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A FIRE-EATING ORIENTAL.

The awakening of Japan and its active participation in the bustle of nineteenth century life have surprised everybody. Her people had seemed like the Chinese or the Arabs of the desert, so long stationary, that Western nations had concluded that they would continue so for ever. Japan, however, has disappointed them. It has without preparation, as it were, entered into the spirit of Western enterprise and Western progress. It has adopted to no small extent European habits of thought, and fashioned its government after European models. It has found the old methods of carrying on the industries of the people unsuited to the needs of the time and has adopted those of the West. It has learned from Western nations how to raise and organize its armies, how to prosecute a war, and has, under their tutelage, provided itself with an effective and a well-equipped navy. The rapid strides, indeed, which Japan has made in all the arts and customs of Western civilization has excited the wonder of the world.

We are told on very good authority that a little learning is a dangerous thing. Consequently we apprehend the great danger to this little nation will arise from an inordinate estimate of its acquirements. It is to be feared that Japan, confident that it has reaped the full fruits of that knowledge of the science of war which in Europe has only been acquired at the expense of uncounted treasure and the shedding of seas of blood, will imagine itself fitted to cope with those nations who have become past masters in the art of war. Finding in China, with its four hundred millions of people, an easy victim, the Japanese are too likely to become convinced that with them to invade means to conquer. That this opinion largely prevails among the people of Japan we glean from the arrogant utterances of the native press. They have unbending faith in Japan's army, in its navy, and in the patriotism and martial spirit of its people. Their opinion of their nation's prowess is only equalled by the low estimate in which they hold those whom they regard as their country's possible enemies.

It has been asserted, and probably with truth, that Great Britain is not prepared to acquiesce in the dismemberment of the Chinese Empire. This has led the editor of Kokumin no Tomo, a native paper, to write a most brilliant article. According to it England is the China of the West, whom Japan may in the near future have to chastise. England is warned that if she makes Japan her enemy "it would mean a sweeping out of her influence in the East as well as a rising against her of her colonies and subject states." The triumphant editor warns Lord Rosebery that if England "holds a hostile spirit towards us, she must have military power to carry it out, for when once Japan has taken up arms diplomacy will have nothing to do in the matter." In order to fortify his position the editor appeals to history, which he interprets in a very original manner.

Nor does the militant editor fail to convince himself that with all its prestige England would prove an easy victim to the conquerors of the Chinese. What the English depend upon, he declares, is "no more than the bequest of her ancestors and of historical glory." And in a manner which would do no discredit to an American stump orator the Japanese editor proceeds to show on what insufficient grounds England's historical glory is based. It was acquired in the conquest of barbarians, as in Australia or the Malay peninsula, or in Canada. In the Crimea France only saved her from annihilation, and at Waterloo "she only fought against Napoleon when he was already harassed with European arms." Besides, it is clear that "England's army can not now be depended upon; and with her navy alone nothing could be done towards humiliating Japan with the Japanese soldiers in defence of the form." In the event of a contest under such circumstances England "must be prepared to lose all her possessions should she be defeated in Japan, as then the charm of her invincibility would be broken which alone has caused her to be able to maintain those possessions. All these would rise up to regain their independence.

when she would be no longer Empress of the sea and her Oriental trade would collapse, making her a second Spain."

All this is enough to make the heart of the British lion quake, and we have the authority of the Japan Mail for saying that it represents quite faithfully public sentiment in Japan.

A SINGLE POINT.

What we have said about the Alaska boundary has not pleased the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. We are sorry that we cannot agree with our clever contemporary. Our contention has been very simple indeed; but, simple as it is, the Post-Intelligencer does not even attempt to meet it.

Everything that we have said about the assumed boundary is based upon the fact that it starts in the wrong direction. The starting point is described in the Treaty of 1825 with great minuteness. It is the most southern point of Prince of Wales Island; it is in latitude 54° 40' and between the 131st and 133rd parallels of west longitude. There is no dispute about this. From this starting point the line of demarcation runs north, or northwardly. There can be no difference of opinion about this. Now, a line that runs north from Cape Chacon will not go near what is now called Portland Canal. To reach that canal, or inlet, or channel, the line must proceed for a considerable distance due east, or nearly so.

If the treaty of 1825 properly described the division between British Columbia and Alaska, a line that runs up what is called Portland Canal cannot possibly be the line defined in the treaty. In order to reach the entrance of Portland Canal from the southernmost point of Prince of Wales Island a jump to the east of what looks on the map to be a hundred miles must be made. But there is nothing about this eastern course in the treaty. According to that document the line from the most southern point of Prince of Wales Island "remembers a north to long de la passe dite Portland Channel." Running north from the point described in the treaty the line does run along a channel, and if it is continued it can strike the mainland at the 58th degree of north latitude.

