## POOR DOCUMENT

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1904.

# EYEWITNESS TELLS OF THE FIRST BATTLE OFF PORT ARTHUR.

any moment into manifestations of hellish

Meanwhile the firing of light guns-6

marine. Didn't you remark how the boat trembled? Quite a different thing, a sub-

merrily over the bay.

I also laughed myself when the joke was

There was no light in the cabin, but the reflection from the searchights showed

## New York Correspondent Was on British Ship Caught in Midst of the fight.

Japs' First Stinging Blow Which Began Hostilities With the Russians-The Disabling of Some of the Czar's Firest

Battle hips in the Night Attack.

The first story by an eye-witness of the sea fight between the Japs and Russians off Port Arthur is here told. The narrator is Francis McCullagh, New York Herald correspondent. He was on the British merchant ship Columbia which happened to be quarantined just outside Port Arthur harbor when the battle was in progress. He writes:—

On the night of Monday, February 8, I was lying just outside the entrance of Port Arthur harbor in the British ship Columbia, Captain Anderson. The Columbia had come from Chefoo on Sunday morning, but was soon informed that she was to be quarantined for twenty-four hours. Accordingly I had a good deal of time to watch the Russian fleet and to write about the impossibility of the Japanese ever attacking Port Arthur. The weather was particularly fine, the sun shining brightly and the temperature being sufficiently warm to admit of me strolling about the deck without an overcoat.

On Monday we heard that the Japanese.

about the deck without an overcoat.

On Monday we heard that the Japanese consul at Chefoo was in the harbor on board a British steamer he had chartered with the object of taking all the Japanese away from Port Arthur. This news excited us somewhat, and we began to think that, despite the fact that things generally recorded to be in availty. The same position

with the object of taking all the Japanese away from Port Arthur. This news excited us somewhat, and we began to think that despite the fact that things generally seemed to be in exactly the same position as they had been in for months past, something serious must have occurred.

By and by we noticed that the Russians partially cleared for action, and even sent ashore their boats in some cases. But so the day wore on and nothing more hap-laying. as the day wore on and nothing more happened, we gradually forgot at out these ominous signs and wondered if we would quoth the captain, in his most ironica ominous signs and wondered if we would really get out of quarantine next morning or get an additional twenty-four hours. Toward dusk the three torpedo boats that had been in the habit of patrolling outside the fleet passed us, coming from the shore "Well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "Well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "Well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "Well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore "well, they're in desperate earnest to-right appears to the passed us, coming from the shore the passed us, coming from the shore the passed us, coming from the shore the passed us, coming from the passed us, coming from the shore the p the fleet passed us, coming from the shore the proverbial policeman's boots which give fair warning to evildoers for scores that these first three explosions were sub-

of yards ahead of him.

About 8 o'clock, just after we had fin ished dinner on board the Columbia, a marine explosion, to an explosion that sound of singing reached our ears, and, on takes place above water." going outside, we heard the Russian sailors chanting their night prayers. The "Paternoster" in old Russian, the "Ave Maria" or a prayer corresponding to that favorite invocation of the Latin church, and finelly a short prevent four the learn favorite invocation of the Latin church, and finally a short prayer for the Tsar. Softened by distance, the chants from the various ships blended together in one harmonious whole and sounded so romantic, so reminiscent of convent schools, of old Spain and of mediaevalism generally that even the chief engineer, a Scotchman of the unromantic name of Smith, was

The night was dark, and the numerous lights twinkling all over the spacious bay explained to me, and on going forward marked the position of the Russian ves- and seeing the lamp that showed the com-

marked the position of the Russian vessels.

At 0 o'clock I sat down to finish the article about which I have already spoken, in which I had laid it down as a fundamental proposition that the Japanese would never attack Port Arthur. Somehow or other I had become more convinced on this point after having heard the sailors say their night prayers. The Russians But, although also somewhat excited, but although also somewhat excited, they were the grouping for me. "No it's ors say their night prayers. The Russians had evidently the fullest confidence in

them with the flashlight, either until they were out of sight on the way to Cheroo or until they had entered the inner harbor of Port Arthur.

