The Siege of Pekin Legations:

Dr. Morrison's Graphic Story of the Siege of the Pekin Legations, as Furnished to the London Times.

To de affective the affective affect

of the British Legation left their posts during the night. The buildings had been officially placed under the protection of the Imperial Governernment. In the prearranged absence of the were attacked by "Boxentirely burnt to did not assist in the burning. worse events were to happen that lay. In the afternoon news passed brough Pekin that Mr. Sugiyama, he Chancellor of the Japanese Le-

nation, had been murdered by solers. He had been sent by his Minster a second time to Machia-pu to await the arrival of the troops. Passing unarmed and alone in cart beyond the Yung-ting Men, the outer gate on the way to the staonce of a crowd of Chinese who wit ed his struggles with unpitying nter st and unconcealed satisfaction. A "mafoo" in the service the american Legation waiting at Machia-pu in the vain hope of seeing he train arrive, was warned to quit here speedily, and was cursed for being in the service of the foreigners. He rode to the Yung-ting Men, where ne caw the foreigner dead and mutiated, but was not permitted to enter, and, riding furiously, he came ound by another gate and so breathinto the Legation. Mr. Narahara, she second Secretary, at once went to the Yamen, but no attempt was made to recover the body. The heart was cut out, and there is every reason to believe was sent as a trophy to the savage General Tung-fuh-slang simself. No attempt was ever made o recover the body, and the following morning my servant, sent by me to inquire, found his mutilated body roughly covered with earth at the ace where it had been murdered.

der attributed the crime to the acnon of desperadoes outside the city ereas it was notorious that the order was committed by the soldiers Tung-fuh-siang, the favorite bodymard of the Empress Dowager. In nother decree General Nieh was cenred, apparently for his too eneretic treatment of the "Boxers," but was permitted to retain his mand and make amends for his misceeds. Chao Shu-chiao, who knew well the master he was serving, pub-Thed his report on the "Boxer' grouples at Cho-chau and on the railway, and with sublime effrontery ataributed the disasters not to the "Roxers' but to the foreign-drilled soldiers of General Nieh. Telegraph communication by every route been cut. Almost the last of the ser-

One leg was exposed, and children,

to the amusement of their elders, were

A decree published after the mur-

poking at it with sticks.

fled from their masters.

ing of Chi Hsin, a member of the During the evening "Boxers" to the Yamen, Hsu Ching-cheng, the to rush the British sentries. ex-Minister, the "Boxer" leader On the 15th rescue parties

cordon was established round the for- Lan, the brother of Prince Tuan, and very hard to keep the Chinese troops posed upon them. for duty at the Pei-tang Cathedral, walls of the Imperial Palace, as the hours' notice to leave Pekin. Believ- ful. They were known, from the genwhere, three miles distant within the handiwork of local banditti. one great compound Mgr. Favier, the gees were escorted by the "foreign China might still be amenable to selves as the legitimate successors on in the country.

manded the Customs street, leading to cently Minister to France, and now Princes and Ministers would be un- tomed as they were to the military their Nordenfeldt swept the Canal the family was murdered. A Catholic out for the Yamen in two chairs. An Park-they had a habit of carrying street to the north and the North family of much distinction-a family armed escort of a non-commissioned the knife horizontally over the should with their Colt machine gun had com- property laid in ashes. gun, dropped their heavy ammunition ing headlong to its ruin. down the well.

As darkness came on the most awful ten Americans and five Japanese, coming, and would therefore ensure cries were heard in the city, most de- with some Volunteers, and accom- him the protection due to a tioned here. Going one dark evening moniacal and unforgettable, the cries panied by Lieutenant-Colonel Shiba, foreign Envoy. We were both un- his rounds, the British officer of the of the Boxers, "Sha kweitze"—"Kill the Japanese military attache, pa- armed. Our chairs were accompanied the devils"—mingled with the shricks trolled the east city, visiting the by two Chinese outriders from the of the victims and the groans of ruins in the hope that some Chris- Legation. We left the French Lega- There was no reply. Pursing the dying. The Boxers were sweep- tians might yet be in hiding. But to tion, where the conference had been s chapel of the Methodist Misson in the Hata-Men street. Then gations, seeking that protection and ried, one majo as usual riding in humanity that was depied them by front and the other behind.

