

tionate to their stubbornness. Two days later the Kommandatur thought better of the notice, it might produce eventually a bad impression. The Mayor was ordered to tear down all the notices and restore every copy to the Kommandatur. But (at the risk of his life) he kept one copy, which is now in the archives of the War Office in Paris.

At Noyon, when the Germans marched in, the Kommandatur went straight to the cathedral and said to the sacristan's wife: "Kindly deliver up the tenth-century Bible of Noyon Cathedral." They knew all about it. But the sacristan's wife "had never heard" of that Bible. For two years and a half the Kommandatur looked for that Bible, and never found it. The sacristan's wife showed it me. It is a rare illuminated Gospel with some unique decorations. She had every night hid it in a different corner of her house. She would have been shot if it had been found. It is back now in the vestry of Noyon Cathedral. The plain, little woman tells you her story baldly.

"TO explain the picture bride, we must first of all explain marriage customs in Japan," says K. K. Kawa Kami, in the Atlantic Monthly. In Japan, when a child, whether boy or girl, reaches a marriageable age, it is the duty of the parents to find a suitable partner for him or her. Custom, however, rules that the conduct of the affair must be entrusted to a go-between, usually some discreet married friend. Finding a desirable person, the go-between arranges a meeting of the prospective bride and groom, usually chaperoned by their parents.

But before this interview takes place, the parents on either side spare no pains in inquiring into the character, social standing, family relations, genealogy, health, education, and what not, of

the young man and woman. If, as the result of this investigation, the young man and woman express themselves in favour of the consummation of a marriage, the parents and go-between proceed to make final arrangements for the wedding. If, on the contrary, their opinion is unfavourable, the matter is dropped.

When a Japanese living in America desires to marry, he writes to his parents, asking them to find a suitable woman for his bride. The parents, following the usual customs and rules, fix on an eligible person. If the prospective groom were in Japan, the customary meeting with the prospective bride would follow. But when he lives in this country, the meeting can not be had. So he sends his photograph to the woman and receives her photograph in exchange. If this "interview" by photographs proves satisfactory of both parties, the nuptial knot is tied at a ceremonial dinner, from which the groom is naturally absent, but which is attended by the parents and relatives on either side. This done, the parents register the marriage with the proper authorities.

In the light of Japanese law, therefore, the so-called "picture-bride" has already been legitimately married before her departure for America, where she is to join the groom, and no further proceedings are necessary in order that they may call themselves man and wife under American law. But to conform to the American custom and requirements of marriage, the couple, on the arrival of the bride, go through the procedure required in this country.

At a time when foreign opinion seems to be shuttling between hope and fear as to the status of Russian troops in the line-up on the Eastern front, it may be well to listen a while to the words of a Russian officer who tells, in the North American Review, why the idea got abroad that the Russian troops appeared to have had enough of war and refused to obey its commanders in the first days of confusion following the great upheaval of last March.

When the Revolution broke out, says the Russian officer, there were only three military figures who stood prominently before the public. Those were General Russky, General Alexieff and General Brusil-

off. It is no secret that General Russky almost compelled by force Nicolas II to abdicate, during the latter's stay at Pskoff, and that he showed far less consideration for the fallen monarch than did the commissioners sent by the Duma to request him to lay aside his crown and dignity. As for General Alexieff, it was principally at his instigation that the Tzar was taken a prisoner, and he pushed matters so far as to persuade the former sovereign to repair to the headquarters at Mohilew, instead of returning immediately after his abdication to Tzarskoie Selo. These facts became known in the army, and they profoundly disgusted the troops, who through the Soldiers Committee claimed a new commander-in-chief in whom they could have confidence and who would not turn traitor to his word or to his oath. This last fact has never been known abroad, and it explains why such apparent anarchy reigned for a time in the Russian army, and why the latter appeared in the eyes of outsiders and of people who knew nothing of the internal crisis to be undisciplined and rebellious. But in reality things were very different. The soldiers never for one single moment thought of acting against the orders of the Government or of abandoning their Allies as they have been accused abroad of doing. They required simply one thing, and that was to be led to battle by commanders whom they could trust, and who were not compromised by any suspicious action in the past. They refused to accept the leadership of either Russky or Alexieff, Kerensky alone judged the situation rightly. "That he did so proves how completely he had mastered the difficult question of the psychology of the Russian nation, and of the Russian soldiers, and it explains partly the prestige which he enjoys among the latter," says the writer. "Without Kerensky, it is not likely that Brusiloff would ever have been entrusted with the supreme command, and it is doubtful whether any other general would have been able to obtain the great successes which have most undoubtedly accompanied the new offensive that began so recently.