At exactly 11.30 I was preparing to retire to bed for the night when I heard three muffled explosions, followed almost immediately by the discharge of small guns. Then arose from amid the blankets in an adjoining cabin the voice of Captain Anderson, the skipper of the Columbia: entrance at 1 o'clock. At about 1.30 a "War's declared!" were the words he ut-

tered, and seldom have I heard words so of us, evidently very much excited, and one of them tried to talk to me in French, but as he always relapsed in his excitement into his mother tongue I could not make head or tail of what he said. He or two searchlights carefully swept the got so muddled up that he simply danced shore, and especially the entrance to the around the deck in pure madness." inner harbor. One blazing eye glared at the Columbia for fully five minutes,



The First Real Test of Modern Ironclads in Action; Battle of the Yalu River, 1894.

with perspiration. He seemed to be very mob—a silent, scared mob, looking with much excited. I asked him if he could terror toward the abyss from which the speak German, and he said he could, and then went on to speak to me in Russian.

monsters of the night had emerged. Some of them, it is true, still see

ruptly and disappeared.

I cannot say that I was in the least disturbed by this occurrence, for I saw nothing unusual in an order evidently issued with the object of keeping merchant steamers from getting into the way of the warships while the latter were engaged in silence.

In the Midst of Battle.

Before the engagement began I had been unatural position of these tremendous engines of war which had been so suddenly disabled that we all remained looking on in silence.

The lighthouse lamp had gone out, thought it was still dark, but the guiding lights burned brightly.
"I cannot for the life of me understand," said the mate, "what they mean by placing

hight, anyhow," remarked the mate, as he wirned to go, "You must have noticed on weighing anchor, the Russian sailors of wars in strong contrast to the agritation of man. It was long after the day had dawned before the Russian vessels ceased that operation at a more convenient time. It was long after the day had dawned before the Russian vessels ceased the Columbia had detected something unnutral in the position of the two wars ahips lying at the harbor mouth. He was not very long in coming to a conclusion. It took us some considerable time to realize that two of Russia's best and biggest battleships lay helpless almost within a stone's throw of us. Then we all exclaimed simultaneously: "What will the Japanese do when they hear this?" and the answer each of us gave was that Japan would declare war at once if she heard it. By and by somebody suggested that perhaps the vessels had been tompedoed or that run on submarine mines, but that view was considered too far fetched, and the general opinion was that there had been a collision.

Never was there such unanimity of opinion on board a ship. It was so perfect.

Never was there such unanimity of opinion on board a ship. It was so perfect that nobody listened to anybody else. Each jerked out explanations absolutely

ors say their night prayers. The Russians had evidently the fullest confidence in themselves or they could not pray so beautifully, and I felt as safe lying on the edge of that mighty fleet as I would have felt in the heart of London.

What increased my feeling of confidence, though it ought not to have done so, was the fact that the Russians seemed to think it unnecessary to make any considerable use of their searchlights. Previously they used to annoy the officers of merchant steamers by the way in which they blinded them with the flashlight, either until they identical with those jerked out by his neighbor, and then, after brooding over heigonor, and then, after broding or his own remarks for a few moments in si-lence and taking yet another long, search-ing look at the disabled battleships, re-peated the same remark in another form. It did not seem to strike any of us at the time that this was an absurd form of conmanage to make himself understood, as he spoke only Russian, a language with

time that this was an absurd form of conversation.

When the lights became stronger we could see that the forts had been manned during the night, rather a strange thing, we thought. In some places where there were galleries long lines of men were visible, and the heads of others peeping above the breastworks showed that all the fortress artillerymen must have turned out.

On the higher point of Golden Hill Fort stood a large group of men, probably high officers, all scanning the horizon with glasses. That group stood there throughout all the anxious hours that followed as which the chief officer is not acquainted.
Without stopping to take breath, the chief officer went on to tell me that two big battle ships had taken up their posi-tion right opposite the entrance to the out all the anxious hours that followed as long as the Columbia remained in Port Arthur. One of the group resembled the viceroy in the general contour of his figure, but on account of the distance I could

I afterward found that one of the Japanese passengers on board the Columbia arrived independently at the same conclus-

the light mist that lay upon the water, it was very round and red, looking for all the world like a redhot cannon ball.

