

An Official Nepali Account Of The Nepal-China War¹

King Ran Bahadur Shah's Letter To Officials Sent For The Conquest Of Kumaun Garhwal

To Kaji Jagajit Pande, Sardar Ambar Singh Thapa and Captain Golyan Khawas, Greetings.

All is well here. We want good news there. We received your letter and noted its contents. The news here is good. You have reported that when the enemy came and encamped at Koudya, many (of our troops) stayed there to resist the advance, and that when Ambar Singh Thapa went there for assistance along with additional troops, the enemy was repulsed with heavy loss of life. We have read the message. You have won the battle. The letter appears to have been written in Falgun (commencing February 13). It reached here on the 8th of Aswin (September 23).

Recently, no (letter) has come from there.

When the Chinese troops reached Dhaibung, the morale of our troops went down. We were faced with the problem of saving the country and of repulsing the enemy by maintaining troops on two fronts. This was the reason why the paid soldiers, musketeers (Tilanga) and shield bearers accompanying you had to be dismissed. There was justice in some cases and injustice in others. Yet we shall grant paddy to some and cash to others. Nobody should therefore feel dejected. We shall act with prudence. Let everybody know this and remain loyal and satisfied.

When the enemy was only at one day's distance from Kathmandu, we checked him where possible and negotiated where this was to our interest. We then wrote to you about what had happened here and asked you to come post-haste. By the grace of (the Goddess) we faced the enemy by means of strength and tactics and repulsed him, maintaining the country independent as usual.

There also you have repulsed the enemy and retained hold over the conquered territory. Now that arrangements have been completed here, we shall have to maintain only one front there. This territory has accrued to us through our good fortune. Do not therefore abandon it. Though, because of the happening here, we could not render necessary assistance, yet now we shall do so.

1. Dhana Bajra Bajracharya and Gnyan Mani Nepal, Aitihasik Patra Sangraha. (A Collection of Historical Letters), Kathmandu: Nepal Samskritik Parishad, 2014 (1957), pp. 56-74.

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The letter written by Devanidhi Pant reached here after 40 days. He has written that the troops of the king of Sirmur were stationed at Langurgarh for rendering assistance, but went back when the king of Garhwal failed to pay the promised money. With the advice of the Nawab, a meeting was arranged at the Alakhnanda and a treaty was negotiated. The settlement was made that the territory across the Yamuna should belong to Sirmur, while that on this side should accrue to Gorkha. After making this treaty, the king went back. Srinagar came under the suzerainty of Gorkha. This is what was contained in that letter.

The same news has been communicated also by a few other people living in ... (words missing). No news has arrived from there, but we have taken this report to be true. We are glad that you have done well. So far as future plans are concerned, we have sent Kalu Pande and Bhagu Khawas there. Let them stay there along with their two regiments, as well as Jog Malla and Bhakti Thapa. Appoint a Subba in that new territory along with necessary troops to look after it, and Sardars, Subbas, Umraos and Subedars as considered necessary by Kaji Jagajit Pande. Those who receive orders from the Kaji shall obey them or else be considered rebels, and those who obey them shall be considered loyal. After making necessary arrangements there, Jagajit Pande should come here, accompanied by the necessary number of men. The Pajani² has to be held early, so come as soon as you get this royal order.

We have already informed you how our army came back after reaching Digarcha. The subsequent developments are as follows.

When the news of the plunder of Digarcha and the capture of the Tibetan Kajis reached China, the Chinese Emperor sent his General, his son-in-law Tung Thang, Chan Chun, Hai Kun, and other Ambas and Sardars, and the Chinese Sok Yogya Corumba Khamba, with troops, to Lhasa towards the end of Falgun (mid-March).

From Lhasa they sent a few letters for concluding a treaty, and demanded that we should give them back Syamarpa Lama, who had sought our refuge, and Dhurin Kaji and Ito Kaji of Lhasa, who had been detained by us. But we refused to give up those who had sought our succor, from considerations of virtue.

Thereupon General Tung Thang advanced with his army and on Thursday, Ashadh Sudi 2, overpowered our Chhutte outpost at Kukurghat. To the Sardar of our troops at Kerung also came the news that one outpost was still in our possession. At this, Sardar Shatru Bhanjan Malla, accompanied by his troops, and Tularam and Udhan, Subedars, along with regiments, started from Kerung. The enemy had occupied the outpost at Kukurghat and was waiting to attack the troops that would come as reinforcements, after maintaining a position on the way.

