

With the Tsing dynasty your nations have now a quarrel: you cannot have forgotten the battle at Tien-tsin. But our state, in at present carrying on a war, has no other object than to regain our own country. We are at enmity with the Tsing dynasty, but with foreign nations we have no quarrel.

Your countries attach much importance to open commerce and trade. Now the advantages to be obtained from us would be greater than those given by the Tsing dynasty, for, after the establishment of peaceful relations with us, unrestricted commerce might be carried on at all places without exception.

But the wild and fallacious nature of the communication which has reached us is such as renders it quite inexplicable. I must conclude that there is no consideration for the feeling that should make us of one mind, in virtue of our common religion, and that there is, it may be, an intention of seeking a quarrel.

For these reasons, I hereby issue a notification for the common information of the foreign nations

(at Shanghai). If you desire to carry on open commerce, in accordance with an agreement, you can at once come and consult on the terms of an agreement. If, however, it is your wish to make difficulties and to engage in hostilities, then my troops move as a flood, my commands go forth unchangeable as the hills, and we can only await the time when victory and defeat declare themselves. I trust that you will not bring sorrow on yourselves.

An earnest notification.

The 14th day of the seventh month of the tenth year of the heavenly kingdom of Taeping.

True Translation,

(Signed) THOMAS TAYLOR MEADOWS,
Consul.

(True Copies),

ROBERT BIDDULPH, Captain, R.A.,
Military Secretary.

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Four Price Pence.