"That's an ominous sign," I remarked (the rising sun being the flag of Japan),

y, four vessels lying about five miles off nd apparently cruisers. These could not be Russians; what on earth were they? The ship's telescope soon conveyed to us the astounding information that they flew the flag of the Rising Sun. They were calmly lying there, probably trying to find out through their glasses the exact amount of damage that the torpedo boats had

noments' consideration, that these vessels ould not be supported by the Japanese leet. They were simply a few prowle that had come to do damage and then rush off. And apparently they had done damage, for it could no longer be doubted that it was the torpedo boats that accompanied them which had attacked the Russians the

evious night. I am not pro-Japanese, but I must conss that the audacity of this first terrific stroke fairly took away my breath. I turned to have another look at the torpe-does vessels and noticed how the men were gathered together with white, scared faces, on the deck. There seemed to be no captain, no officers and no order. The men were no longer important parts of a formidable fighting machine; they were a

cerned the captain was out in his calcula tions, for their shells fell very close A fragment of a shell made a small ho'e said to have torn the flag, and the write has a third fragment in his pocket at the moment of writing. Most of the officers

are furnished with similar relicts.

ourst near the screw, and the other glis-

ening with the perspiration.

Mr. Smith did not seem to hear the con

around showed me that if one of these

formidable missiles fell on the Columbia

t would sauelch the hoat as effectually a

boat and go out at the other and a littl

n spite of this uncomfortable conviction

very bottom of the boat. The chief en

other extremity of the boat. I did so, run

ning as quickly as my legs could carry me, as if I were running from one certain

My legs simply ran off with me.
Outside the saloon on the side facing the

crossing themselves at a great rate and praying fervently. A few minutes before

hey had gone forward with their rifles

he way of the shells; that in doing so we

eceived from the last naval officer wh

ad visted us, and that directly we round

saved the captain and some of his officer from being shot. The soldiers seemed to

rom the shells, and when the latter fel

occupied in prayer to pay any attention to external things. After a while one of

hem completely disappeared, going down

THE PAGE WIRE FENCE

below, probably in obedience to that blind

His words were: "His excellency the viceroy has issued a decree ordering that no commercial ships leave or enter the harbor of Port Arthur."

He repeated that twice, and then, apologizing for disturbing me, he turned abruptly and disappeared.

Some of them, it is true, so the seemed to go about their various duties in a mechanical manner, and I particularly remember seeing the cook of one of the big torpedoed battleships throwing slops over the side. I do not think that I or any of my friends on board the Columbia felt glad at the terrific blow the Russian navy

Togo's Plan Divulged.

Then we began to notice that a big cruiser on our left had also a suspicious hist and an awkward appearance, and soon luck at falling in a fight which was not mind a suspicious should be supported by the second was in a launch told us in the snells began to sing through the air and raise huge pillars of water before, ochind and close to both sides of the ship. I forgot all about that matter, or if I reflected on it at all it was only to curse my luck at falling in a fight which was not mind. in maneeuvres.

There was now no firing, but the search-lights of the vessels were as busy as they had been the night before. The position of some of the vessels had been changed, and, frue enough, as the chief officer had already informed me, there were two big men-of-war lying close to the mouth of the harbor, with all their lights burning and their flashlights playing around them.

Then we began to notice that a big cruiser on our left had also a suspicious list and an awkward appearance, and soon a man who passed us in a launch told us that she, too, had been torpedoed. The same man caused us some perturbation of mind by remarking that the whole Japanese fleet was coming up, and that if we did not move out at once we would find ourselves right in the line of fire.

must have got a bad scare last night."

Then we tried to warm ourselves by walking up and down the deck. The moon was now shining. There was a light southerly breeze and a whitish mist lay on weighing anchor, the Russian sailors very carefully deaned all dirt from the

"Will you give me permission to

The Columbia Hit.

The soldiers we had on board got a nttle excited when they saw the quarantine flag taken down, and wanted an explanation. I tried to pacify them as best I could. also tried to distract their attention by pointing out to them the Japanese vessels on the horizon. They laughed at me and said they were only Russian vessels. No answer was signaled to the Columbia, but after a while a naval officer came on board and requested us to move. The captain wanted to know if he might move to Chefoo, but the officer said no; ne trad clination, for I caught him once hesitating better not leave Port Arthur until permisat the top of a ladder which he clutched better not leave Port Arthur until perinassion was signalled to him from the shore.
He might, however, have the kindness to
move just a little out of the way, as a
cruiser wanted to take up its position in
the place the Columbia occupied:

was a better chance on deek than below.

the place the Columbia occupied:

After saying something in a low tone to the soldiers, the naval officer left the ship.

