POOR DOCUMENT

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 21, 1904.

THE CITY CONTEST

In so far as appears on the surface last night's Conservative convention was harmonious, and in Alderman Maxwell the opposition has nominated an energetic and capable candidate who may be expected to make a strong fight. Possibly Mr. Wilson would have commanded a somewhat greater support at the outset, but Mr. Wilson was not available, and the convention probably decided upon the strongest of the aspirants. It would be idle to say that Alderman Maxwell's recent aldermanic activities have been such as would be likely to help him in his appeal to the electors; but civic issues, as a matter of fact, will have little to do with the contest, and as he is a well known and capable business man, a vigorous and effective speaker and a man of affairs, the alderman will be no mean antagonist if his party accords him a fighting support.

It may be said that both sides will experience some difficulty in raising the enthusiasm to an effective fighting pitch, for the result of the contest cannot be vital to either side, and there is a class of voters whose blood is not warmed by these lesser struggles. Our political history in these constituencies since the last general provincial battle has been marked by sensational swings of the pendulum, and the records are such as to puzzle would-be forecasters of the next result. The local government won the county by a two to one vote before, and carried its full city ticket, two men having but narrow margins. Political values were unsettled thereafter by the Federal bye-election. Then came the great battle of November, in which feeling over the railroad issue swept the Liberals to unparalleled defeat in both city and city and county. The result then did not indicate the normal standing of the parties; and while at present Federal lines are drawn it is unsafe to infer too much from the majorities of Doctor Daniel and Doctor Stockton.

Unquestionably much now depends upon which party can put most ginger into its campaign. Bribery agreement or none, it is a fact that the "resources of civilization" are expected to be scarce on both sides.

Mr. Skinner has the advantage of whatever prestige attaches to the local government's big majority in the House. Mr. Maxwell has the advantage of whatever prestige attaches to the recent Conservative victory here. Within certain limits the contest should be keen and interesting. Both men should be heard not only on the usual local political issues, but also in regard to questions of civic concern which should come before the next legislature.

OUR ARMY AND NAVY

Those who think Canada is ringed around by perils from sea and land will not appreciate the views of Mr. E. W. Thomson who writes of Canada's army and navy in the Boston Transcript, of which journal he is the versatile Ottawa correspondent. Mr. Thomson, one surmises, would have Canada independent, but like others of that trend, he sees that to be independent too soon might mean to be helpless. Therefore he takes it for granted that an offensive and defensive alliance between Britain and the United States will soon free us definitely and surely from any peril from the south, and concludes that if we are not menaced from that quarter we cannot be menaced at all. The outstanding objection to Mr. Thomson's scheme as we see it is that it is too frankly a case of neglecting to consider Canada's obligation and future as an important member of the great and enduring British family. For all that he commands interest.

He assumes that the virtual withdrawal of the British North Atlantic squadron is equivalent to Britain's acknowledgment of Canada's independence, and he says that the Ottawa government must assume new and heavy responsibilities. He does not care that they are new, and he is not at all afraid that they are too heavy:

"With this the Ottawa government must assume new responsibilities, and the expenses pertaining to new dignity. That government has long been contributing part of the cost of keeping up and improving the fortifications on both coasts. It will now, or soon, have to maintain about two thousand more Canadian regulars, some few cruisers and coast defence craft. Arrangements for these services are fairly under way."

He maintains that a peace league between Britain and the United States is practically an accomplished thing. Who can attack Canada? "No other Power owns a foot of land nearer than the Azores (St. Pierre?) Not Germany, Russia, Italy, France, Spain or Japan has any coaling station either in the Pacific nor the Atlantic so near to Canada that it could be used as a naval base against her. No country has a more perfect strategic position, for defence. Probably all continental Europe united could not, without seizing some British or some United States property, land 5,000 men in Canada, and keep them supplied until all rounded up." He thinks we need about four good cruisers to prevent a possible far flung naval raid on either coast. These with small fishery cruisers and a few torpedo boats would be sufficient for all possible contingencies, for fishery patrol and for amateur pirates and "coast-Indian uprisings." He continues:

