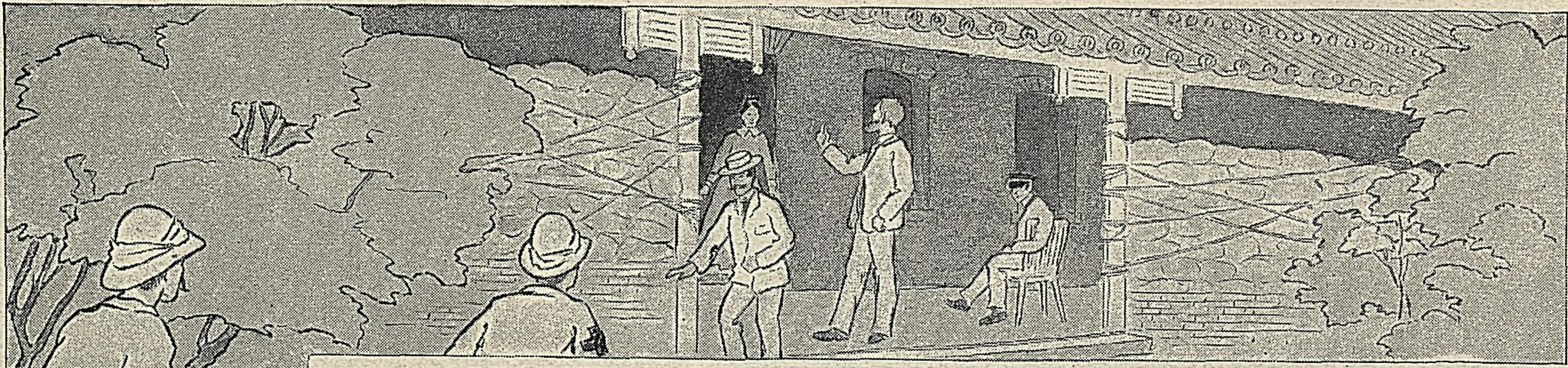




his great tragi-comedies with Chamot for a hero. For this gallant Frenchman fought as well as he cooked, and he did both incessantly. He killed his own mules and cooked them; he ground his own wheat, and baked 300 loaves of bread a day, feeding all of the troops and many of the native refugees. When the fierce bombardment drove him out of his kitchen, which the shells crushed in, he cheerfully moved into his parlor and continued his cooking. Meanwhile he was the life of the place, and spent every spare moment behind the barricades.

Glasses showed plainly that the officers on the walls commanding the batteries, which poured their fire on the legations, were in full uniform, with mandarin hats and peacock feathers all complete. Three batteries of Krupp guns were mounted on the walls of the Imperial Forbidden City itself, whence the Empress Dowager from her gardens, surrounded by her Court, could see round after round of shot fired at a compound crowded with defenceless women and children. Yet at this very time the Chinese Minister in London was assuring Lord Salisbury that "effective protection was being given to the British Legation." The enemy was encroaching gradually on all sides. July 11th was a day of terrible fatality among the besieged. The French Minister, M. Pichon, one of whose titles is *Protecteur des Missions Catholiques en Chine*, gave up hope, and dramatically exclaiming, "Tout est perdu," made a bonfire of his archives in a convenient ditch. On July 13th a dull roar in the midst of shots and devilish shrieks announced the explosion of a mine under the French Legation. French Captain Darcy and the Austrian *Chargé d'Affaires* were buried up to their necks in the wreckage, but were unhurt. Two French marines were killed.

The first communication from the outside world reached the legations on July 14th in the shape of a communication signed "Prince Ching and others." It was the first of many ingenious attempts to get the foreigners to leave their fortified stronghold and trust to the tender protection of the throne *en route* to Tien-tsin, at the same time delivering the native converts over to their bloodthirsty butchers. It subsequently transpired that on this day Tien-tsin had fallen. This offer and subsequent ones were refused with scorn. Two days later another messenger came with a communi-