OLDIERS sent to guard | roar the Tung-tang, or east Cathethe summer residences dral, shot flames into the sky. The old Green Church in the northeast of the city, the London Mission buildings, the handsome pile of the American Board Mission, and the entire foreign buildings belonging to the Imperial Maritime Customs in the east city burned throughout the night. It was an appalling sight. Late in the night a large party of

'Boxers," bearing torches, were seen moving down Customs street towards the Austrian Legation. The machine gun mounted was in waiting for them. They were allowed to come within 150 yards in the open street near the great cross road, and then the order was given and the gun rained forth death. It was a grateful sound. The torches disappeared. They and none, we thought, could have escaped. Eagerly we went forth to count the dead, expecting to find them in heaps. But there was not one dead. The gun had been aimed very wide of the mark. Two hundred yards north of the "Boxers" there is a place tion, he was seized by the soldiers of where, 30 feet above the level road. Tong-fuh-slang, dragged from his the telegraph wires crossed to the cart and done to death in the pres- station. Next morning they were found to have been cut by the Austrian fire. The only persons who suffered injury were possible wayfarers two miles up the street. There can be little doubt that this firsco helped to confirm the "Poxers" in a belief in their invulnerability.

> The Tung-tang, or east Cathedral, having been burned, it was clear that the Nan-tung, the south Cathedral, was in danger. Pere Garrigues, the aged priest of the Tung-tang. had refused to leave his post and had perished in the flames. But the fathers and sisters at the Nan-tang might yet be saved. Their lives were in great peril; it was necessary to act quickly. A party of French centlemen, led by M. Fliche, of the French Legation, and accompanied by M. and Mmei. Chamot, rode out at smoke, a pillar of cloud marking the destruction, not of a faith, but of a forgotten. nation. This historic pile of Verbiest and Schaal, with its memorial tablet given to the cathedral by the Emperor Kang Hsi, was ruthlessly sacrificed. It continued burning all day. the region round it, the chief Catholic centre of Pekin, being also burnt, Acres of houses were destroyed and Christians in thousands put to

Watch was still kept. Streets within the area to be defended were kept clear. Barricades were thrown and every preparation begun for the defence which seemed inevitable, though there was still hope that reinforcements would arrive before it was too late. Postal couriers were wants who were not Christians had prevented from passing through the enemy's lines, and only the scantiest On the 12th a deputation, consist- information reached us from outside. Grand Council and newly appointed killed on the north bridge endeavoring

very next day Baron Von Ketteler | Christians to come out from their Mr. Cordes made this himself captured a "Boxer" from amid hiding-places. All through the night

through the city massacring our calls everywhere no reply was held, passed the Austrian Legation, native Christians and burning given. Refugees, however, from the then turned along the Ch'ang-Anhen alive in their homes. The east city had managed to escape mir- street into the Hata Men-street. building to be burned was acu'ously, and find their way, many llong the raised way in the centre

y. Amid the west designing up their own people. As the patrol was We passed the Arch of Honor quite

passing a Taoist temple on the way. a noted "Boxer" meeting-place, cries were heard within. The temple was forcibly entered. Native Christians had come within a restricted space, were found there, their hands tied behind their backs, awaiting execution and torture. Some had already been put to death, and their bodies were still warm and bleeding. All were shockingly mutilated. Their fiendish murderers were at their incantations, burning incense before their gods, offering Christians in sacrifice to their angered deities. They shut themselves within the temple, but their defence availed them nothing. Every one of them, 46 in all, was in 'Boxer" uniform armed with sword and lance. Retribution was swift : every man was shot to death without