"'Oh, but,' some Canadians say, 'our seaborne commerce could not be safe unless we had a large navy, one that would be seen in every port and on every lane of ocean traffic the world over.' Not safe against what? Pirates? The navies of the civilized world are a unit against that. Canada's right to the common defence would consist in guarding her own shores against pirates and keeping those shores well charted and lighted and buoyed. Belgium, population over seven millions, has no navy, though her sea-borne imports are about two billion francs, her sea-borne exports nearly as valuable, and her trade large with both the Americas, with Asiatic and with African countries. Sweden and Norway, united population about eight million, operating a large mercantile marine in all seas, have no navy, except for coast defence. The Netherlands have a considerable navy, other than that for cosat service, because they have great and distant colonies. Mexico, population fourteen million, has two despatch vessels, two unarmored gunboats, a training cruiser and two gunboats, total crews of her navy 124 officers and 451 men. These instances indicate that the King's independent Canada, unless for the purpose of making a grand flourish, could need only a few coast defence ships."

This is all reasonable enough but for one important fact—that Mr. Thomson has cut loose from the British Empire in his flight. The Dutch, the Belgians, Sweden and Norway have only themselves to consider. Canada, though self-governing to the limit of self-government, is and will be, an integral part of the Empire, and her scheme of defence must be considered with that fact in view.

SOUND DOCTRINE

Mr. Roosevelt, who drew much criticism upon himself by his intervention in the great anthracite coal strike, has won much commendation by his recent references to the relations between labor and capital. In his determination to uphold the law at any cost the president resembles Mr. Cleveland, and his views are shared by the best element in all enlightened countries. In his message he argued for fair treatment of men by employers, and of employers by men. And he maintained that while unionism is right non-unionism is no crime and must not be punished. He said in part:

"There are in this country some labor unions which have habitually, and other labor unions which have often, been among the most effective agents in working for good citizenship and for uplifting the condition of those whose welfare should be closest to our hearts. But when any labor union seeks improper ends, or seeks to achieve proper ends by improper means, all good citizens and more especially all honorable public servants must oppose the wrong-doing as resolutely as they would oppose the wrongdoings of any great corporation. Of course any violence, brutality, or corruption, should not for one moment be tolerated.

"Wage workers have an entire right to organize and by all peaceful and honorable means to endeavor to persuade their fellows to join with them in organizations. They have a legal right, which, according to circumstances, may or may not be a moral right, to refuse to work in company with men who decline to join their organizations. They have under no circumstances the right to commit violence upon those, whether capitalists or wage workers, who refuse to support their organizations, or who side with those with whom they are at odds; for mob rule is intolerable in any form."

All of which, though homely, is sound. It means that hereafter the governor who fails to suppress disorder in his own state with state troops, will find Federal troops keeping his house in order. The strike without disorder is no such calamity as the strike accompanied by mob rule. An orderly strike may be justifiable and even useful. A strike accompanied by sustained violence is a crime against the general welfare, and its continuance argues cowardice or incapacity on the part of the authorities.

MORMON DICTATION

Mormonism is an insidious disease of which the world is learning some amazing facts. Recent revelations proving at once the effrontery and the power of the Saints, have shown also the extent to which the Mormon church has dared, and been able, to dominate the politics not only of Utah but of Idaho as well. The church is in politics and in business. It desired the passage of a bill giving a bounty for the manufacture of sugar. Of four refineries in Idaho, "Apostle" John Henry Smith is president of three. Gentiles recently established the fourth in self-defence. The sugar bounty bill was passed by the legislature because the Mormons threatened to defeat the men who dared vote against it. Men from Utah go into Idaho and tell the people there how to vote. The visitors are church officials. They bring news of a "revelation" that a certain ticket is to be supported. That ticket wins.