2. i.e. annual reorganization of civil and military services.

Not understanding the enemy's plans, our reinforcements, rather inadequate in number, reached the opposite side of Pangsingtar. A battle took place there. 20 or 25 men of our side, along with Tularam Subedar, fell fighting. 10 or 15 men of the enemy also were killed. Some got wounded. Our troops retreated to Kerung, fighting all the way. At the gates of our outpost at Kerung, our Udhan Khawas died of a bullet-wound. Sardar Shatru Bhanjan Malla killed a few persons, but when he was wounded by arrows on his back and arm, he retreated and joined his troops at Kerung. We had two forts inside Kerung and one outpost. The people who defended them were inadequate in number. On that same day the enemy attacked the fort. But when he failed to break it, he withdrew. Next day he launched an attack again, and after a fighting of about six hours failed to make any headway and so withdrew.

On the fourth day, the enemy again made an attack in the early hours of the morning. With guns and arrows and bags of gunpowder and burning foliage and torches, he first overran the outer fortifications a little before noon. In the two inner forts, fighting went on throughout the day. Three or four hundred of the enemy were killed. Two hundred were killed on our side too. A little after dusk, our two forts were breached, but some of our men managed to escape. On that same night, the enemy pursued them and reached Rasuwa a little after sunrise. Shots were exchanged by both sides all day long, and 8 or 10 of the enemy were killed.

When the enemy crossed the Rasuwa river at a high point and came to besiege our men, the latter left Rasuwa and took to their heels. At Syapruk they met Subedars Bhaskar and Jagbal who were going from here along with their regiments. There was an exchange of gunfire between the enemy and us from the two sides of the river. Prabal Rana, Bharat Khawas and Rana Keshar Pande, together with a few Uraos and with the Shrinath regiment then reached there for the defense of Syapruk village.

After seven or eight days, the enemy attempted to cross the river, but was checked and repulsed by our gunfire. After two or three days, when they saw a strong force crossing the river at a high point, our troops considered the ascent difficult and therefore decided to shift from Syapruk to Dhunche. We had a strong force at Dhunche commanded by Damodar Pande. Subedars Bhaskar and Jagbal, along with their regiments, were staying at adjacent places at the top of the Dhunche hill, named Deurali. The enemy came upon them at that place, but was twice repulsed by our men. On the third attack, two of our Subedars, along with 40 or 50 men were killed. The enemy occupied that territory with a loss of 200 or 250 men. From Dhunche our troops went to there reoccupy that area, but the enemy attacked them midway. Our troops repulsed him once, but when he came in larger numbers, a few were killed on both sides. Our troops then withdrew and joined the nobles at Dhunche. The place was a difficult one, and so they left Dhunche and came to Dhaibung.

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The enemy pursued them and a battle took place near Kamaragarh. Our troops won the battle and killed 40 or 50 of the enemy with shots and swords. 100 or 150 (of the enemy) fell down the hill and died. The enemy then encamped at Ramche while our troops maintained position at Dhaibung.

Meanwhile, the enemy sent letters from Dhunche expressing the desire to conclude peace. We wrote a reply to the letter here and sent a Dhewa accompanying Chiniya Pande and Dhurin Kaji as well as a Chinese we had detained here along with the reply. They met our nobles at Dhaibung and then went to Ramche. They handed the letter over to Sardar Ha Ye-kun and Chun Tu-yi, subordinates of General Tung Thang. They sent the letter to General Tung Thang, and an oral message through our courier that the place was too small for their troops and officers, and therefore we should evacuate Dhaibung and send our nobles to conduct negotiations. They wrote letters on a piece of red cloth and told our couriers to show it to their troops coming through Deurali as well as to our troops, and added that they had ceased fighting and that our troops should also do the same.

When the cloth was shown to the troops at Deurali, there was a cease-fire on both sides. It was difficult for us to fight at Dhaibung, and when this message came, our nobles left the place. The enemy remained on one side of the Betrabati, while our troops stayed on the other.