Our contemporary and those who contend for the line now assumed to be the true one must see that they start in the wrong direction. What would be thought of the surveyor who, when he was instructed to start from a point, clearly defined, northwards, ran his line due east and afterwards had the impudence to contend that the line thus run was right and according to his instructions? We are quite sure that our Seattle contemporary sees the difficulty that here presents itself, for it does not as much as mention it. Let our American friends stick to the point—Point Chacon—and go north from that point as the Treaty enjoins, and they will find that they will not get near the line they are trying to make the people believe is the true one.

We are accused of suppressing the truth and of making misstatements. We are not conscious of having done either the one or the other. In our first article we quoted from a Parliamentary paper which was evidently drawn up with much care. Article three of the Treaty quoted in that paper was from McCulloch's Commercial Dictionary. "Portland" Channel is not in the article as reproduced in that book. Our contemporary did not quote the treaty in its article on the boundary, and when we said it did not we said what was the simple truth. We trust we have been explicit enough in this article. We contend that our American friends start in the wrong direction, and we need not tell them that in beginning to run a line it is of the utmost importance that the compass point exactly in the direction the description requires. The least variation one way or the other vitiates the whole line and the work must be done over again. In this Alaska line our friends are something like ninety degrees astray.

HYPOCRITICAL HOWLING.

It is amusing to see how sensitive some of the Grits are just now when anything is said in their hearing about the misery and want that are known to exist in Great Britain. As soon as a supporter of the Government in reply to the dismal statements that are made about the dreadful condition to which protection has brought Canada, shows that the evils attributed by the Grits to the National Policy exist on a greater scale and much more conspicuously in Great Britain, which has enjoyed for the last fifty years all the advantages which free trade is capable of conferring, an ultra British and superlatively loyal Grit raises a cry about "starving England." The howler, if he is not as ignorant as a horse, knows very well that what the Conservative says is not only true, but not a tenth part as strong as many of the statements which patriotic Englishmen make when they undertake to describe the present condition of their native land.

This tender regard for the reputation of Great Britain is very amusing, coming as it does from men who, only the other day, were ready, in order to favor their Yankee neighbors, to discriminate in trade against Great Britain. And many of them would to-day take the same ground if they were not prevented by the sterling and active loyalty of their Conservative countrymen. A hypocrite in religion is very hard to put up with, but a hypocrite in politics is perfectly intolerable.

Heart Disease Relieved in 30 Minutes.—All cases of anginal or sympathetic heart disease relieved in 30 minutes and quickly cured, by Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart. One dose convinces. Sold in Victoria by D. H. Campbell.

GOREIA, April 9.—One of the most disastrous floods that has taken place on the Matland river happened here yesterday, when property valued at \$5,000 was destroyed and further damage is expected.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

American newspapers in these days contain references considerable to the "Monroe doctrine." This doctrine, according to the great majority of them, has made the United States virtually master of this continent. It places all the republics, both in North America and South America, under the protection of the United States. No matter what they do or how they treat the subjects of European kings, queens, and emperors, the Monroe doctrine, according to them, gives the United States authority to interfere and to prevent their being dealt with as they deserve. Those who are not well acquainted with the history of the United States will be tempted to believe that this sacred "Monroe doctrine" has been drawn up and promulgated by some supreme power whose authority over the nations of this continent and all other continents is unquestioned. When he finds that it is nothing more than a passage in one of the messages of one of the Presidents of the United States he will be amazed at the arrogance and the audacity of those who speak of it and write of it as if it were an authoritative utterance which cannot be questioned and which everyone on this continent and on the seas which wash its shores, no matter to what nation we may belong, is bound to obey.

Although "The Monroe Doctrine" is a phrase to conjure with by jingo editors and bellicose politicians of a certain class of not a very high grade of intelligence, there are United States citizens both on the press and in the halls of legislation who know how to estimate it at its true value and when to appeal to it reasonably. Harper's Weekly seems to be amused at the use which the jingo editors are just now making of the "Monroe doctrine" and undertakes to tell them what it does and what it does not mean. It says:

It certainly does not mean what the Jingo and their editors assert. They seem to think that the doctrine goes to the extent of making this country the guardian of every republic, present or prospective in Central or South America against the action of any European monarchy. We say this because the general explanation occasioned by Great Britain's insistence that Nicaragua should make a money compensation for the expulsion of her consular agent from Bluefields. The merits of the controversy are obscure, but recent commentators to the contrary, it is not true that any President or Secretary of State of the United States has laid down the proposition that European monarchies must settle all their difficulties with the American republics through the good offices of the United States, or that any European monarchy shall be permitted to hold a Spanish American republic to account for the violation of its international obligations, or that monarchies and empires shall not exist on this hemisphere.