Governor Morrison, of Idaho, desired a renomination. He was a Republican, satisfactory to his party. The governor had resisted Mormon demands. The Mormons killed him politically. A witness before the Smoot committee told of Mormon interference in the last election. "It is impossible," he said, "for any man or any party to stand against the Mormon church in Idaho. The delegates elected by Mormon counties are not always Mormon in religion, but they are always Mormon in political action." The witness said the Mormons declared that not a vote would be given the Democrats, and "they made good." He stated as his belief that not one Mormon voted the Democratic ticket.

The church grows in power. Its missionaries are everywhere—quiet, persistent agents who do not know what absolute failure is. They are today quietly establishing a colony which aims at political power in the Canadian Northwest. Thrifty, prosperous, hard-working folk, they are doubly dangerous because they display no desire to interfere in politics until they are sure of their ground. Evidently they are sure of it in Utah and Idaho, and they are strong in other states. An effective antidote is yet wanting, but the Smoot revelations will at least concentrate a greater degree of attention upon a problem of immense and rapidly growing importance.

FACING NEW DISASTERS

Since the Czar decided to accord the Russian press a degree of liberty the St. Petersburg newspapers have placed some disturbing truths before the people. Even before the Japanese finally shattered the Port Arthur ships in the harbor, the St. Petersburg Novoe Vreyma discussed Russia's chance of recovering command of the sea, and pronounced it hopeless. When it is remembered that Russia's cause is hopeless unless she can defeat or disable Admiral Togo's fleet, the frankness shown by the St. Petersburg newspaper appears remarkable. This journal believes the Japanese may capture Port Arthur before the Baltic fleet arrives, and may repair some of the Russian vessels that have been sunk in the shallow harbor. Even if the Vladivostok squadron is not frozen in, the Russian writer does not believe it can be of material assistance to Admiral Rojestvensky. He points out that when the Vladivostok ships attempted to co-operate with Admiral Withoft in accordance with instructions telegraphed by the Reshitelni from Chefoo, the news of its having put to sea was published in London the same evening, in spite of the most stringent censorship of all telegrams, and thus Admiral Kammura was fully informed of its movements. There is no reason to suppose that a second attempt of the same kind would be more successful.

Since the Baltic fleet must depend on its own guns, what is its chance against Togo? The Novoe Vreyma believes its chance is slight: "The value of the opposing battle fleets, including armored cruisers, is estimated numerically at 613 to 334 in favor of Japan, the calculation being based on a comparison between their fighting qualities in respect of speed, armament, and defensive armor. Even if Admiral Togo should consider it necessary to detach four armored cruisers to intercept the Vladivostok squadron, which the writer considers improbable, the value of his fleet might still be stated as 415, thus leaving a considerable balance in his favor. The superiority of the Japanese in protected cruisers and in torpedo craft of all kinds is regarded as so great that no comparison can be instituted."

But the odds against the Russians are really even greater than the Novoe Vreyma admits; for the Baltic fleet is to encounter victorious veterans, tried ships commanded by one of the greatest captains of history, who has under him officers and men who have recently astonished the nations by their courage, their gunnery and their resourcefulness. The Baltic fleet has no open port to steer for. It can seize one only after it has dealt with the Japanese admiral whose fleet even the Novoe Vreyma regards as greatly superior to that under Rojestvensky.

Retaining command of the sea, as evidently Japan will, even a reverse in the region of Mukden would not be irreparable. The world has heard much of the Russian reserves that have been pouring into Kuropatkin's lines from the north since Oyama's advance was stayed. The Japanese have said nothing about reinforcing their field marshal, but as they have busy transports and a clear railway line to Liao Yang, it is safe to assume that Oyama has received as many fresh troops as he requires. Russia, it is probable, can do nothing by sea. It is most improbable that she can drive Oyama back beyond Liao Yang. And it seems likely enough that Oyama, in good time, will take Mukden.