From Dhaibung General Tung Thang wrote a letter demanding that we should send to them the Chinese detained here, Dhurin Kaji and Ito Kaji. We sent them, along with Ranajit Pande, Bhotu Pande, Narsingh Taksari, Ram Das Pant and Balabhadra Khawas to General Tung Thang. On Saturday, Shrawan 31, they crossed the Betrabati and at night met the Ambassadors of the enemy troops across the river. On that same night they took the Chinese detained here and Dhurin Kaji to General Tung Thang. On Sunday, our nobles who had gone from here met General Tung Thang at noon. They had a reply to the letter sent from here. On Tuesday, they sent Ranajit Pande and Balabhadra Khawas here. The latter reached here on Wednesday.

The letter contained many matters. But the main point was that Dhaibung was too narrow for them, and that they therefore should be allowed to come to Nuwakot, where the king and his uncle should also go to negotiate peace; and if the king and his uncle could not come, emissaries should be sent to conduct the talks. They further wrote that if we did not allow them to come to Nuwakot and failed to withdraw our troops from the two fronts, they would come by force. A second letter was also received the same day. We prepared a reply to the second letter and ordered our troops to resist them if they crossed the river by force.

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On the morning of Monday, Bhadra 8, the enemy crossed the Betrabati and advanced at several points, including Chokde, where Damodar Pande was staying, Dhudhe Thumka, where our outpost was situated; and at Gerkhu on the main road, which was occupied by Kirti Man Singh. Our troops repulsed them at all the three points and forced them to withdraw to the Betrabati.

On the ford over the Betrabati, the chief Chinese official began to kill his retreating troops. As the ford was blocked, many fell down into the Betrabati river. Several of the enemy fell down the hill and died, while others were killed by our troops' shells, swords and arrows. In all 1,000 or 1,200 of the enemy were killed. On our side, 15 or 16 were wounded by arrows, swords or shells. Of the Chinese that managed to escape across the river, two Sardars had their noses cut, and they immediately jumped into the Betrabati river and were drowned. Bhotu Pande and Narsingh Takaari are still in the enemy camp. The enemy has not left talking of peace in spite of this battle, and we too are doing the same. sp:12

General Tung Thang wrote two or three letters demanding that goods looted at Digarcha which had reached our Palace should be sent back along with the high-ranking nobles who would be deputed to China with letters and presents for the Emperor, that the agreement signed between our nobles and Kaji Syamarpa Lama of Tibet at Kerung should be sent, and that, since Syamarpa Lama was already dead, his family and belongings should also be sent back, so that they might be placed in their own monastery (Gumba). We sent Hari and Balabhadra Khawas with all these to China along with General Tung Thang. We shall send high-ranking nobles with letters and presents for the Emperor, with instructions to visit China, obtain an audience with the Emperor and state our case. If (the Chinese) accepts these nobles, finalizes a treaty and goes back along with his troops, it will be good.

On Aswin 5, we sent Kaji Devadutta Thapa, Subba Pratiman Rana, Jayanta Shahi, son of Jethabudha Narsingh Taksari, and Balabhadra, son of Khardar Bishnu Shankar, to China along with Tung Thang. On Aswin 10, they met General Tung Thang at Dhaibung. Tung Thang was highly pleased to see our nobles and Kajis. The Chinese troops were suffering from the scarcity of food. Several of them were ill, and many had died. When our nobles reached there, they began to take back the sick and the offending, along with their troops and arms and ammunition. Tung Thang was accompanied only by his troops. On Saturday, Aswin 24, General Tung Thang left Dhaibung along with his troops and returned to China accompanied by his troops and our Kajis.

Kantipur, Kartik Badi 7, 1849 Vikrama.

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Explanation:

King Ran Bahadur Shah wrote this letter in 1849 Vikrama to Kaji Jagjit Pande, Sardar Amar Singh Thapa (Senior) and Captain Golayan Khawas, who had gone for the conquest of Kumaun and Garhwal. Jagjit Pande was the eldest of the five sons of Kaji Tularam Pande. Sardar Amar Singh Thapa and the others worked under his command. Jagjit Pande is famous for his role in the conquest of western Nepal. He was one of the four Kajis of Nepal at that time.

At the beginning of this letter, reference has been made to the letter sent by Jagjit Pande and others in Falgun, 1848 Vikrama. The letter reached the Capital after 6 months. It refers to a battle that took place at Kaude. In Ashadh, 1848 Vikrama, when Nepali troops reached Srinagar, the capital of Garhwal, the King of that State, Pradyumna Shah, fled across the river Alakananda. After the advent of winter, a fierce battle took place between the Garhwali ruler and the Nepalis. Pradyumna Shah suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Nepali troops led by Sardar Amar Singh Thapa. Pradyumna Shah then tried to repulse the Gorkha troops with the help of Jagat Prakash, ruler of Sirmur, by promising him to pay money.

