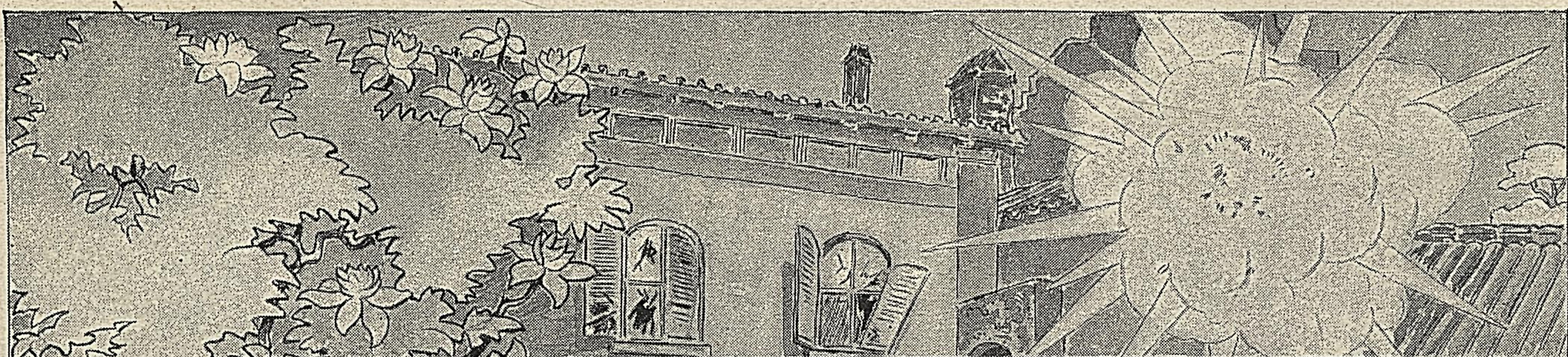




nothing save the jeers and insults of hordes of Chinese soldiers. On the same afternoon the Secretary of the Japanese Legation, Sugiyama, was murdered, and his body terribly mutilated by these same soldiers rejoicing over the news of Seymour's defeat. The body was never recovered, but the heart is said to have been sent as a trophy to General Tung-fuh-siang, in command of the Empress's favorite bodyguard.

On June 12th telegraphic communication with the outside world was cut off, and the awful two months of isolation which lay before the foreign colony of Peking began.

On the night of June 12th fires, which were started for the destruction of European shops and schools, spread to the richest quarters of Peking, lapping up untold wealth in stuffs and art and literary treasures. The cries of the burned and tortured Christians all over the city were heart-breaking to hear. All the foreign missionary buildings were burned on this night, as was also one of the great Catholic cathedrals. Rescue parties, composed of legation guards, were sent out to all parts of the city on June 15th. They were witnesses of horrors which can never be described. Women and children among the converts were hacked to pieces, and men were trussed like fowls, with ears cut off and eyes gouged out. At sight of the foreign soldiers women and children by hundreds came out of hiding, falling on their knees and crossing themselves, and prayed the soldiers to save them. More than 1,200 were thus rescued. Thousands of Imperial soldiers in full uniform stood by and saw the most awful atrocities committed, nor raised a hand to save. During the nights of June 13th and 14th Duke Lan, uncle to the heir-apparent, and Chao-Shu-Chiao, of the Tsung-li Yamen, rode through the streets in their carts to gloat over the work in hand.

In response to the complaints of the diplomats the government replied that the disturbances had been caused by local banditti who would soon be quelled; they assured the foreigners that "the tender care of the throne for the men from afar" would protect them. In spite of this tender care the foreigners continued their work of fortification and intrenchment.

On June 19th news must have reached the government of the taking of the Taku forts, for with characteristic perversion of truth they informed the foreigners, in an official communication, that "as