CHAMBERLAIN AND DILKE

Mr. C. Wentworth Dilke, a son of Sir Charles Dilke, is visiting the United States, and has been interviewed in Washington in regard to Imperial preferential trade and the future of the British Colonies. The British Liberals, he says, will win the next election, but their reign will be short, as they lack a strong leader. Mr. Chamberlain, says Mr. Dilke, might live to see his plan adopted if he were a younger man, but England is unlikely to give up her system of free imports within his lifetime. After a while a modification of the Chamberlain plan may be adopted. Mr. Dilke, who has lived in Australia for many years, expresses the belief that the Colonies will drift into independence. "No artificial expedient," he thinks, "can bind them forever. The preferential plan he evidently regards as artificial. Australia, he is sure, will raise the cry "Australia for the Australians"—not now, nor in the immediate future, but some day.

Mr. Dilke, it is clear, has doubts about pretty much everything, and everybody. He is doubtful about the Chamberlain plan, but he does not believe free imports will long be held sacred.

Meantime the latest speech of Mr. Chamberlain, a brief summary of which has appeared in The Telegraph, shows that he is becoming more outspoken in his advocacy of protection. He told his East End audience that the antiquated fiscal system was the greatest of the evils that oppress the British working classes. He referred to the system of free imports as "an old superstition," to which England has clung while every other civilized country, including every British colony, has rejected it. Mr. Chamberlain once more expressed alarm about the future of the Empire. Once more, it seems, we are "at the parting of the ways":

"On the question of our future relations with the Colonies he felt most deeply, because he believed it was most urgent. If we did not grasp the opportunity and the sceptre of our dominions passed from our hand we should be held responsible by our descendants. Sixty years ago the colonies were in their infancy. They were so far distant that they were almost out of the minds of the statesmen of the day. The idea that they should ever combine into one great empire would have been laughed at as distinctly impracticable. Now the great majority of people in this land have no dearer wish than to bring all men of the British race into one great organized union. He went on to say that Great Britain, great as she is, is not quite rich enough to bear alone the whole burden of the vast fabric of empire built up by our ancestors. The empire is now supported by ties of sentiment alone. It is inconceivable that ties of sentiment are enough. His opponents seemed absolutely incapable of understanding the colonial question. It was not a question of the loyalty of the colonies, which he sometimes thought were more loyal to us than we to them. It was a question of organization. The colonial governments had considered this great problem, and come to the conclusion that the union which has existed for the last fifty years is altogether insufficient, if Britons throughout the world are to rise to a splendid conception of a united family of kindred States."

Where does Mr. Chamberlain find evidence that the Colonial governments have come to any such conclusion? They have proposed nothing. They have shown quick sympathy with Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, but the alarm over our future relations has not agitated any Colonial government extensively. The Colonies are in sympathy with the principle of any proposal looking toward Imperial unity and strength, but they have given no evidence of their belief in the "parting-of-the-ways" crisis. The Colonies are anxious that the people of Great Britain shall pass upon the British fiscal policy, but the Colonial governments have not asked Great Britain to take any particular course in regard to that policy. Canada offered a preference, and no doubt is willing to take one. Mr. Fielding, indeed, has intimated that a return was expected. But no one here has seriously suggested that the Empire is going to pieces if the preference does not come. It is of significant interest, however, that the United States is hoping Great Britain will allow the opportunity to slip away.

The Colonies, perhaps, believe that a system of preferences would strengthen the Empire greatly, but it is for the British electors first to say what their view of the matter is.

Mr. Chamberlain had this to say of the next elections: "He said he was told his policy was discredited and defeated and himself demolished, pulverized and smashed. He refrained from prophesying, but whether the Liberal party was victorious or not at the next election, the question of tariff reform once raised would never die."

CANADA AND THE SHIPS

Colonel Denison, who is an ardent Imperialist and who has devoted considerable study to the question of Imperial defence, speaks in a most interesting manner of the withdrawal of the North Atlantic squadron, and its bearing upon the safety of Canada and the defence of the Empire as a whole. Canada, he says, has no right to complain, and, in fact, no cause to complain, since the massing of Great Britain's naval strength is the solution of the question before the Admiralty. We do not lose any protection under the new plan, and even if we did lose some, Colonel Denison says, we would not have any right to complain unless we had paid, in one way or another, for some of the ships involved, For, he says in an interview in the Toronto News, "whether we pay or not, if we want naval protection it is far better for us to have the Imperial navy massed in home waters than to have a small fleet out here. Then in case of trouble the entire strength of the navy could be massed wherever it was found that the most effective blow could be struck. A first principle of warfare which the people at large, and too many soldiers as well, do not grasp is that a scattering of their forces, even in strong bodies, is a weakness. The great general wants to survey the field, find the strategical point of attack, and then strike with all the force at his command, and smash the resistance of the enemy at once. It always has been so, and always will be."