Meanwhile, during the rainy season of 1849 Vikrama, the government of Nepal was experiencing difficulty in defending the country when a war broke out with the Chinese. It was because of this that salaries of some of the troops sent to the west were withheld and some soldiers were dismissed. Kaji Jagjit Pande and others were ordered to come back to Kathmandu immediately. But before the order reached them, a treaty between Nepal and China had been concluded, and as such the troops of Jagjit Pande did not have to fight the Chinese. In this letter, King Ran Bahadur Shah has referred to the need to resume the campaign in the west and look after the administrative affairs of the conquered territories.

Jagat Prakash, ruler of Sirmur, had then arrived in Langarganh to help Pradyumna Shah. But Pradyumna Shah did not give him the stipulated money, whereupon the latter turned against him and sided with the Nepalis. In Bhadra, 1849 Vikrama, the ruler of Sirmur, Jagat Prakash, signed a treaty with Jagjit Pande. According to this treaty, the river Yamuna was recognized as the western boundary of Nepal. In Aswin, 1849 Vikrama, the King of Garhwal, Pradyumna Shah, signed a treaty with Nepal under which he agreed to pay an annual tribute of Rs 25,000.

This letter mentions how after information reached the capital from nobles elsewhere that Srinagar had been subjugated by Nepal. Captain Kalu Pande and Bhaju Khawas were sent along with troops to protect the newly-conquered territory, while Kaji Jagjit Pande was ordered to hand over the administration of Kumaun and Garhwal to Subba Yoga Malla and Bhakti Thapa, who were in Kathmandu for the Pajani. Then follows a detailed account of the war with China.

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Ever since King Prithvi Narayan Shah conquered Kathmandu Valley, relations between Nepal and Tibet had become strained. The Malla rulers of Nepal had circulated debased coins due to the scarcity of silver. These coins reached Tibet in large numbers. Prithvi Narayan Shah was in favor of circulating pure coins. Therefore, the Nepalis insisted on using coins of pure silver only and not debased coins. The Tibetans did not accept Prithvi Narayan's policy, because it harmed their interests. Consequently, trade between Nepal and Tibet declined and relations went on deteriorating.

In 1838 Vikrama, the Tashi Lama of Digarcha, Pal Den Yashe died. His brother, Syamarpa Lama misappropriated the funds of the monastery. He was put in imprisonment by the followers of the new incarnate Lama. In 1844 Vikrama, he escaped from prison and took asylum in Nepal. When Nepal gave asylum to Syamarpa Lama, war between Nepal and Tibet became inevitable.

In 1845 Vikrama, war broke out between Nepal and Tibet. In this war, Nepal defeated Tibet, Nepali troops captured the areas from Kuti to Sikkharjung and from Kerung to Jhunga. A treaty was ultimately concluded through the mediation of China. Nepal relinquished the Tibetan areas conquered by it while Tibet agreed to pay an annual tribute of Rs 50,000 to Nepal.

But Tibet paid this annual tribute not more than once, thus violating the treaty. Nepal, therefore, again declared war on Tibet. In 1848 Vikrama, Bahadur Shah sent troops to attack Tibet, commanded by Abhiman Singh Basnet from Kerung and by Kaji Damodar Pande from Kuti. Kaji Damodar Pande went on conquering Tibetan territory and reached Digarcha, the capital of the Tashi Lama. In Digarcha, he captured a large quantity of gold and silver and then returned to Kathmandu with his troops in Magh, 1848 Vikrama. Syamarpa Lama was still living as a refugee in Nepal. During the war, Nepali troops captured Kaji Dhurin and Kaji Yuto of Lhasa and brought them to Kathmandu. Tibet conveyed to the Chinese Emperor the news that Nepal had conquered Digarcha and captured the Kaji's of Lhasa. It asked China for help against Nepal. China sent troops to defend Tibet. After this development, war broke out in 1849 Vikrama between Nepal and China.

Nepal's relations with China are very old. In 678 Vikrama, when the Tang dynasty was ruling China, Yuen Chwang, a Chinese traveller, visited India through Afghanistan. After visiting places of Buddhist pilgrimage and studying Buddhist literature, he returned to China in 700 Vikrama. In his travelogue, he has also mentioned Nepal and its famous King, Amshu Varma (663-678 Vikrama). Previously, Nepal depended on India for its relations with China. At the end of the seventh century Vikrama, King Srong Btsan Gampo created the State of Tibet between Nepal and China. With the rise of Tibet, India's contacts with China started through Nepal. Buddhism spread to Tibet through Nepal. Tibet borrowed Nepal's script and social customs.

