much suppressed excitement in the Yang-tse provinces.

The latest rumor from Shanghai regarding the foreigners in Pekin appears in the *Daily Mail*, the news being ascribed to the native interpreter of the British legation, who escaped to Newchang. He is represented as saying that Sir Robert Hart died on July 2, and when he (the interpreter) left Pekin, date unstated, a majority of the members of the legations were dead. The condition of the survivors was hopeless.

This report does not seem worthy of greater credence than others from similar sources.

The position in Manchuria is not very clear, but evidently serious fighting was going on at Blagovestchensk on Tuesday. A St. Petersburg despatch states that the most serious danger is now in central Manchuria, between Charbin and Telin, where the Russians and the railway guard are being attacked by 15,000 Chinese rebels and troops.

Gen. Gernigross has taken every precaution for the protection of Charbin and he will be able to hold it until reënforcements arrive. Besides the railway guards also all the refugees from the Liao-tong Peninsula, including the English and French missionaries and a number of Chinese Christians, are in Charbin.

The *Times's* correspondent at Tientsin says that the fighting there on July 13 and 14, conclusively proved that the Chinese are without a leader, and that they are unable to face disciplined troops.

Being provided with modern ordnance and defending a position of great strength they were able to inflict considerable loss on the allies, and while their retreat was open and they themselves fighting from cover they displayed energy and resource, although their marksmanship was of the poorest. In face of determined attack, however, they showed a complete absence of morale. The only fighting at close quarters was done by the Boxers.

BRUSSELS, July 25.—The Belgian Consul at Shanghai reports that Li Hung Chang declares that the Chinese Government is willing to guarantee the foreign Ministers at Pekin a safe journey to Tientsin.

ALLIES SCHEMING AT TIEN-TSIN.

Russians Claim Right to Control Railways—British Wanted This Concession.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 25.—A despatch from Tientsin of date of July 21, says the Russians express an intention to exercise control over the railway from Taku to Pekin until the cessation of hostilities, when, they say, they will restore the line to the Chinese. Vice-Admiral Seymour considers that the British should be the ones to undertake to repair the railroad beyond Tientsin. The French are endeavoring to obtain control of the river tugs, which, it is believed, they intend sharing with the Russians.

Another despatch from Tientsin of date of July 17, says Admiral Seymour made every effort to obtain control of the administration of the railway conjointly with the Americans, but failed. An outfit for installing the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy has arrived.

GERMANY'S CURT REPLY.

None of the Usual Diplomatic Flourishes in Answer to the Request for Mediation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

COLOGNE, July 25.—A despatch to the *Gazette* from Berlin says Count von Bülow's reply to the request of the Chinese Emperor for mediation only repeats the answers given by France and Japan to the same question. Its form, however, is exceedingly sharp and curt and it lacks all the usual flourishes of diplomatic politeness. The same answer would have been given had the Chinese note reached Berlin a week earlier.

It is regarded as significant that the dominant power in Pekin only decided to take this step after the Chinese defeat at Tientsin. It is evident, the correspondent says, that the Chinese will only bow to force.

HAD AN ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY.

Engineers and Missionaries From Wanyan-Fu Reach Shanghai—Two Killed on the Way.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 25.—Despatches from China state that Gen. Sir Alfred Gaselee, the commander of the British troops from India, arrived at Wei-Hai-Wei yesterday.

The engineers of the Pekin syndicate and the missionaries from Wanyan-Fu arrived at Shanghai on July 23 by way of Hankow. They had an adventurous journey, during which two members of the party were killed.

SEYMOUR ON THE YANG-TSE-KIANG.

To Make Arrangements for the Protection of Ports There.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 25.—A despatch from Chefoo of yesterday's date says Admiral Seymour left there on the torpedo boat destroyer Whiting and will proceed up the Yang-tse-Kiang with a view to making arrangements for the protection of open ports.

MASSACRES IN MANCHURIA.

Report That One Hundred French Missionaries Have Been Killed.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, July 25.—The French Consul at Shanghai has cabled M. Delcassé, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, that one hundred French missionaries have been killed in southern Manchuria.

WONT CALL ON LI HUNG CHANG.

French Consul at Shanghai Demands Trustworthy News From Pekin.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SHANGHAI, July 24.—The French Consul had an interview with Li Hung Chang to-day. The British Consul, Mr. Warren, declines to call on Earl Li until absolutely trustworthy news in regard to the foreigners at Pekin has been received.

ANOTHER TEST MESSAGE TO CONGER.

