countries and usages. Instead of following the example set them by their authorities, and treating me with abuse or ridicule, they were seldom disrespectful, addressed me by my title, and often avoided putting me to inconvenience when it was in their power to do so. Most of them were men of the lowest class and the gravest order of offenders, as murderers, burglars, &c. Those who had no means of their own were reduced by prison filth and prison diet to a shocking state of emaciation and disease, but those who could afford to fee the jailors, and purchase such things as they wanted, lived in comparative fulness and comfort.

They explained to me that their prison system cost the Government nothing more than the pay of the jailors, and the supply of two bowls of boiled millet per day to each prisoner. All other expenses, such as water, lighting, fuel, tea, salt, vegetables for the prisoners, and good meals for the jailors, &c., are defrayed by some one among the prisoners who voluntarily undertakes the charge in redemption of a certain portion of his term of imprisonment.

The mandarins of the Board having ordered that I should be supplied with food that I could eat, my maintenance, which cost, as I was told, 1*s.* a-day, was carried to the charge of the man who held this position, but instead of taking a dislike to me on account of the increased expense which I occasioned him, he was one of the foremost in showing me kindness or consideration. My meals consisted of two meals a-day of boiled rice, or a kind of maccaroni seasoned with a very sparing allowance of meat or vegetables; also cakes or the bread of the country, and a little tea and tobacco.

In the prison roll which was hung up on the wall, I found myself returned as "a rebel," and that I was one of five, out of a total of seventy-three, who were ordered to wear the heaviest chains.

As I grew more intimate with the inmates of the prison, I cautiously endeavoured to obtain information from or through them of the movements of the allies, or the intentions of the Chinese authorities; but the jailers were always on the watch to prevent communication between me and the prisoners on these subjects, nor would they allow themselves to be drawn into conversation respecting them. Two of these men remained always beside me, both by day and night, and although they occasionally answered my inquiries respecting Mr. Loch and my fellow-prisoners, they defeated every endeavour I made to get a message or note conveyed to them.

On the 22nd September I was removed from the common prison to a separate ward about eight feet square, on the opposite side of the court, the four jailers appointed to watch me crossing at the same time, and putting up in the same little room. This was scarcely done when I received a visit from the Inspector of the prison, who, instead of making me kneel before him, as he had done on previous visits, desired me to be seated, and introduced another mandarin of small rank as his relief. The latter said he had come merely to pay me a friendly and a private visit, and to suggest in an equally private way whether I could not do something by writing a note of some kind, or in any way that I might suggest, to bring about a settlement of the present differences between our respective nations. I said that when two nations at war wanted to come to a friendly understanding, the first thing to be done was for one or the other to make overtures for peace; negotiations, either by writing or conference, would follow, and if these were carried out to the satisfaction of both parties peace would ensue. The difficulty in the present case was, that the Chinese had made prisoners of the very persons—although essentially non-combatants—who were required to conduct these conferences. Here I gave them a recital of my own story, but after hearing this they simply came back to their first proposal that I should suggest some mode of arrangement, and said they would shortly repeat their visit to hear what had occurred to me. They would give me no information as to the occurrences of the last five days.

Shortly after they had gone, the head jailor asked me if I knew a Mandarin named Hang-ki. He would like to see you, he said, but cannot come into the prison on account of the stench, and I do not see how you can be allowed to go out to him. I told the jailor to act as he pleased, and a few minutes afterwards Hang-ki entered. I have by me the following note of our conversation, which I succeeded in making shortly after he had left me:—

Note.—Hang-ki assumes a look of pity for my condition, though apparently without thinking that it is undeserved. He asks how matters are to be arranged, and I inquire for news. Skirmishes, he says, occasionally occur between San-ko-lin-sin and our troops, who have not yet passed Chang-kea-wan. The Prince of I and Muh-yin have been recalled to Pekin, and the Prince of Kung, a younger brother of the Emperor—a very able and amiable man—appointed in their place. Perhaps Kweiliang will be his colleague. How can negotiations be set on foot?

I say that they have increased their difficulties by their wrongful treatment of me and my party, by their violation of a flag of truce, and the rights of an envoy, and I also complain of the deceit practised in my case.

Hang-ki at first professes surprise at hostilities of the 18th. Had he known that these were going to occur, he would not have gone to see Lord Elgin. Came back because he thought Lord Elgin would not see him, and because he found Lord Elgin a long way off—— (Correcting himself)—Came back because the Baron de Meritens had told him that it was useless trying to see Lord Elgin before I had returned. The Prince of I had told him that I had been taken prisoner because it was war and not peace, and because I had admitted to him—Hang-ki—on the evening of the 17th of September, that we knew of the arrest several days previously, by our military, of the Prefect of Tien-tsin.

I reminded Hang-ki of all the business we had transacted together the same evening, as showing that the Prince of I had quite given me to believe that he considered hostilities at an end. Certain officers had been appointed to settle with me the position to be taken up by our force; other officers had been appointed to furnish supplies; a proclamation making known the cessation of hostilities had been agreed to, and was being printed under his (Hang-ki's) superintendence; and yet the Chinese attack our troops the next morning when proceeding to take up the ground agreed on, and seize me when engaged in the transaction of the above business. Either the Prince of I had grossly deceived me or Sang-ko-lin-sin had acted independently of the Prince. In a word, the Prince had either played false, or he had no powers over his own people. How could business be transacted with such Commissioners?

Hang-ki evades explanations, and suggests that I should write a letter, but to whom, or to what purpose, he does not seem to know. They want a letter, he says, that will bring about a settlement of affairs. I tell him that such a letter should come from them. He still presses me to write, but I decline to do so, as apart from the vagueness of the requisition, I can see that he has some con-