He cites many examples of the value of this principle, from both land and naval campaigns, including Russia's folly in going to war when her fleets were scattered. He does not believe the Australian plan is wise or patriotic:

"The navy should be so concentrated that in time of war it can be so used as to obtain the command of the sea at once. The Australians are demanding that their fleet be kept in Australian waters for the defence of those waters. That is a very narrow-minded and unpatriotic policy indeed, because when the big fight comes the vessels would be needed there while they would be worse than useless in the southern waters. In a great struggle you cannot tell where the strategical point of conflict will be. It may be in the channel, or, as in 1805, at a point like Trafalgar, or perhaps somewhere in the Mediterranean. That is the time we need our fleet massed. * * * See what is happening in the present war. * * * And if a British fleet had to face a foe in the Mediterranean, or nearer home even, of what use would the vessels be which would be cruising off our Atlantic or Pacific coasts, or in Australian waters?"

The presence of a third-rate squadron in our waters is of no particular value. To maintain a great naval force here would argue suspicion that it would be necessary to fight the United States at sea. Within striking distance of the fleet most likely to become hostile is the place for a formidable array of battleships. The ships can move when the scene of trouble, actual or expected, shifts.

BUYING AND STARTING

The Montreal Gazette says editorially:

"Mr. Emmerson, minister of railways, is at St. John, making arrangements for the establishment of a newspaper in that city to support the Laurier government. There seems to be a marked difference between starting a new paper and buying one that somebody else has started, because he is being subjected to no denunciation as a plotter or conspirator by those who saw the signs of grave crimes and misdemeanors in a political opponent of Mr. Emmerson buying a paper in St. John and another in Montreal."

NOTE AND COMMENT

The assessment commission does not take form very rapidly.

* * *

Ald. Maxwell promises that if elected to the Legislature he will retire from civic politics. The statement may win some votes.

* * *

After breathing threatenings and slaughter, Mr. Thomas Lawson and "Colonel Bill" Greene talked peacefully for seven hours and announced that they had arrived at an understanding. Presumably it was an understanding that a speculative public might be whipsawed to the tune of a few more millions.

* * *

General Stoessel does not use the form "I regret to report." "I am happy to inform your majesty" is his introduction to the story of the terrific Japanese assault which resulted in the capture of Metre Hill. The world will hope that Stoessel will escape death at Port Arthur, though the odds against any such luck are fearful.

* * *

If the fears of some of the newspapers are well-founded certain voters would do well to look out for smooth or otherwise defaced silver. There is said to be a "corner" in that, and the man found with any of it after election day will deserve it. Seriously speaking, the community is in no great danger of being debauched by either party on the present occasion, and it may be that readiness to reform simply argues an empty party purse.

* * *

New York politics have developed a picturesque fight over the senatorship, in which the vague presidential ambitions of ex-Governor Odell and the mots and millions of Senator Depew are figuring. An interesting suggestion by our New York correspondent is that, should the Democrats put up a politician of the howling dervish type for the presidency next time, Mr. Roosevelt might be "persuaded" to reconsider his decision never again to be a candidate for the White House.

* * *

The Globe joins the Sun in its plea for an anti-bribery agreement between the political leaders for this campaign. This really ought to settle it. If there is any talk of corruption after election there may be a tendency to hold the Globe, or the Sun, responsible. The proposal of our virtuous contemporaries is put forward at a good time, for it is pretty thoroughly understood that neither side has any great amount of money to throw away. And the stakes are not very great this time anyway.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew was established about a score of years ago by a Chicago banker, and has just held its 19th annual convention in Philadelphia.