It Was Sent to Shanghai Through Minister Wu Ting-fang on Sunday Last.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—It was officially admitted to-day for the first time, although somewhat reluctantly, that a second attempt to communicate with Minister Conger through Chinese sources was being made. Secretary Hay's second message of inquiry was transmitted to Shanghai through Minister Wu on Sunday last. It was just nine days between the time Secretary Hay handed to Minister Wu his first telegram to Mr. Conger and the receipt here of the answer purporting to have come from the American representative in Pekin, so that if this period be used as a basis of calculation an answer to the second message may be expected on Tuesday, July 31.

As to the character of Secretary Hay's second message to Mr. Conger, no official information is obtainable, except that it was in cipher; but it is intimated that it provided for an arrangement by which the authenticity or the spuriousness of the answer could be determined. One suggestion is that it was sent in the complex Navy Department cipher. Lieut. Key, the Naval Attaché of the American legation in Pekin, is in Tokio, but if he left his cipher book at Pekin there may be some officer of the American legation who will be able to use it intelligently.

CHINESE REPORT NOT CREDITED.

Acting Viceroy at Canton Says Envoys Were Safe on July 22.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The State Department received a telegram to-day from Robert McWade, United States Consul at Canton, saying that Acting Viceroy Tak gave assurances that all the Ministers were alive and well on July 22.

This information is regarded officially as not being of any value in throwing light on the situation in Pekin, as it comes from a Chinese source.

CAPTURE OF TAKU FORTS.

WHY ADMIRAL KEMPFF DID NOT JOIN IN THE ATTACK.

Capt. Wise's Report of the Bombardment—He Regrets That the Monocacy Did Not Have a Last Chance With Her Ancient Smooth Bores—The Monocacy Hit by a Shell Which Tore the Bottom Out of Her Second Cutter—Admiral Kempff's Report of the Fight.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—Admiral Kempff's explanation of his conduct at Taku, before the arrival of Admiral Remey, with particular regard to his reasons for not taking part in the attack on the Chinese forts, is contained in the following report from him:

"U. S. FLAGSHIP NEWARK,
"TAKU, China, June 17, 1900.

"SIR: I would state what follows in regard to the happenings previous to the resolve yesterday by other senior foreign naval officers here to get possession of the Taku forts.

"On Thursday, June 14, Rear Admiral Bruce called and asked what I thought of the matter, and I informed him that I was not authorized to initiate any act of war with a country with whom my country was at peace; that my limit was to protect American interests, both by regulations and under recent instructions from both the Department and from the Commander-in-Chief of the United States naval force on the Asiatic station.

"On the 15th, at a consultation of the other foreign naval officers, it was agreed that the railroad station at Tongku should be taken (the railway is under Chinese Government control), and in case any Chinese Government force acted against the force of any foreign nation, all should be involved and act unitedly. Under my instructions, I could not join in taking possession of the Government property, and did not care to become a party to such an agreement without special authority.

"Yesterday, June 16, the same foreign naval officers signed a compact that it was necessary to take temporary possession of the Taku forts; and notice was served on the Viceroy at Tientsin and on the commandant of the forts. Consuls at Tientsin were informed of what was contemplated. I did not join in the attack on the forts. Capt. Wise of the Monocacy had orders to protect American interests, based upon Department's orders, but in case of attack by Chinese Government force he was to consider it as a declaration of war and act accordingly. Very respectfully,

"LOUIS KEMPFF,
"Rear Admiral U. S. N."

CAPT. WISE'S REPORT ON THE BOMBARDMENT.

"U. S. S. MONOCACY, 3D RATE.
"TONGKU, China, June 17, 1900.

"SIR: I have the honor to report upon the occurences since yesterday noon. I attended a meeting of officers at 6 P. M. on board the Borbora. I was shown the protocol and ultimatum as to the Taku forts. The signatures to the document were autographic, and, as yours was not appended, I informed the senior officer that he would have to leave the Monocacy out of the plans and places for vessels of the attacking forces.

"The first gun was fired at 12:45 A. M., and with the simultaneous discharge that followed two of the shots passed over the Monocacy, although she was out of the line of fire between the forts and vessels attacking. The Iltis did not leave her berth, which was a short distance from mine, until 1:30, and the Japanese did not leave hers during the bombardment.

"The fire was well sustained on both sides, and although shell continued at intervals to pass near me or burst short or beyond, I attributed it to a wild firing by the forts. About 2:30 I was standing on top of the pilot house by the Gatling. I had mounted there when I heard a shell approaching and then a crash. The second cutter, hanging at her davits a few feet below and behind me, had been struck by a shell. It entered her stern, tore out the bottom, and ranging diagonally across the ship, smashed the port forecastle ladder and passed through the ship's side, in which it left a clear-cut oval, two feet by ten inches. There were many men on the forward main deck, and it must have gone as close to some of them as it did to me. It fortunately missed the launch's davit, as that would have caused it to explode.