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During the reign of the Lichchhavi ruler, Narendra Dev, between 700 and 714 Vikrama, China's Ambassador Wang-Yunche travelled between China and India through Nepal. He has written about King Narendra Dev, his palace, and the prevailing situation. After the death of Emperor Harsha in 704 Vikrama, Ambassador Wang-Yunche was insulted by Harsha's vassal, Arunashwa. The Chinese Emperor then attacked northern India. In this war, both Nepal and Tibet helped China. According to Chinese accounts, King Narendra Dev of Nepal sent 7,000 cavalry troops to the aid of China during this war. Accurate accounts of Nepal's subsequent relations with China up to the thirteenth century are not available.

In 1425 Vikrama, the Ming dynasty came into power after the fall of the Yuan dynasty which had been established by Kublai Khan Mongol. The first Emperor of the Ming dynasty was Hang Bu. A Chinese delegation came to Nepal in 1441 Vikrama. At this time, Sthiti Malla was king of Nepal, but ministers of the Baish family were in power in Kathmandu, even though Jaya Singh Ram and his younger brother, Madan Singh Ram, were the rulers. In 1471 Vikrama too, the Chinese Emperor, Yung Lo, sent a delegation to Nepal. At this time, King Jyotir Malla was occupying the throne of Bhadgaon. Kathmandu was being ruled by Madan Singh Ram's son, Shakti Singh Ram. Nepal also was sending delegations to China. Madan Singh Ram and his son, Shakti Singh Ram, are mentioned in Chinese chronicles.

After ruling China for about about 275 years, the famous Ming dynasty collapsed, and in 1701 Vikrama it was replaced by the Manchu dynasty. When war broke out between Nepal and China, China was being ruled by Emperor Tshien-lung of the Manchu dynasty.

The second Emperor of the Manchu dynasty, named Kang Hi (1718-79 Vikrama) was a great lover of learning and art. Tshien-lung was his grandson. Tshien-lung too was a lover of learning and art. He ruled for sixty years from 1793 to 1853 Vikrama. During his rule, there were as many as four kings of the Gorkha dynasty in Nepal.

Tshien-lung greatly expanded the Chinese empire. He brought Tibet too under his suzerainty. So when he came to know about the fall of Digarcha to Nepali troops and the capture of Tibetan Kajis by them, he immediately sent a large army to Lhasa to attack Nepal under the command of Tung-Thyang, his son-in-law. The Chinese troops reached Lhasa towards the end of Falgun 1844 Vikrama. Messages were exchanged between Nepal and Tung-Thyang. Tung-Thyang proposed that Nepal should surrender Syararpa Lama as well as Kaji Dhurin and Kaji Yuto of Lhasa. Nepal emphatically replied that it would not surrender those who had sought refuge, and that it was even prepared to fight on this issue.

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In these circumstances, war between Nepal and China was inevitable. At this time, Nepal was involved in war at three or four fronts. To take revenge for its defeat, Tibet incited Sikkim to attack Nepal at Chainpur in the east. Bijayapur's administrator, Subba Purnanda Upadhyaya, as well as Kaji Deva Datta Thapa, who had been deputed from Kathmandu, repulsed the attack and defeated the enemy. Kaji Jagjit Pande was fighting in Garhwal. Meanwhile, the rulers of Achham, Doti and Jumla revolted and cut off communications between Kathmandu and Kumaun and Garhwal. But within two months, Captain Kalu Pande quelled the revolt with the assistance of the ruler of Jajarkot. In this way, many Nepali generals were scattered here and there. So Nepal had been unable to fully prepare itself to meet the Chinese attack.

On Ashadh 11, 1849 Vikrama, Tung-Thyang attacked the Nepali fort at Kukurghat. The Chinese easily conquered the area, as the number of Nepali soldiers there was very small to stop the advance of the Chinese troops, Sardar Shatru Bhanjan Malla, Subedar Tula Ram and Udhau Khawas left Kerung for Kukurghat. The enemy was fully prepared, while the number of Nepali troops was small. Advancing without knowledge of the enemy's preparations, they encountered the enemy at Pansingtar. Subedar Tularam was killed along with 20 or 25 other Nepalis. The Nepali withdrew to Kerung, where the Chinese pursued them. In the first encounter, Subedar Udhau Khawas was killed, while Sardar Shatru Bhanjan Malla was wounded.