In the afternoon a fire broke out in the foreign drug store in the native city outside the great gate of ers," done while the soldiers were looking on. In order to burn the forand that is what happened. Adjoining buildings took fire, the flames spread to the booksellers' street the most interesting street scrolls, manuscripts and printed the American Mission, and fell faintbooks, was gutted from end Fire licked up house after house, and soon the conflagration German Legation. " " In concluwas the most disastrous ever known in China, reducing to ashes the richest part of Pekin, the pearl and lewel shops, the silk and fur, the satin and embroidery stores, the great curio shops, the gold and silver shops, the melting houses, and nearly all that was of the highest value in the metropolis. Irreparable was the damage done. From the street below the fire spread to the central outer night and early the following morn- Chien Men gate, which directly faces ing safely escorted to the hotel every the Imperial Palace, and which is member of the mission-Pere d'Addosio only thrown open for the passage of and his two colleagues, a French the Emperor. An imposing temple brother, five sisters of charity, and crowns this wall; it was engulfed in some twenty native nuns of the Or- the conflagration. The great tiled der of Josephine. They were rescued roof with its upturned gables fell just in time. Scarcely had they reach- with a crash of falling worlds, while ed a place of safety when the splen- great volumes of smoke spread like a did edifice they had forsaken was in pall over the Imperial Palace, foreflames. To the sky wreathed the boding the doom of the Imperial house. It was a sight never to be

> While the fire was in progress another broke out in the houses at the end of Legation street, and the triumphal archway was consumed. Fear of fire was to be added to other dangers assailing us.

Early on the morning of the 20th a meeting of the diplomatic body was held at the French Legation. No reply has been received from the Tsung-li-Yamen to the request for an audience, and the proposition that all the Ministers should go to the Yamen found no seconder. Had it been carried out there would have occurred one of the most appalling massacres on record. Two chairs later left for the Yamen. In the first was the German Minister, Baron von Ketteler, who had this advantage over the other Ministers. that he spoke Chinese fluently. the second was the Chinese Secretary | vacate their Legations, but the of the German Legation, Mr. Cordes. | timatum had been rescinded, and the were News travels quickly in Pekin. Not Ministers invited to remain in Pekin. Chao Shu-chiao, and another Manchu, sent out by the American and Rus- many minutes later my boy burst into Thus it was hoped that they would be called upon the British Minister. Chi sian Legations in the morning, and my office- "Any man speakee have lulled into a false security. Chinese Bsiu made a long address, his theme by the British and German Legations | makee kill German Minister!" It soldiers were secretly stationed unbeing the enduring nature of the in the afternoon, to save, if possible, was true. The German Minister had der cover at every vantage point comfriendship between China and Eng. native Christians from the burning been assassinated by an Imperial manding the outposts. At 4 p.m. prehad and the duty which China has ruins around the Nantang. Awful officer. The secretary had been cisely to the minute, by preconcerted always recognized as a sacred obli- sights were witnessed. Women and grievously wounded, but, running for signal, they opened fire upon the Ausgation to protect the members of children were hacked to pieces, men his life, shot at by a hundred rifles, trian and French outposts. A French the Legations who were her guests trussed like fowls, with noses and had escaped as if by a miracle. A marine fell, shot dead through the and the strangers within her walls. ears cut off and eyes gouged out. Chi- patrol of fifteen men under Count forehead. An Austrian was wounded. Chi Hsiu assured the Minister that nese Christians accompanied the re- Soden, the commander, went out to The siege had really begun. the movement was at an end, that all liefs and ran about in the laby- recover the body. Fired on by Chinese At this time, June 20th, at the opwas now tranquil, and that there rinth and network of streets that soldiers from every side, they were ening of the siege, the total strength was no more reason to fear. Yet the formed the quarter, calling upon the forced to retire. Lying ill in hospital, of the combined Legation guards

