

when Russian troops and bandits crossed the Yalu, and, under pretence of cutting timber, garrisoned the Korean port of Yongampo, at the mouth of the Yalu. Then they started works on Gray Horse Mountain, which was far beyond the limits of their grant, the whole, doubtlessly, being an armed invasion of Korea, as we carefully explained to the Korean government. They gave us to understand that they had not studied the details of the lumber business, also that their army was not trained to fight, but that if we wanted a license to cut timber on the banks of the Yalu, too, we could have it."

"Not a bad idea," observed Craig, "and while they were about it, they might have given you a license to cut timber, and some other incidental things, in Manchuria as well."

Dr. Toshio smiled. "Instead," he said, "we thought it would show our national self-control better if we asked nothing for ourselves. So, with the honorable countries of England and America concurring in our request, we asked that the ports of Yongampo and Wiju, both on the Yalu, and most absurdly held by Russia on pretence of protecting her lumber company, should be opened to foreign trade. Korea consented at once, but as Russia did not pay a bit of attention, we thought it best to negotiate instantly with Russia ourselves."

"By means of torpedoes inserted under her battleships, eh?" said Craig.

The doctor laughed and bowed. "I regret that I must leave you now," he said, "but Miss Toshio will show the pictures I have, illustrating our reasons for going to war."

There was not the least reluctance or embarrassment in Noshi's manner, as she drew nearer the guest, and explained the pictures as she turned them over, but he found it hard to believe that she was not the very courteous, business-like young man that she seemed. So he gave his attention to the pictures, quaintly drawn, and oddly though beautifully colored things. The first was apparently the picture of an old farmer of Nippon, with his wife. Noshi's explanations were rather involved, but Craig gathered that the two were the Good Old Man and Good Old Woman of Nippon's legends, also possibly representing the Emperor, "the divine soul of Nippon," and the Spirit of Honor who watched with him over the people.

These two were busy with an egg,

which, it seemed, was Korea, "a place of great possibilities, though to outward seeming as hard and lifeless as a stone." Under the care of the wise two, it is hatched into a tiny, weakly bird. And then, while they are very busy preparing it some food, a great snake snatched it through an opening in the wall.

"The snake, of course, represents the honorable policy of Russia in the East, Mr. Craig," said Noshi.

"I see," said Craig, looking at the picture, which showed the old man and woman in attitudes very expressive of grief and horror, "and who is that rabbit there, Miss Toshio?"

"The spirit of young Nippon, Mr. Craig," said the girl, "which rises in answer to the Emperor's prayer, ready to live and die in the defence of him and the honor of our land."

"And this is evidently Brer Rabbit on the war-path," said Craig, as he turned to the next, which represented the most warlike rabbit, with the cap and rifle of an infantry soldier, sitting astride on a torpedo boat about twice the size of the Russian battleship beside it, and, as far as Craig could make out, engaged in an heroic attempt to ram the city of Port Arthur.

The last picture showed the Good Old Man with his hands outspread in benediction over the rabbit that, rifle and all, lay at his feet, its forehead pressing the ground, while the Good Old Woman is busy feeding the recovered bird, which flutters its wings in lively gratitude as it perches on her hand.

"That represents," said Noshi, "that we intend to develop the highest good in Korea, placing our consuls in every city, who will take charge of all government property and financing. Our own properly trained police have taken care of affairs at Seoul, and we hope soon to be able to extend the system through the country. We have already begun the construction of railroads and lighthouses, and adopted a scheme for the reclaiming of waste lands."

Craig looked at her. "Miss Toshio," he said, "do you really mean that at war with an enemy like Russia, your leaders are thinking of anything but how to hold their own? Why, there is hardly a western military expert who believes Nippon can get her army across Korea in time to keep Russia from making it the battle-ground, and then you tell me that your people are making reforms in the police, and reclaiming waste lands."