The New York police force shows 72.43 per cent. native born and 22.03 per cent of Irish birth, while all other nations comprise 5.54 per cent of the total.

A MOMENT PLEASE

We are very grateful to our many kind friends who have sent in the money for their subscriptions for the coming year. But there are a great many valued subscribers who have not yet responded to our appeal for remittance of all arrears and payment for the coming year. We close our books on December 31, and are anxious to have all subscriptions fully paid up in advance. Will every one who has not paid kindly do so at once and enable us to close our books for the year showing every subscription paid up in advance. If three thousand persons will send in their renewals before December 31, we will be delighted and appreciate most heartily such a response. Address all communications intended for the business department to

S. J. McGOWAN,
Business Manager,
The Telegraph Publishing Co.,
St. John, N. B.

SCENES IN THE THEATRE OF WAR

How the Manchus Fare While Russ and Jap Fight for Their Fields

BETWEEN THE (WAR) ACTS

Refugee Chinese Women and Children—Forced Guests of a Village Patriarch—A Sick Man and His Doctor—Little Wong Yu's Jealousy and How It Was Cured — Betrothal of Quong Yu, the Stable Boy.

(Special Correspondence of the Evening Post)

Field Headquarters, Gen. Oku's Army, Near Mukden, Nov. 5—Our compound is rather domestic, though it conveys a hundred intimations a day of the presence of war.

Next door all the women of the village have been collected together, with their offspring, if at breast. One night there was considerable commotion—soldiers had dispossessed them, and they had to come with their babies to seek the shelter of the underground bombproof in our garden. As soon as complained to, Japanese officers compelled the soldiers to give back to the Chinese women their shelter. They have, however, to come to our compound to grind their millet, for here are the only two little donkeys that wore through the attack on Shinlipo. One was wounded with a shrapnel ball, but he can still walk the round of the millet-grinder (though he has to be blindfolded so he won't eat too much), dragging a log-like stone over a flat stone, thus threshing the millet from its husk.

Today, rather a pretty girl came to grind out her millet. I mean, of course, she was comparatively pretty—she had more of a nose than the others, seemed less used up with the wear and tear of this sylvan vegetarian existence.

Here are farms—indeed, all Manchuria, so far as one sees in a 250-mile journey up from the peninsula, is one great garden of millet and beans, dotted with walled settlements, where the cultivators huddle together with their dogs to offer common resistance against the bandits who otherwise would eat and steal all they had. What these rustic Manchurians live for is no more than the half-wolves of the surrounding plains live for. They have appetites to be daily appeased; they rear young who have to be fed and who are a link with life. Otherwise, there are no ambitions, no possibilities in existence.

By order of the army, we are billeted upon a native family of some standing. The wife has a severe and rather patrician face; the husband possesses Chinese novels, the Sibo Story, which reminds you of Robin Hood, and three-fourths of a Chinese dictionary (compared with which the Century Dictionary is a vest-pocket affair), yet from the torn papers in his windows and the dust upon his lintels, and the ragged condition of the straw mat upon the general bench which serves as a bed, you would think him poor. That is merely to deceive the predatory mandarin and the burglarious Hunghutse.

His children are named Number One Wong, Number Two Wong, and so on, so he can keep count, I suppose, of the growth of the Wong family. Number One Wong is charming, by any standard. Since yesterday afternoon he had eaten nothing, when I saw him cutting the door jamb with an old Chinese razor, great tears falling from his round cheeks.

"What's the matter with Wong Yu today?" I asked an interpreter. "What's he cutting up the door jamb for, and crying?"

"Oh, he very angry, said the interpreter, "because his mother, she petted one of the other children."

I got Wong Yu some chestnuts and a pear and a piece of unspeakable native jellied candy, and gave it to him with a slap on the back.

"Toshi, toshi, toshi," he said at once, brightening like a sunrise. Then he gave part to his severe-looking mother, and to his sick father, and to his unsympathizing brothers and sisters; and this afternoon we have heard nothing except Wong Yu's childish, delightful laughter.