Graphic Statement. the crowd in Legation street. He the massacre had continued, and On the afternoon of the 19th of foreign quarter had to trust for its his waist he had a belt containing a their work was still incomplete, and the previous day, to demand once training, and they at once went on talisman of yellow paper smeared many hundreds of women and chil- more the withdrawal of the Kan-suh the active list and rendered invaluwith mystic red symbols, by which dren had escaped. They came out of troops of Tungfuh-siang stationed at able service. A volunteer force numwas rendered "impermeable their hiding-places, crossing them- a distance of a few paces from our bering altogether 75 men, foreign bullets." And in selves and pleading for mercy. It was posts in the electric light works. The whom 31 were Japanese, afternoon the "Boxers" came a most pitiful sight. Thousands of sol- secretary who received me, and whom enrolled, and armed with ed the massacre without ever rais- a great change in the position, he ing watch and watch like the regu-The cry arose that the Boxers were ing a hand to save. During the awful said. The foreign admirals had taken lars, fighting behind the barricades, coming. Every man ran to his post, a nights of the 13th and 14th, Duke the Taku forts, and it would be and never shrinking from any duty imeign quarter and no one was allowed, Chao Shu-chiao, of the Tsung-li-Ya- in hand. Discussion seemed useless. I to pass. Guards were on watch at all men, had followed round in their carts left my message for Yung Lu, the the Legations, but their numbers to gloat over the spectacle. Yet the Grand Secretary, Commander-in-Chief, apread over so many posts were very Chinese Government were afterwards and came away. At 5 o'clock the ul- of 50 gentlemen of many nationaities, madequate, and they were still fur- to describe this masterplece, done un- timatum of the Tsung-Li-Yamen was who did garrison guard duty in the ther reduced by the guards detached der official funervision funder the very sent to the Ministers, giving them 24 British Legation and were most useing the note to have been inspired by | tleman who enrolled them, as "Thorn-Imperial City, were gathered in the More than 1,200 of the poor refu- an access of madness and hoping that hill's Roughs," and they bore them-Bishop, his coadjutor, Mgr. Jarlin, the devils" to a place of safety. Many reason, Baron Von Ketteler sent a foot of Roosevelt's Roughriders. Armters of charity and a vast concourse youd recognition. All had suffered the asking for an interview with the an elephant rifle to the fusil de ters in the palace grounds of Prince The signed receipt of this note is had been lashed as bayonets, they A guard of five Austrians was sent Su, opposite the British Legation. now in the German Legation. On were known as the "Carving Knife

near the Belgian Legation and were Italian close to the police station on the rounds. left. I was watching a cart with 25,000 some lance bearers passing before machine-gun, and the Minister's chair, when suddenly five-barrel Nordenfel it, pattern 1887. was lost. One German only was I saw a sight that made my heart Rifle ammunition was very scanty. killed and the position was saved, out stand still. The Minister's chair was The Japanese had only 100 rounds the blunder might have been disasthree paces in front of me. I saw a apiece, the Russians 145, and the trous. banner soldier, apparently a Manchu, Italians 120, while the best providin full uniform, with a mandarin's ed of the other guards had only hat with a button and blue feather, 800 rounds per man, none too many step forward, present his rifle with. for a siege, the duration of which in a yard of the chair window, level | could not be foreseen. it at the Minister's head and fire. I shouted in terror, "Halt," at the same moment

The Shot Rang Out.

the chairs were thrown down. I sprang to my feet. A shot struck me after the Austrian Legation was in the lower part of my body. Others abandoned. No sufficient reason has were fired at me. I saw the Minister's | been given for its abandonment, chair still standing, but there was which was done so precipitately no movement. One moment's hesita. that not an article was saved. tion would have been fatal. I ran, was left to the mercy of the Chinwounded as I was, fifty paces to the ese, and the guard retired to the north, and turned down the street | corner of Customs lane, leading west to the cast, a lively rifle fire following me. Looking back I saw the Min- ed the sacrifice of Sir Robert Hart's ister's chair still standing. There was no sign of life. Believing myself hastened the advance of the Chinto be in the street leading to the ese westward. As previously arrang-Tsung-Li-Yamen, I ran on, thinking ed, the American mission buildings to report what had happened, and perhaps find protection. But it was for they were quite untenable. Al not the street. Two men, armed with lances, pursued me, but, fearing I was armed, left me. Then I resolved Legation. Converts to the number to try and reach the American Mission buildings near the Hata Men Gate. Dripping with blood I dragged Chien Men. It was the work of "Box- | myself along, often down crowded streets filled with Chinese who witnessed my struggle without pity and eign drug store and do the foreigners | Without emotion, and without even a few pounds' worth of damage, they | replying to my question as to the did not hesitate to jeopardize by fire direction. I overheard one man re- lated for a siege were lost. property worth millions of pounds, mark, "A foreigner who has got his British Legation was now thronged. ing in the Hanlin peddler, more countrymen, gave me the direction, and in half an hour China, filled with priceless the murder of my Minister I reached ing at the entrance. My wounds were dressed and I was carried back to the sion. I affirm that the assassination of the German Minister was a deliberately planned, premeditated murder, done in obedience to the orders of the high Government officials by an Imperial bannerman. Such was the statement of Heinrich Cordes, the Chinese Secre-

tary. There was no more question about leaving for Tien-Tsin. The Chinese Story.