Harper's Weekly gives an historical account of the "Doctrine," and then goes on to show when it may be applied—that is, if the United States is at the time in a position to apply it. It says:

If an imperial government of Europe should undertake to overthrow one of the American republics, the United States might properly interfere to prevent the imposition of monarchical institutions upon our neighbors who desired to remain republics. This is as far as we can go under the Monroe doctrine, and there is no proper or any resolution of congress warranting even so much interference. We would, however, in doing so adopt the opinions of great Americans like Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. But if we apply the perverted Monroe doctrine wherever the Jingo demands it, we shall be adopting the opinions that are one to the right of the respect. If the people of what Americans are fond of calling the great republic desire to see republican principles spread, they will cultivate national dignity and self-respect, and will insist on the right of law in their domestic concerns before they shake their fists at monarchies whenever any single monarch happens to have a quarrel to settle with one of the Central American neighbors. Let us bear in mind that the royalists cannot be chastised or bullied out of existence, and that we can be patriotic Americans and keep our heads at the same time.

This is how Americans of the highest intelligence speak of the "Monroe doctrine" and of the tail-twisters and their writings. They know perfectly well that if the United States adopted the policy of unprincipled meddling that the Jingo advocates, they would soon have its hands full, and it would very quickly bring republicanism into disrepute in every quarter of the world.

A LITTLE WAR.

Great Britain has nearly always a little war on hand in India. The Northern part of the peninsula is inhabited by hardy and half-civilized mountaineers who have been never completely subdued. They are secluded from the world by immense mountain chains, and they consider themselves safe in their fastnesses. Chitral, one of the mountain towns, was occupied by a weak British garrison. Umra Khan chief of a mountain tribe took possession of the town and the British agent, Dr. Robertson, was compelled to take refuge in the fort. A month or so ago a small expedition of 60 Sikhs under Captain Ross and Lieutenant Jones went to the relief of Dr. Robertson. On their way they were met by an overwhelming force of insurgents, and after a desperate fight, in which Captain Ross and the greater part of his forces were killed, the remnant, which consisted of Lieutenant Jones and fourteen men, continued to make good their retreat to a place called Boni. He was there, after a few days, reinforced by about two hundred men, but with even this addition to his force he did not consider it prudent to proceed to Chitral. He continued his retreat to Mastuj.

When news of the reverse reached Chitral Lord Elgin determined to teach the insurgents and their sympathizers a lesson which they would not soon forget. An expedition was organized at Peshawar, 14,000 strong, under Major-General Sir B. Low. In this force is included six British regiments. We find that this little army has

given a good account of itself at Mastandri Pass, which was defended by 12,000 of Umra Khan's tribesmen. The British routed the mountaineers after a sharp fight with but little loss. This success opened the way to Chitral. The advance of the British has been opposed, but the insurgents have been beaten in every engagement. The Swat has been crossed and it is almost certain that the next news from the seat of war will be that Dr. Robertson and his little garrison have been relieved.

The Swat and other hill tribes have found that it is very dangerous to meddle with British garrisons, no matter how weak they may be. They have realized that there is behind them a force which, as far as they are concerned, is irresistible. They have found that the death of a British resident or a British soldier is speedily avenged, and that a temporary success over a handful of soldiers is certain to cost those who achieve it a terrible price. Umra Khan if he escapes with his life will hardly again attack another British post, let it be ever so weak, and insufficiently defended. British supremacy in India can only be maintained by convincing those who may be inclined to resist British authority that rebellion is hopeless, that Great Britain is ready promptly at the point of the bayonet to maintain her authority in every part of the country.

A TRANSFERABLE GRIEVANCE.

One of the difficulties which Newfoundland has had to face is what is called the West Shore difficulty. Many years ago the British Government granted the French certain fishing rights on the west shore of Newfoundland. The privileges conceded to the French appeared at the time to be few and of but little importance. Not an inch of land was given to them, but they were allowed shelter and the privilege of drying their fish on the land near the shore. The length of coast along which these privileges extended was some eight hundred miles. The whole coast line of the Island is said to exceed two thousand miles. For a long while the French enjoyed their privileges quietly. But the Newfoundlanders regarded them with a jealous eye. As time progressed the French became exceedingly liberal in their interpretation of the treaty. They claimed exclusive fishing rights on the West Shore, and Newfoundland fishermen found that they could not follow their calling in their own country or exercise ownership over the territory on its West shore without molestation. Disputes arose and a very bad feeling was engendered between the Newfoundlanders and the French fishermen. When the business of catching lobsters became lucrative the French claimed the exclusive right to catch lobsters along the eight hundred miles of coast over which their rights extended. It was in this dispute that the question was raised—Is the lobster fishery?