He showed me some original drawings of Manchurian formal decorations, and gave me the Manchurian names for them—the ox, the ass, the wolf, and the temple. Wong Yu cannot read yet, having innumerable characters to learn by heart, but you would be surprised to see how many characters his elder brother, Wong Sha, can give a name to—notwithstanding he is but twelve years old, and that since Hai-Cheng we have not seen a single school. They learn them by every one saying the same thing over in unison (which Westerners tell me is done in America)—all pronouncing over and over the same word at the same time.

We have been somewhat concerned about the sick father. What is the matter with him? He lies on his kang, ministered unto by his wife, as if he were in extremis. The doctor came this morning, a man with a purple skirt underneath his overall-blue gown, and he sat a long time thinking, and concocting pungent medicines, and—looking at us pass in and out. Were we responsible? Had we made the man ill by crowding him, by order of the victorious army, from his warm kang to that cold one opposite the door? The doctor had an intellectual face, and his eyes looked reproachful.

But what is one going to do? One is a guest of the government, guest of the army, and must stay where one is put. The gorgeous Chinese interpreter, with a sable cap, embroidered in gold, with an ideograph, says that it doesn't matter—that these people are country people. He is himself of the mandarin class.

Some of the women are wives of carters who were commandeered by Russians to assist their transport. Two of the carters have just returned, having sold their carts furtively in Mukden, making their way then far to the west to the railway which borders neutral territory, thence south to Niu-Chwang, and thence up the captured Manchurian Railway home to Shihliho. They brought no information of the Russian side, not having had the capacity to observe and report military conditions. They found their homes stove in at the roof and blown in at the side, and in occupation by Japanese and the attaches of Oku's army. They found the trees which stand here and there being cut down and made into logs, which, in a gulch yonder, were being "cooked," as the soldiers call it, into charcoal.

By means of charcoal in improvised hibachis—Marshal Oyama has one improvised from a Russian drum—quarters of officers and men are to be warmed. They are even to be used in the front trenches to mitigate the rigors of frost. The soldier is clothed with a waistcoat of goatskin (such as you see in De Neuville's paintings of the French in the war of 1870), and over that an enveloping blanket topcoat, goatskin lined; so feet and hands will suffer most, and the hibachi is to give opportunity for casual warmth to them. A Japanese does not seem to mind cold, in Japan at any rate, if he can spread his hands over live coals now and again.

The Chinese interpreter had found me a horse-boy named Quong Yu, and felt somewhat in charge of him. The other day he came to me and said, "Quong Yu, he want to go Liaoyang side, to visit his father.

"Very well," I answered, "tell him he may go at nine in the morning and if he leaves the noon feed for the pony he need not return till evening."

"He not go for all day," rejoined the interpreter; "he come back chop-chop (quickly). He no have muchee pidgin (business)."

After some hesitation he added:

"He have no muchee pidgin. His father have catchee one wife for Quong Yu; and Quong Yu want to look see."

"Well, I should think he would," I rejoined cordially, reviewing mentally the Manchurian women I have seen in the procession of refugees.

Now from what you know in New York of Chinese you cannot picture Quong Yu. He is healthy and strong, and tall and broad, like a true Manchu. He talks under his breath like servants of other bloods if he does not like his assigned duty. But he is faithful in every particular, always to be trusted. I told him at the start that the pony, when not in use, must be exercised by the halter daily. He understood only the last part of the injunction, and as the interpreter turns up only now and then, as suits his mandarin habits, I have for days been unable to stop Quong Yu from taking the pony out for a long walk, even though I had just had it on a forty-mile ride!

Certainly one of the best of those who serve us is "George." Nobody knows his Japanese name. He was on Dewey's ship at the battle of Manila Bay as steward, and previously had served as second cook in San Francisco. So he is what is called in the East "savvy." Most of the other Japanese servants and interpreters went home after a taste of war and Manchurian cold weather.

"George," inquired his employer, "are you going home, too?"

"Not," said George, "until you die!"

This is the old, storied Japanese spirit of devotion—the spirit of the Forty-seven Ronin. "George" is the only exponent we have seen.

