

lowed us until within a hundred yards of the Han-yang gate.

We would also beg to assure you that the attack was entirely unprovoked on our part, we having neither by word nor action offered the slightest offence to any one, nor did we offer any but a passive resistance even when thus savagely assaulted. But we would at the same time bear testimony to the gallant behaviour of our guard of four soldiers, who, though unarmed, never left us, but afforded us all the protection within their power. Were this simply a personal matter, we should forbear to intrude it on your time and notice, but fear that in the absence of a remonstrance from you to the proper authorities, other unoffending British subjects may be subjected to similar ill-treatment.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) AND. S. DIXON.
EDWARD VINCENT.
F. RYRIE.
D. LAPRAIK.
R. E. BAKER.

W. R. Gingell, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

(Copy.)

SIR, Peking, July 2, 1862.

WITH reference to the assault, reported by you, on the party who visited Wu-chang-fu, I have to observe that although the Treaty does confer the right on Her Majesty's subjects of going freely about, it was not intended to relieve them from the exercise of discretion.

It appears that the party was treated with civility in the city itself, and that they then ascended the hill where some sort of examination was going on, and took upon themselves, without invitation, to enter the pavilion in which the Prefect was presiding. This was not a very courteous or proper proceeding, and certainly does not come within the scope of the facilities provided by the Treaty.

They were then attacked by the crowd, and fortunately escaped without serious injury.

I am sorry to see your insinuation that the attack was secretly prompted by the authorities. The facts stated do not seem to warrant it; the Prefect and his attendants did what they could, and the Chinese soldiers, as the sufferers very creditably admit, behaved well; and further, they were not molested in the town, whence, it appears the American party had shortly before been driven out.

I see no reason to doubt that the cause stated by the Mandarins is the real one. It is well known to every one in China that the authorities dread the examination periods, on account of the crowds of strangers who attend, and of the feeble means at their disposal to prevent the disorders to which they give rise. They are attended by a class who are generally ill-disposed to foreigners, and who are, no doubt, at present irritated by the proceedings which have led to the late outbreak against Roman Catholic Missionaries.

I therefore think that it would be well, during the examinations, to advise Her Majesty's subjects to avoid these crowds, for it is very difficult to obtain redress for such outrages; and the gratification of mere curiosity, and the assumption that there may be a scheme to curtail ultimately

the rights of foreigners, do not warrant us in disregarding a warning that in China is not *prima facie* unreasonable. For the maintenance of proper relations depends on meeting the authorities in a spirit of compromise when what they propose in view of the state of the country is reasonable, and in resisting them, firmly but temperately, when it is not.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. W. A. BRUCE.

W. R. Gingell, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Hankow.

(Copy.)

SIR, Peking, July 2, 1862.

IN reply to your Despatch, I have to state that I fully approve the arrangements made by you with reference to the British concession at Kiukiang.

I am very glad to receive so satisfactory an account of your port. Make it a rule to cultivate a good understanding with the authorities and people, and impress the necessity of pursuing the same course on the British community.

Where there are difficulties that you are unable to overcome, you must refer the case, after exhausting all amicable means, to Peking; but avoid, as much as possible, menace. As to calling in the aid of force Her Majesty's Government has reiterated its instructions that Her Majesty's Consuls are not to appeal to it except in cases where the lives of Her Majesty's subjects are threatened, or their property endangered by riots, &c. Abuse of authority by the Chinese, or delay in doing what we are entitled to demand, are not sufficient causes to warrant violent measures.

The effort is now to be made to settle such disputed questions through the intervention of the Imperial authority; and although the process may at first be slow and imperfect, it must be persevered in.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. W. A. BRUCE.

R. G. Forrest, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.,
Kiukiang.

Foreign-Office,

October 7, 1862.

SIR,

I HAVE received your Despatch of the 2d of July last, inclosing a correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul at Hankow, relative to an outrage recently committed on a party of foreigners at Woo-chang-foo, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in your views with regard to the discretion to be observed by British subjects who avail themselves of the facilities provided by treaty for visiting the Chinese cities, and they also approve the instructions which you have addressed to Mr Forrest with reference to the line of conduct to be observed by him at Kiukiang.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) RUSSELL.

The Hon. F. W. A. Bruce, C.B.,
&c., &c., &c.