Yamên, therefore, declined his request for an interview. The wisdom of this course was seen in the lamentable result of his attempting to come to the Yamên the next day. The increasing audacity of the crowd now then knew no bounds. It was now too late to send the foreign Ministers to Tien-tsin under the protection of a sufficient well-armed escort as the Yamên had intended doing; so, the only other course open to the Yamên was to continue the Ministers in Peking under the protection of an adequate guard of Chinese troops. And this was done, the officer in command of the guard having stringent orders to protect the Legations effectively in every possible emergency.

On the 16th June the officer in command of the allied fleets at Taku, much to our surprise, demanded of General Lo Yung Kwang the surrender of the forts under his command, at the same time informing him that, in case of non-compliance, they would be attacked and taken at 2 o'clock next day. It was the duty of Lo Yung Kwang to hold the forts, so he had no alternative but to refuse the demand.

At the appointed time the allied Commander opened fire on the forts and eventually captured them.

These hostilities were not of China's seeking. No false estimate of her power led her to measure her forces with those of the combined fleets. She fought because she could not do otherwise than resist.

This point the Ministers must make unmistakably clear to the respective Governments to whom they are severally accredited. They will also take occasion to explain to the different foreign Secretaries the action of the Chinese Government and the motives by which it was actuated under the ever-changing circumstances which have led to the present complicated state of our foreign relations.

Orders of a very imperative character have been given to the officer charged with the protection of the foreign Legations to exert himself to the utmost in order that nothing untoward may happen to them.

Our Ministers are to remain at their respective posts in foreign countries, and to continue to discharge their official duties with unremitting care and assiduity.

Let this be transmitted to them.

Respect this.

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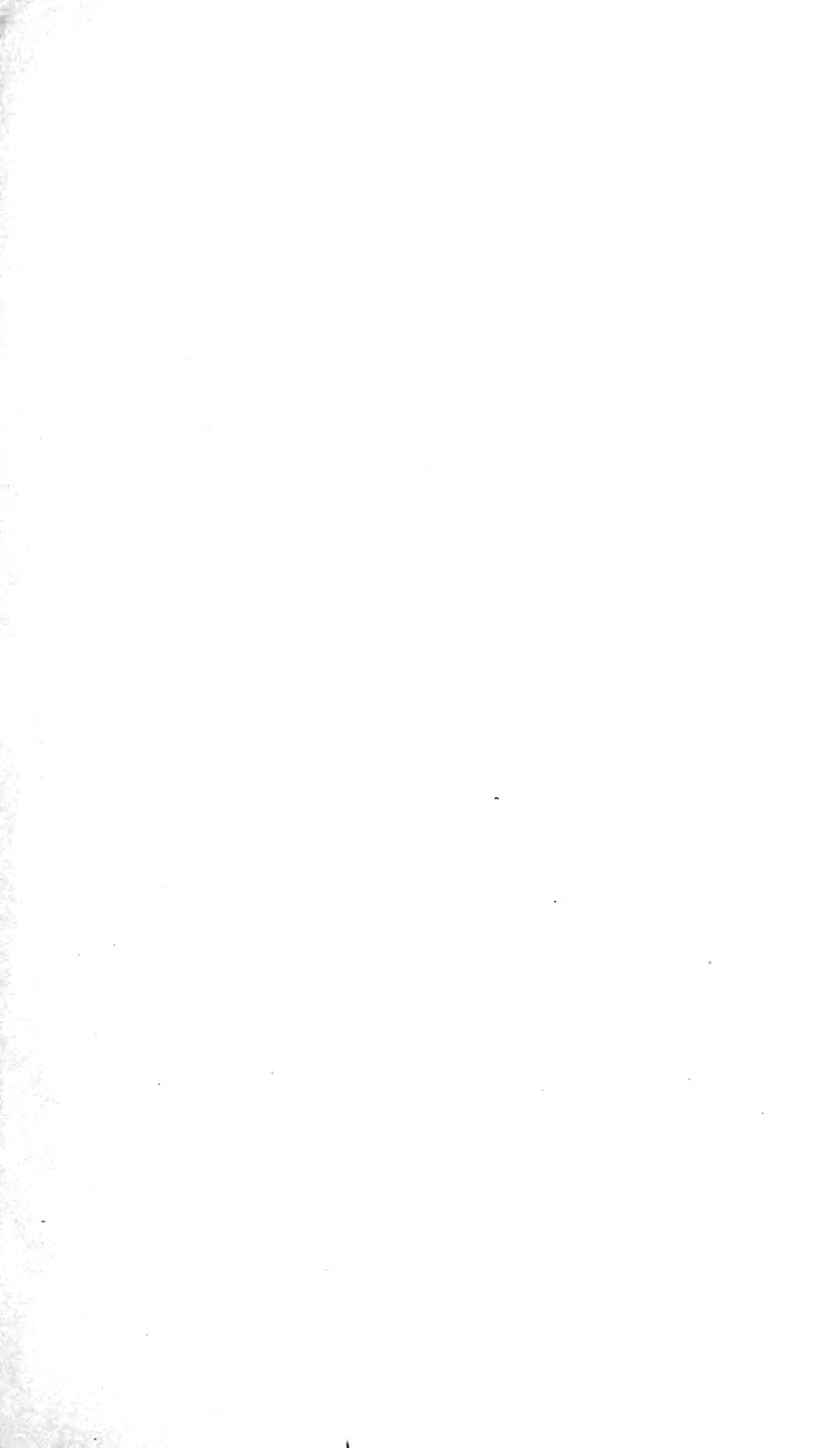
Correspondence respecting the Insurrectionary  
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*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-  
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