

Quant à ce que votre lettre contient de personnel sur les rapports qui ont existés entre nous, je remercie votre Excellence pour tout ce qu'elle a bien voulu me dire d'obligeant et de flatteur.

Je me félicite d'avoir entretenu avec votre Excellence les relations les plus franches, et je ne puis à cette occasion que répéter ce que déjà j'ai eu l'honneur de vous dire: que toujours je serai enchanté d'être d'accord avec votre Excellence et d'avoir pu profiter de vos lumières et de votre expérience, dans les conversations intimes sur des sujets qui intéressent au plus haut point nos deux pays.

J'ai, &c.,

(Signé) N. IGNATIEFF.

A Son Excellence Le Comte d'Elgin,  
&c., &c., &c.

Camp before Peking,  
October 25, 1860.

MY LORD,  
I have the honour to inclose the copy of a letter which I addressed to Vice-Admiral Hope, in forwarding to him a copy of my note to Prince Kung of the 17th instant.

I inclose, likewise, a copy of Admiral Hope's reply.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

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

SIR, Before Peking, October 19, 1860.

I HAVE the honour to inclose for your Excellency's information, the copy of a communication which I addressed to the Prince of Kung, on the 17th instant, and in which, as you will observe, I have taking the liberty of referring to your Excellency.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

Ooromandel, at Tien-tsin,  
October 28, 1860.

MY LORD,  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th inst., and beg to assure your Excellency that whatever measures you may find it necessary to adopt will meet my best support.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. HOPE.

The Earl of Elgin,  
&c., &c., &c.

Camp before Peking,  
October 25, 1860.

MY LORD,  
I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a letter to Lieutenant-General Sir Hope Grant, in which I requested an escort to accompany me on the occasion of the signature of the Convention of Peking, and of the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty of Tien-tsin, together with a copy of Sir Hope Grant's reply.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

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

Camp before Peking,  
October 22, 1860.

SIR,

I HOPE that arrangements will be sufficiently advanced this evening to enable me to sign the Convention to-morrow.

The signature will take place at the Board of Ceremonies at about 2 P.M.

I think it advisable that I should be accompanied on this occasion by an escort of not less than 500 men, and I beg to know whether you will be prepared to furnish it.

I have, &c.,

ELGIN & KINCARDINE.

Sir J. Hope Grant, K.C.B.

Head-quarters,  
October 23, 1860.

MY LORD,  
IN reply to your Excellency's letter of this date, I have the honour to state that an escort of 500 men, as requested by your Lordship, will be ready to attend you into Peking to-morrow. The escort will be composed of 100 cavalry, and 400 infantry.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. HOPE GRANT.

The Earl of Elgin,  
&c., &c., &c.

British Embassy, Peking.  
25th October, 1860.

MY LORD,  
PRINCE KUNG'S communication to me, of which the translation was forwarded in my despatch to your Lordship, of the 13th inst., and of which I furnish a duplicate translation herewith, was by no means a satisfactory document. Although we were receiving, day by day, fresh evidence of the barbarous treatment which our fellow-countrymen, who had been illegally arrested, had experienced at the hands of the Chinese authorities, and although I had constantly stated in my letters to him, that I could not entertain proposals for the establishment of peace until they should have been restored, he makes in it no allusion to them at all; on the contrary, he refers somewhat flippantly to peace as already existing, complains of the advance of the army to the Palace of Yuen-Ming-Yuen, and endeavours to make conditions respecting the cession of the gate of the city, with the manifest intention of giving to that act the appearance of an arrangement entered into for mutual convenience, rather than of an absolute surrender. To have accepted such a communication as satisfactory, and as the basis on which an agreement for the final settlement of our differences with China might be built, would have been, in my judgment, to compromise the most important objects for which this costly expedition was undertaken. The people of China would have been ere long informed that we had been baffled by the defences of Peking. In the more secret councils of the Imperial Court it would have been argued that the arrest of the prisoners had been a successful measure, as it had in some degree at least, paralyzed our movements, and gratified the resentment of the Emperor, without entailing any specific penalty. Low as is the standard of morals which now obtains in China on such points, we should, in my opinion have still further lowered it, if we had not treated the act in question as a high crime calling for severe retribution.

Such being the convictions at which I had arrived after a full and anxious consideration of all