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It will be remembered that on the 9th October 1856 a party of Chinese executives in charge of an Officer, boarded the *Lorcha Arrow*, a vessel registered under an ordinance passed at Hong Kong eighteen months before, tore down the flag, and carried away the Chinese crew refusing to listen to the remonstrances of the master, or of the Consul, and insisting that the vessel was not British, but Chinese. Her papers were at the time in the Consulate but her register had expired more than a month before. Still Mr Parkes maintained that she was entitled to protection under clause 10 of the ordinance, she not having been in the waters of the Colony since the date of the expiry of the register. Mr Parkes at once wrote to the Imperial Commissioner, Yeh, complaining of the outrage, and offering to investigate any charge that might be brought against the persons seized. He also acquainted Sir John Bowring and Commodore Elliot, the senior naval officer at hand, with the particulars of the case. In the correspondence that ensued, Yeh refused to admit to Mr Parkes that the *Lorcha* was British, and maintained that some of

the crew were pirates. He offered
 to return nine men. Mr Parker,
 however, was instructed to demand
 an apology in writing, from Yeh
 the return of the Chinese arrested
 to their ship - and their delivery
 to the authorities, if delivered by,
 and through, the Consul. Yeh persisted
 in his reply that the Lorch was
 not foreign property, had no flag
 flying, promised that Chinese officers
 should not seize foreign Lorchas
 and urged that foreigners should
 not sell registers to Chinese subjects
 building vessels. Meanwhile Sir John
 Bowring had threatened the Com-
 missioner with an application to
 the naval authorities; and a junk,
 supposed to be an Imperial junk,
 but afterwards found to be a Merchant
 vessel, was seized by way of
 reprisal, and released. On the
 15th October Mr Parker informed
 Yeh of this seizure, also that
 a naval force was at the Barrier
 Forts. On the 21st instant Mr Parker
 under instructions advised Yeh
 that unless the requisition made
 was complied with, within
 twenty four hours, ulterior
 measures would be adopted.

In consequence of this threat
 an hour before the expiry of the
 term, the twelve men were sent
 to the Consulate, but without

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an officer of rank, or any letter of apology. Mr Parkes wrote again to Jeh. Nothing resulting he circulated among the foreign Community the letter containing the ultimatum of the 21st. The same day Jeh had written repeating his former arguments, and remonstrating against the seizure of the Merchant Junk. On the 22nd Mr Parkes replied to this as before, and in the evening warned the Community by circular that the question was now in the hands of Her Majesty's Senior Naval Officer. Correspondence to the same effect passed between Jeh and Sir John Bowring. It had in the mean time been decided by Sir John Bowring in consultation with Admiral Seymour that "the most judicious measure of compulsion" to be adopted would be "the seizure of the defences of the City of Canton". In pursuance of this policy on 23rd October Admiral Seymour took possession of the four Barrier Forts, Blenheim Fort, and Macao Fort without loss, and scarce a semblance of resistance; and through the Consul, advised Jeh of his arrival and intimation to continue hostile proceedings against the defences

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public buildings, and Government vessels, until reparation should be made for the wrong done. His Excellency's reply, says the Admiral "was very unsatisfactory". On the following day the Bird's Nest and Shamoen Forts were taken, without any opposition, and preparations were made for the defence of the Factories, which were garrisoned: a body of American officers, seamen, and marines, provided for the interests of the American community.

On the 25th the Island and Fort of Dutch Tolly were taken and occupied without opposition. This act completed the series of operations upon the efficacy of which the civil and military authorities had to all appearance, confidently relied; but the result was as far from being attained as ever. The Admiral writes; - "14th November 1854. - All defence of the City being now in our hands, I considered the High Commissioner would see the necessity of submission; and I directed Mr Parker to write and state, that when his Excellency should be prepared to arrange the points in dispute in a satisfactory manner, I would desist from further operations; but the reply did not answer my expectations."

So far from anything like submission it appears that an attack was made at 12.30 by a body of troops, supported by a much larger force which occupied the streets in the rear. Mr Consul Parkes was on the spot at the time, and warned them to retire but ineffectually. The guards of Royal Marines in charge of Captain Purrose then drove them back, with a loss, as we understand of fourteen killed and wounded. The next day Peh closed the Chinese Custom House.

Such were the steps taken and ~~without~~ without violent measures resorted to, in the vain attempt to induce the Imperial Commissioner to make the "amende honorable." His power to resist even this trifling demand was now proved beyond a doubt. Our inability to enforce it had been no less unmistakably manifested; — never the less another letter to Peh was despatched on the 29th by the Admiral, who thus alludes to it: "I concur in opinion with Sir John Bowring, that this was a fitting opportunity for requiring the fulfilment of long-evaded treaty obligations, and I therefore, in addition to the original demands, instructed Mr Parkes to make the following communication"

美惠心算集

丁口一節事件之圖式記事