"Such is, from the military point of view, the secret history of the crisis which Russia has been called upon to pass, after the overthrow of the Romanoff dynasty," he writes in conclusion. "It accounts for the many hesitations and uncertainties which have so much perplexed public opinion in other countries, and it is to be hoped that now that confidence has been again restored between the Russian troops and their leaders, we shall see these troops go on with their victorious progresses in the near future. This offensive may be stopped, not through any inability on our side to pursue it, but through purely local and climatic conditions.

"Whatever happens, the Russian soldier means to fight until a final victory, and perhaps no troops in

the world are more convinced than ours, that it would be a dishonour to hesitate or to stop in the present circumstances."

JUST TO READ ALOUD

SHE was pretty and he was handsome and they were very devoted to each other as they sat and held hands and watched the Reds play at the Cincinnati ball park.

"There's Hal Chase on first," observed the youth. "He's a bird. And there's Toney, the pitcher. He'll be our best man before long——"

The sweet young thing gasped. "We-ell, I guess he'll be all right—but, Arthur, this is so sudden!"—Everybody's Magazine.

"I'VE come to kill a printer," said the little man. "Any printer in particular?" asked the foreman, obligingly.

"Oh, anyone will do. I would prefer a small one, but I've got to make some sort of a show at a fight or leave home since your paper called my wife's tea party a 'swill affair.'"

THE bride received her husband with even more than usual affection. "Charlie, dear, I have done you a great injustice," she cooed. "How's that?" "I thought you were deceiving me and I asked every one of your men friends if you knew how to play poker. They all said that you didn't."

"AS I was crossing the bridge the other day," said an Irishman, "I met Pat O'Brien." "O'Brien," says I, "how are you?" "Pretty well, thank you, Brady," says he. "Brady," says I, "that's not my name." "Faith," says he, "and mine's not O'Brien." With that we agin looked at each other, and sure enough it was naythur of us."

TWO young Irishmen in a Canadian regiment were going into the trenches for the first time and their captain promised them five shillings each for every German they killed.

Pat lay down to rest, while Mick performed the duty of watching. Pat had not lain long when he was awakened by Mick shouting:

"They're comin'! They're comin'!"

"Who's comin'?" shouts Pat.

"The Germans," replies Mick.

"How many are there?"

"About fifty thousand."

"Begorra," shouts Pat, jumping up and grabbing his rifle, "our fortune's made!"

"NOW, boss, I's ready to go anywhere dey wants to send me," said a dusky citizen in a Southern city on Registration Day, after performing his patriotic duty. "Boss, jes' anywhere! But I ask jes' one thing and dat is, don't put me in NO cavalry."

"Why do you draw the line on the cavalry?" asked the registrar.

"It's jes' like dis. When I's told to retreat, I don't want to be bothered with NO hoss."

THE visitor rang his bell furiously three times.

After some delay a genial chambermaid appeared. "This towel is disgraceful!" exclaimed the traveller, brandishing the offending article, and then suddenly remembering to dry his hands on his handkerchief. The chambermaid picked up the towel with an air of pained surprise. "Shure, yer honour," she retorted with spirit, "sivinty-five gentlemen have wiped their hands on this towel, and ye are the first to complain."

AN Irishman coming out of ether in the ward after an operation exclaimed audibly: "Thank God!" That is over!" "Don't be so sure," said the man in the next bed, "they left a sponge in me and had to cut me open again." And the patient on the other side said: "Why they had to open me, too, to find one of their instruments." Just then the surgeon who had operated on the Irishman stuck his head in the door and yelled: "Has anybody seen my hat?" Poor Patrick fainted.

Picture-Brides of Japan



Convinced at last.

—Sykes, in Philadelphia Evening Ledger.