"It was difficult to make out how the allies were faring, but they were evidently closing in, as after 3 A. M. discharges from guns like Gatlings or Maxims were heard. At 4 there was a tremendous explosion and a mass of flame, which I attributed to a magazine in one of the forts.

"Toward 4 o'clock the bursting of a shell in my near vicinity increased to such an extent that it occurred to me that the forts might be directing some of their fire on the railroad station, as in this flat country it was a prominent mark and a number of Japanese and Russian troops were encamped around it. In such case the Monocacy would be in considerable danger from a fire which I had hitherto considered bad shooting. Acting upon the thought, I at once cast off rig. I steamed away from the bank, and went two miles up the river, anchoring at the first bend. This move was made at 4:50 and at 5:30, the fire slackening and a Japanese flag floating over one of the forts, I returned to my berth.

"I was able to render the following assistance: First, a party of thirty-seven ladies and children, refugees from the mission at Taku, who had fled hurriedly on notification of the bombardment. They came aboard last night at 9 P. M., and are still with me. Also came two officers of H. M. S. Barfleur, who had come down from Tientsin too late to get any English ship; third, as I was coming down river, at 6 A. M., an English torpedo boat towing a Chinese boat prize—I had no small boat to make a landing, so I sent the launch to run her line ashore, for which thanks have been returned. I have taken on board and had surgical attendance for the following: A Japanese soldier with a gunshot wound, a Chinese coolie found close to the ship with an arm torn off by a fragment of shell, a Russian soldier with a wound in the hand.

"This place is deserted by every one; no trains, no telegraphic communication on shore, but I had a 'phone from Mr. Pottengill, who reports all quiet since first disturbance. I know nothing of the fight except that the forts were taken. I feel a natural regret, shared no doubt by the officers, that duty and orders prevented the old Monocacy from giving her ancient smooth bores a last chance. Very respectfully, F. M. WISE,
"Commander United States Navy, Commanding.
"To the second in command, United States naval forces on Asiatic station."

ADMIRAL KEMPFF'S REPORT OF THE TAKING OF THE FORTS.

"U. S. FLAGSHIP NEWARK,
TAKU, China, June 18, 1900.

"SIR: I have the honor to report as follows: The commanding officers of the gunboats in the river met on the afternoon of June 16, and agreed for the senior officer of the gunboats to direct the movement. This officer happened to be a Russian. The positions for the various gunboats were then assigned, taking positions in the second 'reach' of the river above North Fort. The gunboats participating were the Korcetz, Gudiak, Bobr, Russian; Iltis, German; Lion, French; Algerine, English. The English torpedo boat destroyers Fame and Whiting joined in the latter part, after securing the captured torpedo boats near Tongku.

"The Japanese gunboat claimed that her engines were disabled, so she remained moored near Tongku and was assigned charge of the railroad station at that place. The United States ship Monocacy, being under orders, remained moored at Tongku and took no part in the action. Many foreigners were afforded shelter and protection during the night. Copy of the report of the commanding officer of the Monocacy is herewith inclosed.

"The vessels, except the Iltis, took their assigned positions early in the evening of the 16th inst. and at about 12:55 A. M., one hour before the expiration of the time limit, all the fort guns which could be trained on the ships fired simultaneously, many shots striking the Korcetz. The vessels returned the fire with a rapid fire from their guns, which, with the exception of the guns of 6-inch caliber, were all of smaller rapid fire type.

"The guns on the north fort were chiefly 4.7 inch, while the south fort has a number of guns from six to eight inches in caliber.

"The Algerine having aboard a landing party of some 350 men immediately put them ashore. A portion of them advanced through Taku to the navy yard, and took by surprise four new modern torpedo boats, carrying two tubes and six 3-pounders each, and, convoyed by the Fame and Whiting, took them to Tongku. The other landing parties and the remainder of the English, aggregating some 650 men, waited an opportune time for assault. The firing continued with more or less spirit until daylight, when it became very rapid and active and, it is reported, very disastrous to the Chinese. About 4:30 a shell entered the magazine of the Gudiak, blowing it up, causing her to take water and burning forty-seven men more or less severely. She got over an awning (as a collision mat) and after a few hour's work was floating at her normal height.

"At about 5 A. M. the gunboat, having silenced the northwest fort, a landing force charged and occupied it, where, hoisting the flag, in few casualties occurred, notably the Captain of the Japanese landing party and one English sailor killed and several wounded. The Chinese then abandoned the north fort, which is joined to the northwest fort by a protected passage. After about two hours more the south forts were taken, after the explosion of the magazine. Most of the occupants fled, but were not pursued. Some thirty or forty were found hiding in various parts of the fort. The various nations participating hoisted their flags on the various flagstaffs.