There were three Nepali forts in Kerung. After four or five days of fighting, the Chinese troops captured all of them. The Chinese venture was successful because the number of Nepali soldiers there was small. The Nepalis then withdrew to Rasuwa. The enemy too came on their heels.

Hearing about the Chinese advance, Bahadur Shah immediately sent a large army commanded by Kaji Damodar Pande on Ashadh 15. This reinforcement proceeded from Kathmandu with all possible speed. The Nepali troops gradually withdrew from Rasuwa because the Chinese were hotly pursuing them. At Syapruk, they met Subedars Bhaskar and Jagbal. For their assistance, Prabal Rana, Bharat Khawas and Rana Keshar Pande also reached there. Thus the Nepalis gathered some strength and checked the Chinese advance for ten or twelve days. But the enemy made a surprise attack and consequently they withdrew to Dhunche where Damodar Pande was staying. Fighting took place between the two sides on the Dhunche hill. The Nepalis twice defeated the enemy. In the third battle, however, some Nepali soldiers including Subedar Bhaskar Rana, were killed. But the Chinese side suffered two or three hundred casualties. There were a few more encounters. But the Nepali troops left Dhunche and came to Dhaibung because the enemy was in pursuit and Dhunche was unsuitable for fighting. There was another encounter at Kamamaregadh as the Chinese were still in pursuit. Nearly 40 or 50 Chinese soldiers were killed, while about 150 fell down the steep hills and died. The Nepalis scored a victory in this battle. The Chinese troops had not so far met with such stiff resistance and were advancing easily. After this, Tung-Thyang played a trick. He sent a message to Kathmandu proposing a treaty. His aim was to find out to what

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extent the Nepalis had been weakened and how much strength they still possessed. Nepali Bhardars went to Tung-Thyang with a reply to his letter. He proposed that both sides should agree to a cease-fire and suggested that because Dhunche was too small for them, they should be allowed to stay in Dhaibung, where Nepali Bhardars should come for holding negotiations.

Realizing that their preparations for war with China were inadequate and that the intrusion of the enemy would only harm the country, the Nepal government accepted Tung-Thyang's suggestion. Nepali troops accordingly left Dhaibung to make room for the Chinese troops after a cease-fire notice was printed in big letters on red cloth and shown to the Chinese at the top of the Dhunche hill and the Nepalis at Dhaibung. Fighting came to an end and the Nepalis came across the river Betravati while the Chinese troops remained at Dhaibung on the other side.

Tung-Thyang had asked the Nepal government to send envoys for peace talks along with the Chinese and Tibetan Kajis captured by Nepali troops. Kaji Ranjit Pande, Bhotu Pande, Nar Singh Taksari, Ram Das Panth, Balabhadra Khawas and others reached Dhaibung on Shrawan 31 along with them. But now Tung-Thyang began to talk differently. He wanted that the Chinese should occupy Kathmandu just as the Nepali had once plundered Digarcha. He had got back the Tibetan and Chinese Kajis, as well as Dhaibung, without a fight. He stopped the Nepali Bhardars there and told them, "Dhaibung too is very narrow for us. Let us proceed to Nuwakot and hold negotiations there. For this the king himself or his uncle should come, or the matter may be handled by Bhardars. Withdraw your troops, otherwise we shall advance by means of force." Four days later, he sent Ranjit Pande and Balabhadra Khawas alone to Kathmandu with a letter to this effect.

Now the Nepalis understood the real motive of Tung-Thyang. Acceptance of his conditions would have meant surrender. Bahadur Shah therefore ordered his army to resist if this enemy attempted to advance by means of force.

On Bhadra 8, about 10,000 Chinese troops crossed the Betravati and advanced on three points. The Nepalis had three forts this side of Betravati, at Chokde, Dudhethumko and Gerkhu. Kirtiman Singh Basnet was in command at Gerkhu and Damodar Pande at Chokde. At all these three places, there was heavy fighting between the Nepali and Chinese troops. In the end, the Nepalis repulsed the Chinese at all the three points. The Chinese took to their heels and reached the Betravati. Seeing no other way of inciting his troops to resist the Nepalis, the Chinese General stood on the bridge and himself began to slay his retreating soldiers. The noses of two officers who had retreated beyond the river were cut. They immediately leapt into the waters of the river. But this action of the Chinese General had the contrary effect. Instead of feeling encouraged, the Chinese troops began to retreat through other routes. Many of them lost their lives when they fell down the hills into the river. Many were killed by the bullets, arrows or sword thrust by the Nepalis. In all, 1,000 or 1,200 Chinese soldiers were killed in this way.