Then Captain Anderson gave orders to get under way, and while the necessary preparations were being made I national. preparations were being made I noticed a bright flash from the side of one of the Japanese vessels, and pulling out my watch, saw that it was exactly 11.15. The report came some seconds after, and about the same time a big shell, which, I should say was a twelve-inch one, dropped into the small space of sea intervening between the torpedoed battleships and the group of frightened looking torpedo boat de-

This shell was evidently intended for the battle ships, and it went so near its mark that it must have splashed them with spray from the big liquid column that shot from the sea at the point when the projectile touched the water. All the Japanese ships now opened fire while run-The Novik and some other cruisers made must confess, however, that I was no calm enough to watch the fight, with the amount of attention necessary to give very detailed report of it.

The reason of this was that we were inning parallel with a Russian cruiser, which drew on us the fire of the Japanese ing men grasp at straws, that the Jap

P'clure of the Destruction Which the Morning Sun Showed Yellow Men Had Wrought.

Attack on Ships and Port by Japanes Fleet Resumed With Daybreak - Pritisher Passed Safe Through Lines of Death d-aling Shells.

s found it so hard to struggle against forbade this boat to approach, so I had and which the Chinese so cheerfully to resort to a little strategy. and which the Chinese so cheerfully He reappeared when all was over and we

had almost lost sight of land, but neither I shall go back, however, to my reaching

officers grouped together, wildeyed, pallid and silent. The quartermaster was at the

overboard with the object, as he afterward told me, of having something to hold me time I conceived the brilliant idea of throwing some woodwork overboard and jumping into the sea after it. How fine it would be to swim ashore—we were run-ning very close to the shore—with the as-

Shells Dropping Near. As my imagination dwelt on this flattering prespect a large shell dropped on the spot where I imagined myself to be swimming and caused me to hastily abandon the idea. One of the officers said he One of the ship's officers put it well when he said that he would not mind getthought it best to run the Columbia ashore, but as the shells were bursting ting killed if he were a sailer on board one of the cruisers, but that it was a miserable did not move out at once we would find ourselves right in the line of fire.

As we had already been told not to leave the port and as any attempt to move at all might draw on us the fire of the forts, we felt in a difficult position.

Meanwhile the Japanese cruisers, having made a very long, leisurely survey of the Smith, his face of quite unusual pallor, one side of it splashed with powder or some the rear. Here I found Chief Engineer Smith, his face of quite unusual pallor, one side of it splashed with powder or some the forts, which shells intended for the Russian fleet, which shells intended for the forts, which fell short.

One of the shells knocked off a funnel of the Askold, leaving that vessel with at the base of one of the funnels, covering that vessel with a dense cloud of black platory remarks I addressed to him, but to emerge, uninjured. Several other Russian vessels were struck, but none seemed

As for the second line—that intended for the forts—a good many shells fell

bursting in the sea close to the shore and many striking the hillside and raising clouds of yellow dust or smoke. Two or three burst on the very summit of the forts. One explcded a magazine on Gold Hill fort, raising an enermous column of

If I had been in a place of safety I should have admired their perfect order and the gracefulness with which they

On the other hand the Russian fleet seemed to manoeuvre clumsily. It fired enough, however, even the torpedoed battle ships using their guns, but none of the sixty-three ton guns commanding the entrance to the harber let fly at the Japanese there was a violent vibration in the air and a crackling sound, which was especially terrifying.

After about half an hour of the sort of

experience that I have been trying to describe the Columbia got clear of the rival leets. The whole engagement lasted about forty-three minutes.

Both Sides on Board.

For some time after we had got out of reach of the shells we still felt uneasy, for a shot from the forts or a Russian torpedo boat might still overtake us; but when a considerable interval had elapsed and nothing of the kind happened we began to plack up courage and to think that we were very fine fellows after all. The Russian soldiers still remained with

of putting them ashore somewhere in a boat, but as they did not object to being carried away, why, we did not trouble urselves any more about them. I felt shelter to another and might be caught half way across if I did not hurry. Of course I did not reason about the matter. sorry for the poor fellows, however, and went to see them. They were sitting on the deck with stolid, expressionless faces,

sengers, one of whom was from Dalny, spoke some Russian, and was, I should and wanted the captain to stop the boat, imagine, from his cast of countenance out I had explained to them that we were one of the many Japanese touts that are going just a little further to be out of to be found in Liao-Tung. This Japanese was speaking to the Rus-

sian soldiers when I came along. What he that this Japanese used to amuse himsel with these soldiers while we were in quar-Russian soldier is the simpliest and most guillible individual on earth. Anybody even an enemy, can make a fool of him. When I found myself in quarantine in he Columbia I determined to send a mes to Chefoo by another boat which wa