"The forts being of thick mud and grass were but little damaged by the gun fire, although they received a host of projectiles. The guns and gunshields, as a rule, were not damaged. Two or three of the modern guns were disabled. The dead Chinese were not counted, but it is estimated by eye-witnesses that some 200 dead were left in the fort.

"The loss on the side of the allied forces was, as nearly as possible, as follows:

"Algerine, one officer very badly injured, eight men wounded; Iltis, Captain very badly injured, three or four men killed, six or eight wounded; Koreetz, two officers badly injured, eight men dead, twelve wounded; Gullak, one officer badly wounded, eight men killed, ten wounded, forty-seven burned by explosion of powder room; Lion, one man killed, one badly wounded; other vessels engaged, injuries of minor importance.

"The above is an account gleaned from conversations with officers engaged, but may contain minor inaccuracies. During the engagement guns were turned on the Monocacy, which was out of the line of fire. She was struck (no casualties) and was forced to withdraw up the river. Very respectfully,

"LOUIS KEMPFF,
"Rear Admiral, U. S. N.

MINISTER WU FEARS MASSACRE.

He Thinks the Relief Force Should Not Start Until the Ministers Leave Pekin.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—"If the interview with Li Hung Chang is correct as reported in the morning papers," said Minister Wu to-day, "I am of the opinion that the relief expedition from Tientsin should be delayed until after the foreigners have left Pekin. The strength of the escort necessary to conduct them safely from Pekin to Tientsin depends entirely on the opposition they will meet en route. The greatest care should be taken by the allies to impress upon the Chinese the fact that they are not going to Pekin to destroy the city and kill the Chinese, but to rescue the imprisoned Ministers. Great danger lies in the probability that the Chinese will understand the first forward move to be one of warfare and destruction of their lives, homes and property. Should they get such an impression I fear they will redouble their efforts, and the Imperial Government will no longer be able to prevent the massacre of the foreigners. I would advise that the relief force should not set out until after the Ministers have left Pekin, and then only with the distinct announcement that they were to act merely as an escort to the Ministers. In dealing with Asiatics, Americans and Europeans should recognize the difference in their methods of thought. The Chinese think on almost opposite lines to Americans. What you might easily explain to your own people could not be explained in the same manner to the Chinese. The greatest danger, to my mind, is that of a possible misconstruction of the motives of the allies in proceeding toward Pekin."

ARTILLERY FOR CHINA.

Two Siege Batteries, Quick-Firing Field Guns and Automatic Machine Guns to Be Sent.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The Secretary of War is making special provision for a large artillery force for the Chinese expedition. When the expedition is completed it will be the most complete ever sent from the United States to a foreign port. It will be composed of every branch of the military service. There will be infantry and cavalry, light artillery, heavy artillery and siege guns and siege howitzers. A conference was held to-day between Gen. Buffinton, Chief of the Ordnance Bureau, and Secretary Root, in regard to sending additional siege batteries.

A cablegram to Gen. Chaffee, sent yesterday, requested information from him as to siege guns and at the same time gave him such information that leads the Secretary of War to believe that he will not stop at Chefoo on his way to the front, but will go direct to Taku on the Grant. Secretary Root said this afternoon that he did not know positively that Gen. Chaffee had received this despatch. He said that he had acknowledged all previous despatches, but not the one of yesterday, which is thought to show that he had already left Nagasaki for China when it arrived. It is expected that he will reach Taku some time on Friday. Acting by direction of Secretary Root he will immediately inform himself as to the situation in Tientsin and the condition of the country between Tientsin and Pekin as relating to an early advance on the Chinese capital.

All reports from China show that artillery and cavalry are much needed. Gen. Chaffee is expected to advise the War Department without delay as to how much artillery should be sent. Already orders have been issued for a large artillery force to go to China, but this will be enlarged should Gen. Chaffee indicate such a wish. There are two fully organized siege batteries in the United States. One is a gun battery, the other a howitzer battery. The latter is Battery O at Fort Riley, Kan., which has just been ordered to the front. In Manila there are other siege guns and howitzers. Whether Manila will be drawn upon for siege guns is the question now under consideration by the Secretary of War. There are a number of siege guns in the United States not formed into a battery or organized with a working force. These guns could easily be sent to China on the freight or animal ships leaving the Pacific Coast.

The howitzer battery is composed of four 7-inch howitzers, distinguished from the siege guns in that they throw a shell weighing 108 pounds in a curved line, while the siege guns fire a 45-pounder with great velocity in a horizontal line. It is the latter that would be used to batter down walls and heavy masonry. The howitzers could do remarkable service in destroying buildings, as, after bursting, they spread destruction for great distances.