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Abandoning all hopes of further advance, Tung-Thyang decided to conclude a treaty and wrote a letter to the government of Nepal accordingly. As soon as this letter reached Nepal, the government sent a letter deputing Damodar Pande, who was in the battle-field, to go to China for the treaty negotiations. The letter was as follows:-

"The Chinese Emperor is not a small Emperor, but a great one. By the grace of the goddess, we could have completely driven them out this time, but we did not think it proper to create permanent conflict with the Emperor. He too intends to make peace with us. Tung-Thyang asked us to send one of our four Kajis to meet the Emperor of China, with letters and presents. Yesterday, our Kajis were going to Tanahu and Lamjung to conclude treaties there also. But we realize now that we should send some Kajis to the Emperor. The seniormost Kaji, Damodar Pande, who has received Birta grants, should therefore go. Delay will not serve the interests of our country. Start from there. So far as orders are concerned, you are a Pande of our palace. You know everything, so do all that will benefit the country and bring credit to you. Understand this well. Send a reply immediately after getting this letter. Delay will harm us." Dated Thursday, Bhadra Sudi 13 at Kantipur.

But Tung-Thyang was repeatedly demanding the restoration of property which the Nepalis had looted during the capture of Digarcha, the surrender of Syamarpa Lama, and the return of the treaty of 1845 Vikrama. The Government of Nepal, realizing the importance of maintaining good relations with China, sent Hari Wakil and Balabhadra Khawas with all these to Tung-Thyang on their way to China.

Thus, according to this treaty, Syamarpa Lama had to be surrendered. But as he had already committed suicide, Tung-Thyang carried away only the dead body and some of his belongings. The Nepalis had to return some of the property looted in Digarcha. The treaty signed with Tibet in 1845 Vikrama was cancelled. A Nepali delegation was to visit the Chinese Emperor every five years. The Chinese withdrew their forces from the Nepali territory occupied by them. The territory thus reverted to Nepal.

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A delegation consisting of Kaji Devadatta Thapa (Magar), Subba Pratiman Rana and others left Kathmandu for China along with letters and presents on Aswin 5, 1849 Vikrama. On Aswin 24, Tung Thyang left for China along with the Nepali envoys.

This letter had been written some time before Aswin 5, 1849. But it was not sent for some reason. It was sent only on Aswin 24, after an account of the departure of the delegation for China and the return of Tung Thyang was added.

Some foreign historians have claimed that after this war, Nepal became a part of the Chinese empire. But this letter clearly refutes this claim and shows that Nepal had never recognized China's suzerainty. Nepal had not expressed its desire to conclude a treaty with China, after being defeated in any battle at the hands of the Chinese troops. On the contrary, the Chinese troops had suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Nepali troops in the last battle fought on the Betravati. Moreover, the morale of the Nepali troops was very high during these days. The letter to Kaji Damodar Pande says that "the Nepali troops by the grace of the Goddess, could have completely driven the Chinese troops out. But we did not think it proper to create permanent conflict with the Emperor. He too intends to make peace with us." The Chinese troops had come very near the capital. Continued conflict with China would therefore have led to possibilities of British pressure over Nepal. In such situation, it was very wise on the part of the Government of Nepal to conclude a treaty with China. No provision in the treaty suggests that Nepal accepted China's suzerainty or harmed its own interests in any way.

The treaty provided for the visit of a Nepali delegation to China every five years. This too benefitted Nepal. Now that the Government of Nepal had established direct contacts with the Chinese government, Sino-Nepal relations would not be impaired in any way. Moreover, relations that had been interrupted for many years past were re-established. This practice continued till 1965 Vikrama during the rule of Prime Minister Chandra Shamsher. Diplomatic relations between Nepal and China were again severed when China underwent a revolution in which the imperial rule came to an end and a republican regime was set up. Relations between Nepal and China were resumed in 2013 Vikrama on the basis of the Panchasheela.