Later in the day the Yamen, evidently indifferent to the gravity of the position created by the Govern- Stores were commandeered. Shops ment, sent an impudent despatch to in Legation street were stripped. the German Legation to the effect | Sniping began and was not disconthat two Germans had been proceed- tinued till relief came. Late in the ing in chairs along the Hata Men evening Mr. Huberty James, the street, and at the mouth of the street leading to the Tsung-li-Ya- University, was killed. He had renmen one of them, had fired upon the dered great services, for it was crowd. The Chinese had retaliated and through his influence with Prince he had been killed.

They wished to know his name. No open for the Christian refugees. reply was sent, for it was felt to be a mockery. Only too well the Yamen knew whom they had murdered, him that Yung Lu had given him Weeks passed before the body was his word that no soldier would fire recovered, and it was not until July upon a foreigner, and he believed him 8th that any official reference was with the fatal confidence that was made to the murder. In the course his undoing. To cross from the Palof the morning a despatch was sent ace to the British Legation he to the Diplomatic Body in reply to the answer they had sent to ultimatum of yesterday. The try, it is said, between Pekin Tien-Tsin was overrun with brigands, and it would not be safe for the Ministers to go there. They should, therefore, remain in Pekin. It is difficult to write with calmness of the foul treachery with which the Chinese were now acting.

Chinese Open Fire.

Four p.m. was the hour given the ultimatum for the Ministers to

consisted of 18 officers and 389 men, To this insignificant force the entire carried the consecrated headpiece, "Boxers" were even now shot red- June I was sent to the Tsung-Li-Ya. defence. Fortunately several visitors and was armed with a sword. Round handed at their bloody work. But men by Baron Von Ketteler, as on or residents had received military from the diers on the wall witnessed the rescue; I had known for many years, was available rifles. They added greatly north of the city and the burning of they had with callous hearts witness. extremely nervous. There had been to the strength of the garrison, tak-

Thornhill's Roughs. There was also an irregular force missionaries and lay brothers, the sis- were wounded, many were burnt be- note in the evening to the Yamen ed with a variety of weapons, from of Christian refugees, estimated at loss of everything they possessed in Princes and Ministers of the Yamen chasse with a picture of the Grand 2,000, who had fled from the massacre the world. They were given quar- at 9 a. m. the following morning. Prix, to all of which carving knives to the Belgian Legation. The Aus- Among them was the aged mother the morning of the 20th, no word hav- Brigade." They were formidable alike trians, with their machine gun, com- and the nephew of Ching Chang, re- ing come from the Yamen that the to friend and foe. For, all unaccusthe north; the Italians, with a one- Chinese Commissioner to the Paris able to receive my Minister, Baron art-the most experienced of them pounder, commanded the Legation exhibition. The nephew was cruelly Von Ketteler, after the conference was he who had once witnessed the street to the east. The British with burnt; nearly every other member of with the other Ministers, and I set trooping of the color in St. James' bridge, the Russians were on the Catholic for seven generations-was officer and four men was ready to der, so that when they swung quick-South bridge, while the Americans thus almost exterminated and its accompany us, but the Baron decided by round the blade swept into the followed a little later by the Japan proof shelters for the women and that it was wiser to leave it he. throat of the man behind. Diversity ese, and subsequently by the Ger children. Rifle-fire also played on mand of Legation street to the west It was announced this day that hind, partly because the passage of language was another difficulty. mans, who recalled their post on the the Americans from the wall quite as far as the court facing the Im- only "Boxers" might enter the Im- through the streets of armed for- The opening of the wall on the southperial Palace. The Russians, having no perial City. The Government was rush- eign soldiers might arouse excitement, ern extremity of the British Lebut mainly because the Tsung-Li- gation was not a vital point. A sen-On June 16th a party of 20 British, Yamen knew that the Minister was try selected from the French members of the brigade was usually stawatch stopped here. "Sentinelle," he said, in his best Sandhurst French. | ed precipitately into the British Le- | came untenable, and to occupy t mouth to convey the correct accent, he raised his voice and repeated "Sentinelle," when a scared voice from the

the h-w that ?"

rounds.