In addition to the siege artillery, field artillery of every description is being prepared. Orders have been given for two batteries of 75-MM. quick-firing field guns on a non-recoil carriage. Each battery will have six guns, making in all twelve guns of this type. This gun is one of the latest productions of the Maxim company and can fire from eighteen to twenty-two shots a minute of projectiles weighing about twelve pounds.

Orders have also been placed for twelve 37-MM. "pompom" guns. It was this type of gun that the Boers used with such telling effect against the British in South Africa. It is practically an enlargement of the rifle caliber gun and fires a 1-pound bursting shell at the rate of about two hundred per minute. The gun is fed from an ammunition box on the right hand side of the rifle, which contains a belt holding twenty-five cartridges. It is called "pompom" by reason of the peculiar sound made by the gun in action. It is said to have a demoralizing effect on an opposing force, and the 1-pounder shell bursting in the ranks of soldiers, while not necessarily fatal, inflicts many wounds.

Automatic machine guns are also to go with the expedition. Fifty of these guns have been ordered from the Colt's Company, but as they have none ready for delivery immediately, the navy has consented to turn over to the army twelve guns of this type and receive them back from the army when the order has been filled. A new model Gatling machine gun has also been ordered. The machine guns are much needed for service in China, and while there is no provision for the formation of a special artillery brigade, men to handle all these guns will be taken from the ranks of the infantry. The machine guns fire cartridges of the same size as the service rifle, its rate of fire being between five and six hundred shots a minute.

This concludes the list of recent purchases by the Ordnance Department, but arrangements are being made to send additional field guns from the Philippines, where there are a number of the 3.2-inch field guns, 21 2-pounder Hotchkiss guns and a number of 12-pounders.

LIEUT.-COL. COOLIDGE'S DESPATCH.

Only Two Battalions of the Ninth Infantry in the Fight at Tientsin.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The following despatch from Lieut.-Col. Coolidge, commanding the Ninth Infantry, was received by Adjutant-General Corbin this morning, dated Tientsin, July 21, and Chefoo, July 25:

"The Ninth Infantry reached anchorage Gulf Pechili, July 6. Two battalions left ship under Col. Liscum by lighter and tugs up river to Tientsin, arriving morning July 11. Engaged in attack on Tientsin July 13, forming part of brigade under British General, Dorward. Third battalion disembarked July 12, arriving Tientsin July 13, too late to take part in attack.

"Tientsin captured July 14. City divided among Powers, the southeast quarter being assigned to American troops under Col. Meade, Marine Corps, for police and protection. Since then Powers have instituted a temporary government council, under Col. De Quavary, Russian; Lieut.-Col. Asks, Japanese, and Lieut.-Col. Bower, British, but it has not as yet gone into force. The American troops are still protecting their quarter. COOLIDGE."

Alleged Plot Against Chinese Legation in Paris.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 25.—A news agency despatch from Paris says the Secretary to the Chinese Minister to France has been informed of a plot to assassinate a member of the Chinese legation.

CONGER CALLS FOR RELIEF.

WRITTEN MESSAGE, DATED JULY 4, RECEIVED AT TIENTSIN.

It Says the British Legation Had Been Besieged Two Weeks, That There Was Grave Danger of General Massacre, and That Relief Must Come Soon if at All—No Doubt in Washington That the Message Is Genuine.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The following telegram from Capt. Thomas of the Brooklyn, who is commanding the United States naval force at Taku, was received by the Secretary of the Navy this morning:

"TAKU, July 23, and CHEFOO, July 24.

"*Bureau of Navigation, Washington:*

"Written message, signed 'Conger,' dated July 4, received at Tientsin on the 21st, says:

"'Been besieged two weeks in British legation. Grave danger of general massacre by Chinese soldiers, who are shelling legation daily. Relief soon if at all. City without government except by Chinese army. Determined to massacre all foreigners in Pekin. Entry of relief force into city will probably be hotly contested.'"

Not the slightest doubt is felt here that this message is genuine. Capt. Thomas says it was a "written" message, which would leave no doubt as to its authenticity. It was unquestionably addressed to the American Consul at Tientsin, who is, of course, familiar with the handwriting of the Minister and has revived the opinion that the July 18 message was an old one. This view is based on the apparent similarity between the information in the cipher despatch and that in the message received this morning through Capt. Thomas.

A suggestion that is accepted as exceedingly reasonable by officers is that Minister Conger probably sent out several messengers with identical despatches to make communication with the allies or their Governments more certain. "Undoubtedly he has done this," said one very high officer, whose opinion is worth noting. It is therefore not improbable that one of these messengers fell into the hands of the Chinese, who took from him the message in cipher, which was delivered to the Secretary of State on Friday morning by Minister Wu Ting-fang. This is regarded by conservative officers as one of the most reasonable, if not the most reasonable, of the host of suggestions and opinions that has been put forward since the despatch from Capt. Thomas was made public. It accords with Consul-General Goodnow's officially expressed belief that the Conger message of July 18 is genuine, but old.

