

**THE TIENTSIN MASSACRE, THE  
CAUSES OF THE LATE  
DISTURBANCES IN CHINA AND  
HOW TO SECURE PERMANENT  
PEACE**

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The Tientsin Massacre, the Causes of the Late Disturbances in China and How to Secure Permanent Peace by George Thin

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**GEORGE THIN**

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**THE TIENTSIN MASSACRE**



## P R E F A C E.

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I REGRET that the circumstances under which this little book has been written, have compelled me to write so briefly of the many important subjects on which it has been necessary to touch. Especially I regret having been able to devote so little space to the consideration of the extension of the sale of English manufactured goods in China, as I find—from a review in 'Fraser's Magazine' of a book entitled 'Home Politics, or the Growth of Trade considered in Relation to Labour, Pauperism, and Emigration'—that new markets are more imperatively demanded for English

manufactures than I had supposed. If a market more than sufficient to satisfy the present want is not found in China, the English people can only blame their Government, which refuses to give them free access to a population ten times larger than that of Great Britain and Ireland, the exigencies of whose climate (unlike that of Egypt or India, where our trade is already so large for cotton goods) require them to wear as much clothing as we do in England; where there is as yet no machinery to make us fear the competition of native products; where—thanks to the Suez Canal—we can now put down, at a small cost, manufactured cloth within two months after it has left the mill; and where, to pay for our goods, there is an unexhausted and inexhaustible supply of tea, silk, and mineral wealth.

The present crisis gives an opportunity, which may not soon occur again, of opening




up this source of wealth; and in case too much is expected from the co-operation of other European Governments, it is necessary to bear in mind that this great inducement exists for England alone.

While these pages have been passing through the press, there have been telegrams from China; but they show the situation of things to be unchanged. The latest telegram is dated Tientsin, October 3, and announces that ten Mandarins had been transported (that is, sent to another part of China, where they will be made heroes and martyrs of), fifteen ringleaders beheaded, and that a Mission was preparing for Paris. There never was much doubt about the readiness of the Mandarins to behead any number of the mob. It was necessary that some of these poor wretches should be beheaded; but fifteen is quite enough, and I hope foreign Governments will not ask for the death of any more of these ignorant

victims of Mandarin treachery. But a public execution of the guilty Mandarins is indispensable—not for vengeance, but for security. My letters from Shanghai by the last mail continue to express great fear of what may happen in the winter if this retribution is not speedily exacted. There seems no reason yet to hope that they will be given up without a resort to force.

The "Mission to Paris" means a few Chinamen under the escort of one or two highly-paid Europeans, who will do all they can for the Chinese, and be faithful, as Europeans usually are, to those whose salt they eat. If their proposals are made public, and subjected to criticism, and nothing is done precipitately, no harm can come of the Mission.

A writer in the 'Times,' over the signature "Alpha"—who betrays his identity by his denunciation of the "aggressiveness" of foreigners and his dislike of French



missionaries, as well as by the necessity he was under to write a second letter to explain his first, which could not have been very clear when it was misunderstood by the editor of the 'Times'—insinuates that the responsibility of the mischievous delay on the part of Mr Wade lies with the Home Government, whose instructions were too clear to be broken through. But who is responsible for the convictions of the Home Government that produced these instructions?—and who recommended Mr Burlingame's mission to Lord Clarendon? "Alpha" should remember that it is there that the responsibility lies, and not with the too trusting Government, which could only believe according to its information.

EDINBURGH, *October 21, 1870.*