The intervention of the British Government was invoked by the aggrieved Newfoundlanders. It was asked to give an authoritative interpretation to the terms of the treaty and to keep the French fishermen and packers in their places. The slow methods of British diplomacy greatly displeased the Newfoundlanders, who seemed to think that all that Great Britain had to do was to express an opinion and to make a demand to have their grievances instantly redressed. But they soon found out that national disputes are not settled in an off-hand way. Instead of accepting the Newfoundland interpretation of the treaty, the French became more exacting and more urgent in insisting on the correctness of their own interpretation of its terms.

What made the matter more aggravating to those interested in the fishing industry of the colony, the French Government gave a bounty of a cent and a half a pound on dried codfish. The Newfoundland fishermen therefore, who received no bounty, had to compete in the markets of the world with the bounty-fed fishermen of France. They found this bounty business a serious drawback to the prosecution of the fishery, for wherever they went they would be undersold by the French fishermen who caught the codfish off their own shores. The bait law was enacted as a sort of retaliation, but it does not seem to have worked very satisfactorily.

If the negotiations which are now going on in Ottawa prove successful, and Newfoundland becomes a Province of the Dominion, Canada will be saddled with this French shore grievance. It is not likely that the change will make any difference in the demands or the pretensions of the French, all that it may stimulate the Home Government to find some way of effecting a settlement with France. But this may not be an easy matter. Much has been done to arrive at a good understanding with France in the matter, but with very little effect. The French Government has refused offers of creating their claims under the treaty. They want the Newfoundland fishery as a nursery for seamen to man their navy, and their policy has been to do all in their power to encourage and foster it, and it is not at all probable that they can be easily induced to abandon their West shore claims.

AN IMPORTANT POSITION.

We trust that the Dominion Government will appoint a good man to the office of Warden of the British Columbia penitentiary. Experience has shown that the man who is to perform the duties of that position efficiently should be of the strictest integrity, and must be possessed of more than ordinary strength of character. The warden must not only be honest himself but must "keep measure" and carry them out to "keep those who are under him honest. He must too, be able to enforce discipline. He must be master of the insti-

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tion, and must have force enough to keep his subordinates in their places. He must not be anyone's tool, and he must be such a man that it will be impossible for him to stand by and see things going wrong without exerting himself vigorously to set them right.

There is a man in Westminster who is declared by all who know him to be the right man for the place—a man who has been tried and not found wanting; a man of iron will and of invincible integrity. When we mention the name of Mr. William Moreby, Governor of the jail in New Westminster, everyone who is acquainted with him, either on the Island or the Mainland, will agree with us when we say that it will be hard to find in the whole Dominion a man better qualified than he to fill the position of Warden of the Penitentiary. He enjoys the confidence and the respect of the whole community, he is a man of good ability and much more than average intelligence. He has, besides, had considerable experience in prison administration and in the management of men of the criminal class.

We believe that the appointment of Mr. Moreby will be popular with men of all creeds and of all shades of politics. If he is placed at the head of the penitentiary they know that it will be well and judiciously managed; that while the prisoners will be treated with the greatest humanity the most stringent discipline will be maintained, and that every official in the institution will be made to know his place and to keep it. There will be, we are confident, no complaint of "irregularities" in the penitentiary if Mr. Moreby is made its Warden. We trust that the Government will give their most favorable consideration to the communications that may be forwarded to them recommending Governor Moreby for the office.

A DREADFUL EXPOSURE.

The arraignment of Oscar Wilde and the revelations that were made in the course of the Queensberry trial should convince everyone capable of reflection that real refinement is not necessarily an ingredient of modern aesthetic culture. It was only the other day that Oscar Wilde was looked upon by very many as an authority in matters of taste. He was, indeed, a sort of high priest of aestheticism, to whom thousands of cultivated men and pure women looked up for instruction in all that relates to beauty and seamliness. It is now seen of what material their idol is made. The exposure is indeed humiliating and is calculated to lower our opinion of mankind. Can there be anything worse of respect and admiration in such a nature? Are there many such men as Wilde in any class of society, even the very lowest?

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DEATH.

MONTREAL—At 12 Appleton street, on the 5th inst., the wife of J. M. McNeill, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

HALL-MERRILL.—In this city, on April 4, by the Right Rev. Bishop Odger, Wm. H. McPerron and Josephine Merrill.

McPerron, Father of the bride, by the Rev. W. Leslie Gray, Donald McPerron, to Olivia, daughter of Mr. James Fairbairn.

DEATH.

THOMAS.—In this city, on the 2nd inst., George Thomas, a native of Sparta, Greece; aged 7 years.

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