The State Department authorities, in discussing the questions that have been raised against the July 18 message, have always come back to the fact that it was in the secret cipher of the Department. That cannot be explained in such a way as to point to Chinese deception, they hold, on any other ground than that the despatch was an old one, written by Mr. Conger, which fell into the hands of the anti-foreign Chinese, or that the Chinese have a copy of the State Department's code book. This last-mentioned contingency they regard as exceedingly improbable, but it is admitted that the first is exceedingly likely.

Surprise was expressed here this morning over Mr. Conger's statement that on July 4 the British legation had been besieged for two weeks. That would mean that the attack on the foreigners began on July 21. Later, however, it was recalled that Sir Robert Hart's couriers had brought word that the attacks had begun about the time mentioned, so that Mr. Conger's message really adds nothing to previous information in that respect.

Minister Wu Ting-fang was pleased to hear that another despatch had been received from Minister Conger, even if it was dated as far back as July 4. Although it seemed improbable that Mr. Conger would have sent a despatch on July 18 almost similar to that sent on July 4, which has just reached Tientsin, Mr. Wu does not doubt the authenticity of the alleged despatch of the latter date. On the contrary, he pointed out this morning that Wen Jin, under Secretary of the Tsung-li-Yamen, had visited the legationers on July 18, and it was on that occasion, doubtless, that the message from Secretary Hay to Mr. Conger had been delivered and the reply received. It is also presumed that Wen Jin spoke of the chances of mediation while on this visit to the beleaguered Ministers. Mr. Wu said he knew Wen Jin and Gen. Yung Lu, and had confidence in their honesty. He thought the Conger despatch and the MacCartney telegram confirmed the impression that the legationers were still safe and able to start under escort for Tientsin.

GEN. CHAFFEE AT NAGASAKI.

Now on His Way to Taku, Where He Is Expected to Arrive on Friday.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—Major-Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, with the Sixth Cavalry, has arrived at Nagasaki and has reported his arrival to the Secretary of War in the following despatch:

"NAGASAKI, July 25.—Transport arrived at this port on the 24th. All are well. Transport will leave this port on the 25th for Taku. I accept promotion to Major-General. Thank President for me for honor and his confidence.

"CHAFFEE."

From this despatch it will be seen that the Grant is now on her way to Taku, and according to the belief of the War Department officers will be able to reach Taku some time on Friday, as the voyage is considered one or two days.

GETTING READY TO GO TO CHINA.

One Troop of the Ninth Cavalry Reaches San Francisco—Filling Up Regiments.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25.—Troop H of the Ninth United States Cavalry arrived here today from Fort Wingate and proceeded to the Presidio to await transportation to China. The colored soldiers received hearty applause as they passed through the streets and their bravery on San Juan Hill was recalled.

The work of filling up the regiments of troops ordered to China is proceeding rapidly in preparation for the sailing of the transport Hancock on Saturday.

Battery E of the Third Artillery has been drawn upon for fifty men to fill vacancies in other batteries that are going to the front, as Battery E will remain here for service at Fort Point in caring for the guns at that post. Unassigned recruits, casuals and convalescents have been pressed into service. Seven members of the Ninth Infantry, who have been in the camp of the casuals at the Presidio, were today ordered to proceed on the Hancock to join the regiment now in China.

Assistant Surgeon Henry E. Wetherill has received orders to go to Seattle, where he will report to the commanding officer of the First Cavalry for duty with the squadrons of that troop that are going abroad. Assistant Surgeon Pinkston will go to Seattle for duty on the transport Athenian, which is to sail for the Philippines on Aug. 3.

Lieut.-Col. James M. Marshall, Deputy Quartermaster-General and chief quartermaster at department headquarters, will go to Salinas to-morrow to purchase horses for the cavalry. Horses are in great demand.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 25.—There has been a great rush in the Quartermaster's Department here during the past few days. Four large transports have been chartered by the Government, and negotiations are under way for four more, nearly all for the Orient. The transport Pak Ling is expected to arrive from San Francisco, and will be loaded with nearly 1,500 cavalry horses and mules for service in China. She will also carry a big consignment of hay and grain. The Klatuck, according to Quartermaster Robinson, should soon be here. She will be loaded with freight and army stores.

Two squadrons of the First United States Cavalry will soon be near Fort Lawton. Three troops have arrived, Troop K, from Fort Niobrara, Neb., and Troops A and C, from Fort Robinson, Neb. The remaining five troops expected are I, H and N, from headquarters, Fort Meade, S. D.; Troop M, from Yellowstone Park; B, from Fort McKinzie, Wis., and L, from Fort Logan, Col. The strength of the two squadrons is 870 men. They are scheduled to sail on July 28 on the transport Garonne.