Abandoned Buildings. Punctually, then, at 4 o'clock Chinese soldiers began firing upon us whom they had requested to remain in peace at Pekin. And immediately to the Prince's Palace. This involvand all the Customs buildings, and had been abandoned in the morning the missionaries, their wives and families crossed over to the British of several hundreds joined the other refugees. The captain and 20 Amer. ican marines returned to the American Legation. By an error of judgment on the part of the captain the mission was finally left in panic. Almost nothing was saved, within the limits of one compound, ed. Such desecration, Japanese and Italian Ministers and foreign community of Pekin. the exception of M. Chamot, who remained in his hotel throughout. though it was in the hottest corner of the besieged area.

When the Austrians withdrew from their Legation, the British picket on the North bridge retired to the main gate, where a redoubt was built and the Nordenfeldt mounted.

Preparing for Hostilities.

professor of English in the Pekin Su that the palace had been thrown He seemed to have a blind faith in the Chinese. Prince Su had assured went round by the North bridge, though he knew that the bridge had been evacuated. On the bridge he was fired at by a soldier at short range, ran back apparently unburt,

He Raised His Hands.

and was fired at from another quar-

shot into the canal, where volleys were fired into his body from the loreigner? water gate under the imperial city wall. The murder was seen from the British Legation. Desultory firing continued through the night. One Russian marine was shot dead through the forehead. In the morn-Legation from one of the captains in the relief column. Dated June 14, ual, chatty letter which gave no indication that in the opinion of the

fugees working like coolies. Sandwere burned.

Sir Claude in Command.

June 22nd opened disastrously. The American that the American Lega- the tion was abandoned, he, without taking steps to verify the information, ordered the abandonment of Russians, learning that all east of Canal street had been abandoned,

Saw Themselves Cut Off. though their communications had the street running east and west not even been menaced, and retreat- under the wall. The barricade be his gation. It was a veritable stam- wall was a paramount ne pede-a panic that might have which could no longer be delayed. been fraught with the great- Already, on the 22nd, the Ger est disaster. Prompt darkness replied, "Begorra! and what was taken. Captain Thomann was German Legation, thus cutting of relieved of his command, and Sir the Chinese troops from the Such were the effective forces, They stance of the French and Russian tain von Soden had patrolled inistors, subvequently con

with 120 all their colleagues, assumed the chief an American Colt with command. The French and Austri-Austrian ans reoccupied the French Legation. a British but the barricade in Customs street

Chinese Incend arism.

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It was obvious from the first that the great danger at the British Legation was not so much from riflefire as from incendiarism. for on three sides the compound was surrounded by Chinese buildings of a highly inflammable nature. Before time could be given to clear an open space round the Legation, the buildings to the rear of Mr. Cockburn's house were set on fire, and as the wind was blowing strongly towards us it seemed as if nothing could prevent the fire from bursting into the Legation. Water had to be used sparingly for the wells were lower than they had been for years, ye the flames had to be fought. Bull lets were whistling through the trees. Private Scadding, the first Englishman to fall, was killed while on watch on the stables near by. Men and women lined up and water was passed along in buckets to a small fire engine that was played upon the fire. Walls were broken through, trees hastily cut down, and desperate work saved the building. It was the first experience of intense excitement. Then the men set to with a will, and till late at night were demolishing the temple and buildings outside the wall of the Legation. Work was continued in the and nearly all the stores accumu- morning, but when it was proposed The to pull down an unimportant build-Rarely has a more cosmopolitan abuts upon the Legation to the gathering been gathered together | North, the proposition was veto-All the women and children were said, would wound the susceptibilithere, all the missionaries, Ameri- ties of the Chinese Government. It can, British, French and Russian, all was "the most sacred building in the Customs staff, the French, Bel- China." To lay hands upon it even to gian, Russian, American, Spanish, safeguard the lives of beleaguered women and children, could not be their families, the entire unofficial thought of for fear of wounding the susceptibilities of the Chinese Government! So little do the oldest of us

Chinese Fired it.

understand the Chinese.

