we proceeded at a sharp canter. We had now arrived on the ground decided on for our camp. A narrow stream of water runs close up to the road from the eastward, an embankment or bund running at some twenty yards distant from it. This bund was lined with matchlock men, extending to the left as far as we could see. We rode a short distance along this bund. In front of it, at about one hundred yards distant, was a long line of cavalry skirmishers, extending the whole length of their position, which appeared a sort of semicircle. Mr Parkes asked some of the men where their General was, and was told he was many li distant. We held a consultation on the threatened appearance of affairs, and Mr Parkes at once ordered us to return to Tung-chow, and find out from the Prince of I the meaning of the Chinese force occupying our position, while I was to pass through their forces to give the General as early intimation as possible. Colonel Walker, with five King's Dragoon Guards and one sowar, was to remain on the embankment until either joined by Mr Parkes or he received orders from Sir Hope Grant to retire.

I met the army with Sir Hope Grant on the march, within half a mile after passing through the Chinese line of skirmishers. I informed him of the position of the Chinese army, and of the position of our party, and the course Mr Parkes had decided on following. Sir Hope Grant told me it would be necessary to occupy the ground as an advance post for our army, drive back any offered resistance; but that, if a shot was fired, he would capture Tung-chow. As the enemy's cavalry was moving round to our right, it was necessary to act as soon as possible, and to avoid giving him his opportunity of retreating.

We therefore set to work to encamp. Although somewhat surprised at our sudden appearance amongst them, they merely told us to go on to the road, where we joined Colonel Walker and the escort. We had now arrived on the ground decided on for our camp. A narrow stream of water runs close up to the road from the eastward, an embankment or bund running at some twenty yards distant from it. This bund was lined with matchlock men, extending to the left as far as we could see. We rode a short distance along this bund. In front of it, at about one hundred yards distant, was a long line of cavalry skirmishers, extending the whole length of their position, which appeared a sort of semicircle. Mr Parkes asked some of the men where their General was, and was told he was many li distant. We held a consultation on the threatened appearance of affairs, and Mr Parkes at once ordered us to return to Tung-chow, and find out from the Prince of I the meaning of the Chinese force occupying our position, while I was to pass through their forces to give the General as early intimation as possible. Colonel Walker, with five King's Dragoon Guards and one sowar, was to remain on the embankment until either joined by Mr Parkes or he received orders from Sir Hope Grant to retire.

Sir Hope Grant, commanding, one King's Dragoon Guards, and seventeen sowars, and myself—twenty-four in all. We proceeded at a sharp canter. After proceeding half way we took a wrong turn to the left, this however did not delay us five minutes, and in about eight minutes we reached a village, the streets of which place we found full of soldiers. As we cleared the town we heard the guns open, and saw the smoke of guns on both sides, at which time we were within half a mile of being clear of the Chinese line. As we went at a canter a body of cavalry, ranged up on either side, began blowing their matches, and getting their matchlocks, and bows and arrows ready. As this had rather the appearance of flight on our part, and as the cavalry might have opened a cross fire upon us at any moment, we halted to consult. The Chinese cavalry, about 300 in number, then drew up in front and on either flank, supported by a large body of infantry. They said, civilly enough, that as fire had opened, we could not pass through their lines without an order from their General, who was close by. We had to consider whether we should attempt to force our way through this body of men, and some 3,000 who were beyond them, and between us and our army, or act as this officer proposed, and go to the General, by which course we should not forfeit the protection of the flag of truce. Mr Parkes said he would go to the General, and asked me to accompany him; taking one sowar to carry the flag of truce, we galloped off in the direction indicated. As we turned to corner of a town we were met by a body of millet, which hid us from our escort, we found ourselves in front of about 150 infantry, who rushed forward with their matchlocks pointed, and had it not been for a Chinese officer, who knocked them down, we should have been captured.

These infantry were on the bank of the small stream I have before referred to, beyond which we saw several mandarins on horseback. We pushed through the infantry, and Mr Parkes addressed one, who he was informed was Prince Sang-ko-lin-sin, and asked for a safe pass for our flag of truce, but he only received abuse in reply. After a few words, Mr Parkes turned to me, and said—"I think we are prisoners." At that time we were surrounded by men, who seemed both our friends and our enemies. It was hopeless to resist, we dismounted, our arms were laid hold of and twisted behind us. In this position we were taken across the stream, over a bridge formed by a boat, and shoved down on our knees in front of Sang-ko-lin-sin. It was his custom to entertain all strangers with rice and a little hard bread rubbed in the dirt. Sang-ko-lin-sin spoke to Mr Parkes with much vehemence. He accused Mr Parkes of being the cause of all the difficulties that had arisen, and of the action that was now taking place. He then ordered our being taken to the Prince of I, and sent an officer to tell our escort to return to Chang-kia-wang. We listened anxiously for any firing or signs of resistance from that quarter, but heard none.

They were removed to a tent close by, where another General was seated; he treated us more civilly, and allowed us to sit down until the arrival of a cart. While waiting, two French prisoners, belonging to their Commissariat, were brought in from the front. The firing becoming much heavier, a message came for the General who we were with, and a cart was sent for us at the same time, into which all five of us were put, and, surrounded by an escort of some twenty men, were hurried into Tung-chow. The palace was given to our two hundred soldiers of the country, but that over the paved streets of Tung-chow was most painful to bear. The Prince of I having left the city, we followed him out of the Pekin gates.

Crowds of soldiers were hurrying into the streets, and we saw large camps on each side of the road.