He preferred to be called George, having been in a country where that is a generic term for the off-colored servant. Besides, his own name was complicated. And one day, when we noticed he had in employ a new Chinese horse-boy, we asked: "George, where did you get this boy?" and learned that he simply followed on and attached himself, as adventurous boys at home would do to a traveling circus.

"What are you paying him?"

"Oh, sometimes I give him five cents, sir."

"What is his name?"

"His name is Charlie, sir." His real name turned out to be Chong Chooy Fat. So the question was asked:

"Why don't you call him by his right name?"

"Because, sir," George replied, "it's too darn hard to remember!" F. C.

An Unhappy Woman's Advice.

A woman who has had a very unhappy married life gives this advice to young women:—

Don't marry a man to reform him. It cant' be done unless he is under twenty-one.

The woman who permits her heart to rule her head makes a sad mistake.

If a girl loves a man, no matter how dissipated or selfish he may be, she plunges into matrimony with her eyes closed.

No woman should ever depend entirely on her husband for happiness. It is folly and leads always to heartache. A married woman should have a life apart from her husband.

Let her keep sweet and true and loveable, but beyond a certain point she should not venture, lest she lose her individuality in her husband's, with the result that he will impose upon her.

Beware of a man with an ungovernable temper, and almost all men are endowed with this quality.

Shun the man who drinks to excess, for it is a habit that leads to wretchedness.

Avoid also the man who is selfish, the man who considers always his own interests before those of his wife.

All men are fickle, and it depends on the wife's power to hold them.—Baltimore Sun.

Poor Policy.

"A liberal policy pays best," said Mayor Stoy, of Atlantic City. "The government and the townspeople of the resort are liberal, and that is why—or partly why—Atlantic City has so well succeeded.

"We had a grocer here once who was not liberal. He did not get on. He soon had to shut up shop. His methods did not suit a place like this.

"Here is an example of that grocer's way of doing business.

"A millionaire cottager called on him one morning and said, half amused and half angry.

"'You have charged me on this bill, sir, with things I never got. What do you mean by such items as one handful of raisins, three lumps of cheese, one pocketful almonds, two pieces of candy and three mouthfuls of sugar?'

"'I mean, sir,' said the grocer, 'that they who bring their boys with them when they do their marketing must pay for all they get.'"

The Meaning of "Worry."

(From the Lancet).

The generic and much-covering term of "worry" is often the name for a trouble the essential part of which is the "difficulty of making up the mind." Those who can read between the lines discern also in many a case of suicide the same difficulty as the final cause which plunged a weak and distracted intelligence into the ultimate catastrophe. Sooner than continue the struggle with doubts, alternatives and perplexities the mind that cannot be "made up" is overthrown altogether.

The Tea Party in the East.

When the little Jap is weary
Chasing up the flying foe,
Plodding on in sand and sunlight,
Or in bitter frost and snow,
Then he halts beneath the shelter
Of a spreading wayside tree,
Builds a fire and boils the kettle,
And prepares a pot of tea.

When the battle-dawn in breaking
On the cruisers of the Czar,
All his big and burly sailors
Gather round the samovar.
And, before the silver trumpets
Call to death or victory,
Fortify their gallant spirits
With a draught of steaming tea.

For the hand that's always sober
Is the surest in its aim,
And will reach the highest laurels
Growing on the heights of fame.
Here's a cup of amber Hyson
To the armies o'er the sea,
Marching on to martial glory
On a simple drink of tea.

—Minna Irving, in Leslie's Weekly.

China is the greatest slave country in the world. Of a population of 400,000,000 over one-fortieth are slaves. Every family of means keeps its girl slaves. The girls are mostly purchased to do housework, it being cheaper to buy than to hire.

For a Time

Constipation and Indigestion may give rise to something more serious, due to a distressed feeling or discomfort due to an overworked or impoverished condition of the Digestive Organs. A dose or two of

Beecham's Pills

will easily put this right, but if neglected what a burden of illness may be the consequence.

Sold Everywhere. In boxes 25 cents.