

Received October 21, 1860.

THE Prince of Kung, Imperial Commissioner, makes a communication.

Upon the 6th instant (19th October), the Prince addressed a communication to the British Minister in reply to his Excellency's answer of the 4th instant, appointing the 10th of this moon (23rd October) as the day on which the Convention must positively be signed, and the [ratifications of the] Treaty of the 8th year (1858) exchanged. His Excellency's despatch, however, did not specify any hour on the 10th instant; and as the French are to sign and seal the Convention and exchange ratifications on the same day, unless an hour be fixed beforehand, the preliminary arrangements may possibly not be completed in time.

The Prince trusts, therefore, that the British Minister will specify the hour at which the Convention is to be signed, and the exchange of the ratifications effected, that he may direct officers to make the necessary preparations.

A necessary communication addressed to his Excellency the Earl of Elgin, at Hien-fung, 10th year, 9th moon, 8th day (21st October, 1860).

Received October 22, 1860.

THE Prince of Kung, Imperial Commissioner, makes a communication.

On receipt of the British Minister's despatch applying for the sum of 300,000 taels, to compensate [the suffering and losses] of the British officers and soldiers [made prisoners], the Prince wrote to say that he assented entirely, and he has this day sent officers to hand over that sum, in security of a good understanding between the two nations.

He trusts that the British Minister will have it duly taken over, and will write a reply acknowledging the receipt of this money, which reply can be handed to the officer sent with it, that he may bring it to the Prince, in token of good faith.

A necessary communication, addressed to his Excellency the Earl of Elgin, &c.

Hien-fung, 10th year, 9th moon, 9th day (22nd October, 1860).

Translated by
THOMAS WADE,
Chinese Secretary.

Earl of Elgin to Prince Kung.

THE undersigned Earl of Elgin, &c., has the honour to acknowledge the Prince of Kung's two despatches, of the 21st and the 22nd instant, and begs in reply to inform His Imperial Highness that as soon as the silver forwarded yesterday shall have been duly examined by the British and Chinese officers now about to commence inspection of it, the undersigned will enclose His Highness the receipt he requests.

The undersigned has further the honour to acquaint His Imperial Highness that he proposes signing the Convention, at the Court of the Board of Ceremonies, to-morrow, at two o'clock, and, immediately after its signature, exchanging the ratifications of the Treaty of 1858.

*British Embassy, Peking,
October 25, 1860.*

MY LORD,

GENERAL IGNATIEFF, the Representative of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia in this country, has had the great kindness to allow us to bury in the Russian cemetery our country-

men, who fell victims to the barbarity of the Chinese. Nothing could be more considerate than the manner in which this service was rendered to us. I enclose herewith the copy of a letter which I addressed to his Excellency on the subject, and I beg to assure your Lordship that I have not stated in that letter, as strongly as I feel it, my sense of the obligation under which I lie to General Ignatieff, for the course which he has followed ever since we have been brought together in the discharge of our official duties.

I enclose the copy of his Excellency's reply.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

*The Lord John Russell,
&c., &c., &c.*

*British Embassy, Peking,*MONSIEUR LE GENERAL, *October 17, 1860.*

PERMIT me to convey to your Excellency my very sincere thanks for the great favour which you have done to me, and to my countrymen, by permitting the British subjects, who have been barbarously murdered by the Chinese authorities, to find a last resting-place in the Russian cemetery.

Your secretary gave, I doubt not, a just expression to the sentiment which dictated this most considerate act, on your Excellency's part, when he said to me after the funeral, "to-day we look on this cemetery, not as Russian, or Greek, but Christian."

I cannot address your Excellency on this subject without availing myself of the opportunity to acknowledge the gratification and advantage I have derived from my intercourse with your Excellency ever since our official relations have brought us together. Without departing from the attitude which the instructions of your Government prescribed, you have throughout shown a legitimate sympathy in the success of the endeavours which we have been making to cause a semi-barbarous Government to respect the obligations of good faith in its dealings with other nations. For my own part, I have always derived benefit from your Excellency's opinion and knowledge on the subjects on which I have had the good fortune to converse with you.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.
His Excellency General Ignatieff.

MILORD, *Pékin, le 1^{er} Octobre, 1860.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir l'aimable lettre de votre Excellence du 5-17 Octobre.

En donnant à vos malheureux compatriotes, qui sont morts d'une manière si horrible entre les mains cruelles des Chinois, la triste hospitalité sur le cimetière de notre Mission, je n'ai fait que mon devoir de chrétien et de représentant d'une nation amie. Je n'ai suivi dans cette occasion, comme dans toutes les autres, que l'esprit des instructions de mon Gouvernement, qui dans un cas comme celui là ne voudrait jamais suivre une autre ligne de conduite.

Il va sans dire, Milord, et je n'ai certainement pas besoin des vous certifier expressément que les tombes des quatre Anglais qui gisent bien loin de leur patrie dans notre cimetière de Pékin seront religieusement gardées par notre mission ecclésiastique avec les mêmes soins que celle ci attache à la conservation des siennes.