A strong wind was blowing from the Hanlin into the Legation, the distance separating the nearest building from the Minister's residence being only a few feet. Fire the one and the Minister's residence would have been in danger. Suddenly there was an alarm of fire. Smoke was rising from the Hanlin. The most venerated pile in Pekin, the great Imperial Academy, centre of all Chinese learning, with ita priceless collection of books and manuscripts, was in flames. Every one who was off duty rushed to the back of the Legation. The Hanlin had been occupied during the night by Imper ial soldiers, who did not hesitate in their rage, to destroy foreigners, to set fire to the buildings. It was first the main pavilion with its superb pli lars and memorial tablets. Chinese were rushing from other burning were taken by surprise and many were killed, but they had done their evil deed. Other great libraries have been destroyed by the victorious invader. What can be thought of a nation which destroys its own most sacred edifice, the pride and glory of its learned men through centuries, in order to wreak vengeance upon the

Pulling Down Ruins.

To save the Legation it was neces sary to continue the destruction and dismantle the library buildings. With great difficulty, with inadequate tools, the buildings were pulled down. Trees endangering our position were felled An attempt was made to rescue specimens of the more valuable manuscripts, it was written from a point only but few were saved, for the danger 35 miles from Pekin. It was a cas- was pressing. Sir Claude MacDonald, as soon as the fire was discovered, despatched a messenger to the Tsung writer there was any need for hurry. | li-Yamen, telling them of the fire and At the British Legation fortifica- urging them to send some responsible tion began in real earnest, the ra- officials to carry away what volumes could be rescued, but no attention was bags were made by the thousand, given to his courteous communication. and posts mounted round the Lega- The Dutch Legation was burned on tion. A way was knocked through the 22nd, and next day Chinese solthe houses to the Russian Legation, diers set fire to the Russo-Chinese Bank so that the Americans, if they nad to | and a greater part of the buildings fall back, could pass through to were destroyed, involving in danger the British Legation. During the the American Legation. Chinese vol. day every Legation was exposed untee s were called for, They re pondto a continuous fire from surround- ed readily, worked with much courage ing house-tops, and in the case of exposed to fire from the wall, and the the British Legation from the cover | Legation was saved. All the buildings in the Imperial Carriage Park. Chin- back from the bank to the Chien Men ese put flames to the abandoned (the main gate between the Chinese buildings, and the Belgian Legation, and Tartar cities facing the entrance the Austrian Legation, the Metho- to the Forbidden City) seemed to be dist Mission and some private houses on fire. Then all the customs buildings were fired, so that flames were on ever side, and the smoke was tremendous, while the fusilade was incessant. An Italian and a German evening before Captain Thomann, died of their wounds. The first Amerthe Austrian commander, announced | ican was killed, shot from the wall; that as the senior officer he had then a Russian fell. They were droptaken command in Pekin. This morn- ping off one by one, and already we ing, hearing from an irresponsible were well accustomed to the sight of

Stretcher and the Funeral,

Then a new terror was added to all the Legations east of Canal | the fears of the besieged, for the Imstreet, the detachments to fall perial troops mounted a 3-in. Krups back upon the British Legation. gun on the Chien Men, the gate op-There had been no casualties to posite to the Forbidden City, and speak of, none of the Legations had began throwing segment shells from been attacked, and every commander | a distance of 1,000 yards into the who received the order to retreat crowded Legation. The first shell regarded the action as madness. struck the American Legation, oth-Peremptory orders were sent to the ers burst over the British com. Japanese to abandon the Prince's pound, while others crashed into the Palace or Fu (as I shall henceforth upper rooms of the German Legation. call it), and they retired to their It was known that the Chinese had Legation. In the British Legation | ten similar guns in Pekin, while we nothing was known of the order had nothing with which to answer when, to the amazement of all, the | their fire, and no one ever knew Italians, Austrians and French | where the next gun might be mountcame running down Legation street, ed. Immediately all hands dug bombwall and marched without a shot close to them at a distance of a few being fired at them down under the hundred feet only, whence, safely wall to Canal street. Americans and sheltered by the parapet of the wall men could enfilade the barricade which was held by the Americans on man barricade, advanced against action had occupied the wall east of the

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