Hie Despatch Sent It was the simplest kind of strtegy, such as would not for a moment deceive the dullest soldier in Japan. I engaged one of the soldiers in conversation and gave him a cigarettte. One of my friends gave the other some liquor, which he went below the shelter of the forward set of cabins. to drink. While our two guards were thus employed my letter was flung overboard in an empty cigar box containing a little money; the "sampan" man approached

with impunity, got the letter took it to its destination and brought back a receipt for it without the sodliers suspecting any-Why the man I was conversing with did not suspect anything passes my compre-hension, for no less than four Chinese low although these "boys" had never be-

After our escape I apprached these soldiers and pointed out to them that they were going to Chefoo and that they could go to their consul there. They did not seem to know what a consul was, and they innecently asked if there were Russian soldiers in Chefoo. This was the last I saw of them. I believe that the British consul at Chefoo explained the fact of their appearance in Chefoo on board a with the object of preventing, if possible their being treated as deserters on their little weight with the Russian military

All there things came under my own obervation on February 8. I have since, owever, heard other things that might be given a place here. I have just seen a man who was on board the Petropaviovsk when the torpedoing took place. He heard he asked what had happened. practice," they said. He told me that the Japanese in the torpedo boats cheered as they went away. They had good reason to

FRANCIS McCULLAGH.

JAPS ROUT THE RUSSIANS.

(Continued from Page 3).

silenced. In his report General Kuroki expresses the belief that his shelling was very effective against the Russians.

The Japanese losses in the bombardments of Saturday were two men killed and five officers and twenty-two men wounded. A flotilla of gunboats from the squadron of Admiral Hosoya participated in the fighting of Saturday. It encountered a mixed force of Russian infantry, cavalry and artiflery on the Manchurian bank of the Yalu below Antung and after a sharp fight scattered them to the hills.

A bridge across the main stream of ...e forts did not fire very frequertly, and did not, I think, do much damage. Whenever Japanese division and the Imperial Guards immediately began crossing.

> back of Kosan, facing the Russian posithrough Saturday night regiment after regiment of Japanese soldiers poured. across the bridge and at a late hour Saturday night General Kuroki telegraphed to the general staff of the army: "I will attack the enemy on May 1 at dawn." Gental telegraphed to the general staff of the army: "I will attack the enemy on May 1 at dawn." Gental telegraphed to the general staff of the army: "I will attack the enemy on May 1 at dawn." eral Kuroki at daylight today centered all-his artillery on the Russian position be-tween Chiu Tien Cheng and Yomoko. To this fire the Russians made reply with all

their batteries.
At 7 o'clock in the morning the Russian battery at Yoshoko was silenced and half an hour later General Kuroki ordered his line, stretching for four miles, to attack. The Japanese infantry, on the word of command, charged across the Iho, wading that stream breast deep and began storming the heights at 8.15.

At 9 o'clock they had swept the Russian line heights across the line heights.

No report has been received in Tokio concerning the losses sustained by the Japanese in the fighting of today. It is believed that these losses were heavy, particularly desired that these losses were heavy, particularly desired that these losses were heavy. ticularly during the infantry charge.

The reports of this fighting which have een received here do not indicate whethe the direction of Feng Kuan Cheng, on the

Annapolis, N. S., May 1-(Special)-The ellows, of this place, and some from Guidng Star Lodge, Granville Ferry, this afternoon celebrated the eighty-fifth anniverin America by marching in procession to with these soldiers while we were in quarting in a way, that did not say very much for the soldiers' self-respect. The an eloquent and appropriate discourse was delivered by Rev. J. A. Ramsay, of much procession soldier is the simpliest and most

Coal has been found in Siberia, so that on part of the Trans-Siberian Railway, namely, between Irkutsk and Chellabinsk, the locomo-tives burn coal instead of wood.

CO

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W EAK MEN CURED IN 30 DAYS