Proof of the need of men for service in China is furnished by the appointment to-day by Gen. Shafter of a military board, which will probably release from imprisonment most of the 500 soldiers in Alcatraz prison who are guilty of minor offences. The Board consists of Capt. Alexander B. Dyer, Sixth Artillery, Chief Signal Officer in this department; Capt. Benjamin W. Atkinson, Sixth Infantry, and Acting Assistant Surgeon James B. Cutler. The board is to meet at Alcatraz Island to-morrow.

DANGER IN CENTRAL CHINA.

Missionaries Leave for Shanghai—Property Worth $200,000 May Be Destroyed.

Rumors that the anti-Christian movement had spread to central China were confirmed yesterday by a cablegram received by the Rev. Arthur S. Lloyd, General Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board of the Protestant Episcopal Church, from Bishop Graves, who is stationed at Shanghai. The despatch contained the information that matters were getting worse in the Yang-tse Valley and that the foreign and native missionaries had been recalled to Shanghai.

The Episcopal Church has twenty-four foreign missionaries and fifty-seven native helpers stationed at twenty different missions scattered throughout the provinces of Kiang-su, Kiangsi and Hupeh in central China, all of whom, according to the cablegram received from Bishop Graves, have been called to Shanghai. The women missionaries at these stations left for Japan two weeks ago. The withdrawal of the Episcopal missionaries leaves in danger of destruction by the Chinese mobs property to the value of $200,000.

The Presbyterian and Methodist missionaries in central China received instructions a week ago from their respective boards to leave their stations and seek safety near the coast, and it is supposed that they are all safe.

The Rev. Arthur J. Brown, one of the secretaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, received yesterday a letter from W. W. Rockhill, the recently appointed special envoy to China, in which he declined an invitation extended to him by the Presbyterian Board to meet its members in this city for the purpose of discussing missionary affairs in China. He gave as a reason that he had planned to leave Washington on Saturday, and will sail for China from San Francisco Aug. 3. He expressed an earnest desire to do everything in his power to see that the rights of the missionaries in China are protected.

DRIVEN TO BLACKMAIL.

Schechter's Wife Was Dying in Denver and He Wanted Money—Released.

John Schechter, 22 years old and sickly looking, came from Denver, Col., to New York two months ago upon the advice of a physician who told him that to improve his health he must get near the sea. He went to live at 41 Ludlow street and to work for a cigarmaker. In Denver he left his young wife, consumptive and apparently about to die. He had been here only a short time when he received from his wife a letter, saying that she was dying, declaring her anxiety to see him before her death and asking him to come to her. He was without money and among strangers. He cast about for means to go to his wife, but could find none. At last he selected Charles Schine of 42 West 129th street as the man who must give him the money he needed, and he sent to him, at his cigar manufactory at 342 Lenox avenue, this letter:

"I want you to send me $50 for I am in a desperate position and if you refuse to answer this at once and not keep this quite I will immediately inform the revenue officers of your continuous defrauding of the government with sufficient proof to convict you of your doeing. I have to go home at once and take this dishonorable means of getting there, for it is not any worse than you have been doeing for some time. I warn you not to refuse a man driven to desperation and answer at once or this will be your ruination. Will return it in 90 days. JOHN SCHECHTER,
"Station B, New York, N. Y."

Schine put the letter into the hands of the police and Schechter finally landed in Judge Foster's part of the Court of General Sessions, charged with attempted blackmail. He sent the letter in the latter part of June. Yesterday he pleaded guilty to the charge of attempted blackmail.

Meanwhile the news of Schechter's plight had reached Denver, and remarkable testimonials as to his good character were sent from there to the court here. Two rabbis, three real estate dealers and other worthy citizens of Denver wrote and begged for mercy. A firm of real estate dealers in this city engaged Hugh O. Pentecost to defend Schechter upon advice from a Denver firm of real estate men. Judge Foster lectured Schechter kindly and told him that he would allow him to go. His friends in Denver had raised $75 and Lawyer Pentecost said that he would send Schechter West at once. His wife is still alive.

LITTLE HOUSEKEEPER SET AFIRE.

Only One Person in a Big Tenement Responded to Her Shrieks for Help.

Ten-year-old Alice Geisler was left at home on the third floor of the five-story tenement house at 71 Eldridge street yesterday to cook the dinner. Ever since her father died, two months ago, and her mother took charge of his store at 54 Allen street, dinner-making has been the duty of this very little girl. In the midst of it yesterday the soup kettle tipped over, the stove was wrapped in flame and her skirts were on fire.

