



the allied fleet has announced its intention of bombarding Taku, the whole situation has changed, and even in our affection we can no longer protect you, and must ask that you leave Peking under our protection within twenty-four hours." After much debate, and in spite of the appeals of the British Minister that the corps stay and protect the thousands of native Christians who had trusted the foreigner and believed in his good faith, they voted to accept the escort offered by the Yamen, but asked for more time in which to depart. The American Minister spent the whole night in packing his effects to be ready. On the morning of June 20th, no reply granting an extension of time being received, it was proposed at a meeting of ministers that they go to the Tsung-li Yamen for an answer. Fortunately this was voted down, for when, later, Baron von Ketteler, the German Minister, set out on his own responsibility, he was foully murdered in his chair in the street. Accompanied by a Chinese secretary and servants, all of whom have told the story, he was shot in his chair by an Imperial bannerman. The soldier thrust his rifle into the window and fired only one shot. The minister was not armed. His servants took to their heels undisturbed, although they were the much-hated converts. The soldier knew whom he was sent to kill, and did the work. The murder was committed at the very door of a police station in sight of the officers. Every one seeing the servants and the chair knew who the minister was, yet the police sent an impudent message to the German Legation, saying that a stray German had committed a disturbance in the street and had been killed—did they know who he was? Shortly after this the Tsung-li Yamen sent word that the foreigners need not leave at four o'clock, the appointed hour, as the road to Tien-tsin was not safe. Precisely at four o'clock the first firing directly on the legations opened up, and the siege proper began.

In the guard of 18 officers and 389 men, the American contingent consisted of Captain Myers commanding, Captain Hall, Surgeon Lippett, and 53 marines from the "Newark." Secretary Squiers of the American Legation, formerly an officer in the United States cavalry, served also with distinction as an aide to Sir Claude Macdonald, the British Minister and commander of all the forces.