The little girl ran screaming into the hallway and the women tenants who saw her, instead of throwing a blanket about her, thought that the house was on fire and ran to the roof and the street with their own children. Only Samuel Cohen, a young butcher who lived on the floor below had the sense when he heard the child's cries, to go to the rescue. There was no water to be had, but he tore off the little girl's burning clothes and stamped out the fire. She is fearfully burned about the legs and body and will probably die. An ambulance came to take the child to Gouverneur Hospital, but her mother would not let her go. The family doctor dressed her burns.

When the fire was all over the tenants held an indignation meeting over the fact that there was no water in the house. For weeks they say, there has been none. The landlord has kept putting them off from week to week, and letters sent by one of the tenants to the Board of Health have not received any reply.

THE BOAT PUT BACK FOR BABY HAMM.

Found Slumbering Peacefully on Deck, He Was Returned to His Frantic Mother.

Mrs. Emma Hamm of Powers street and Graham avenue, Williamsburg, on Tuesday took her two children, Gracie and Frankie, 4 and 5 years old, respectively, to Glen Island. On the return in the evening the boy fell asleep on the upper deck. Mrs. Hamm forgot all about him, and when the steamer landed at the South Fifth street pier she disembarked, holding her daughter by one hand and carrying bundles in the other. When half way up the pier Mrs. Hamm suddenly thought of her boy. She dropped her bundles, let go of her daughter and ran screaming down to the bulkhead.

"Frankie! Frankie! Where are you?" she cried.

The steamer had been cast loose from the pier and was going to its next stopping place. Mrs. Hamm didn't stop running until she reached the end of the pier, and she would have leaped into the river if Policeman Cavanagh and Roundsman Halloran hadn't caught her.

"I want my boy!" she screamed.

Capt. Hunter, the commander of the steamer, the Howard Carroll, got the impression that something had happened, and he had the boat stopped. Deckhands searched the steamer and found the child slumbering where Mrs. Hamm had left him. The boat returned to the dock, and when Mrs. Hamm had her boy in her arms again she nearly fainted from joy.

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SOLDIERS OF THE 5TH HERE

BROUGHT UP FROM CUBA ON THE TRANSPORT RAWLINS.

Not Quite Five Days From Havana—Bound for Fort Sheridan—Delayed by Baggage and Held Up at Hoboken All Night—All Showed Remarkable Appetite for Pie.

The transport Rawlins arrived at Quarantine yesterday morning from Santiago with a battalion of the Fifth United States Infantry as its contribution to the army that is being prepared for duty in China, if occasion shall arise for the use of more troops in the East than have already started from San Francisco. The Fifth Infantry has been at Santiago and in the nearby towns. Its ranks are fairly well filled, because a large number of recruits were recently sent to the regiment. The destination of the battalion now is Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, where one battalion of the regiment is already waiting for the others. The third battalion is still in Cuba, in El Caney, and other towns near Santiago.

The Rawlins was held in quarantine until 4 o'clock in the afternoon because she had not been quite five days from her last port, which was Havana. The soldiers were rather disgusted that she did not travel faster. They congratulated themselves that they were on an ocean flyer when they first left Santiago, for the Rawlins rushed up the coast at a rate very nearly 17 knots an hour. The boys knew that they would be held in Quarantine if they arrived in less than five days, but they liked "to see the old girl hump herself," to adopt their own discourteous phrase. Once in Quarantine they hung over the ship's sides and waved their hats at everything that floated within reach of them. They fairly danced in their wild desire to get ashore.

On their way up to the city the soldiers extended the warmest of greetings to the Staten Island ferryboats and the Long Branch steamers that passed them. One proud father on a ferryboat held up a small boy who was dressed in what seemed to be his first pair of trousers so that he could see the soldiers over the heads of the other passengers on the ferryboat's deck. The trousers were made of white duck, and the boy had on one of those wide-brimmed, queerly crowned hats with a red bandana around it that are conspicuous an eighth of a mile away. The soldiers along the transport's rail began to punch one another and point to the boy, who took off the big hat and waved it. A big soldier with sergeant's chevrons on his sleeves leaned far out over the rail and shouted: "Three cheers for the kid."

The general roar of shouting became organized into three great cheers that must have been heard on both sides of the bay. The father explained to the boy that the soldiers were cheering him, and if one curly-headed youngster has not been spoiled for all time it is not the fault of the First Battalion of the Fifteenth United States Infantry.

The transport went straight to the docks of the Lackawanna Railroad, Hoboken. Two long trains of tourist and Pullman cars had been pulled down on the pier just below the ferry slip. The Rawlins was warped into this pier. Major Chance put Lieut. Davis over a guard that was stationed along the ship's side and at the ends of the pier. The major had some idea of the ambition