

The Evening Times and Star

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THE WAR IN THE BALKANS

Montenegro, which, this morning's cablegrams say has declared war on Turkey, has a population considerably less than that of the city of Toronto. Its people's main occupation is agriculture. The capital, Cetinje, has a population of less than 10,000 and a garrison of about 600 men. Nearly every man is a trained soldier, but although they are stout fighters, and although their heroism in defence of their own country has on former occasions excited the admiration of the world, Montenegro alone is not big enough to accomplish much.

Bulgaria, which will be involved, has an army of 375,000 men. Greece has a smaller force, and Serbia about 150,000. Rumania has about 175,000; but in time of war all of these countries can expand their army, and together they represent a formidable fighting strength. The great powers are really unwilling that Turkey should be expelled from Europe, and are equally unwilling that the Turk should conquer more territory in the Balkans. It is therefore probable that the hostilities begun by Montenegro today will not be allowed to proceed to the natural end, but that there will be intervention until the powers have decided how they can divide among themselves the European territory which it is expected the Turk will ultimately be compelled to abandon.

It does not now appear likely that the little war will lead to a European conflagration.

HUMILITY AND COURAGE

George Kennan, who was with Nogi's army at the storming of Port Arthur, has written for The Outlook an article on the inside of Count Nogi and his wife. In it he throws considerable new light upon that incident, bringing out strongly the shining courage and the extreme humility of the great soldier. Mr. Kennan explains that as the social unit in Japan is the family rather than the individual, the continuation of the family line is thought to be of the highest importance and its complete extinction a calamity of the most deplorable nature. Nogi had two sons when he began. As the storming of Naxos, one of the outer defences of Port Arthur, the elder son perished. When Nogi began the siege of Port Arthur proper, Hoken, his younger son was an officer in a regiment forming part of the attacking force. The general could have given him his only son staff duty, and so saved him from the almost certain death to which were exposed those who charged again and again upon Two Hundred and Three Meter-Hill and the central forts. But the son was left to take his chance with the others, and on the third day of the assault he was killed while leading a storming party. The father received the news calmly, and subsequently in his address to his victorious troops he made no reference to his own personal loss. But he said afterwards to a Russian officer of Stossel's staff:

"You have lost many dear comrades; so have I, but it is not our custom to express our grief. Our hearts may be full, but our words must be few." Toward the end of the siege of Port Arthur, an altar erected on the plain in front of the Russian forts, but out of range, and there he assembled the officers of his staff and a part of his army, and after performing the Shinto rites of reverence and respect he read a written address to the spirits of his dead soldiers. "To his address," says Mr. Kennan, "the humbly apologized for the incapacity that he had shown in the conduct of the siege, and begged the forgiveness of the men who had been sent to their death by him, but who might possibly have been saved alive if the siege had been better managed and the assaults more skillfully directed. Such a ceremony and such an address are foreign to all our modes of thought and action; but even if the spirit of Old Japan be strange to us, we can hardly fail to appreciate the touching sincerity of the feeling, and the strength of the conviction that the dead are still in existence, and that the living have in relation to them an unchanged duty and a continuing responsibility."

Subsequently in writing to the minister of war, just after the surrender of Port Arthur, he said: "The feeling I have at this moment is solely one of anguish and humiliation that I should have expended so many lives, so much ammunition, and such a long time in the accomplishment of my task. At last General Stossel's patience has become exhausted and he has surrendered the fortress, so that, in this part of the field, a settlement has been reached. I have no excuse to offer to my sovereign and to my countrymen for this unscientific, unstrategic combat of brute force. Our preparations are now complete, and we are looking forward with great pleasure to testing the sweets of a field campaign (the reference is to the forced march northward to take part in the battle of Mukden). . . . I thank you heartily for your kind condolences on the death of my sons, and I beg you to forgive my long display of military ineffectiveness." Mr. Kennan is convinced that Nogi's suicide was not an act of weakness, a result of melancholia, or evidence of an unbalanced mind. Mr. Kennan contrasts eastern and western standards, strikingly. He says: "Life, in the West, has almost invariably been put first in the list of desires. Life, in Japan, has always been regarded as insignificant when balanced against any one of a dozen other things.

Loyalty was better than life; the faithful performance of duty was better than life; the sacrifice of one's own interests to the interests of one's lord was better than life; the preservation of personal honor and dignity was better than life. Life was of value only when it was compatible with certain ideals of conduct. It may be said that these ideals of conduct were artificial, unreasoned, or even fantastic; but that does not affect the Eastern man and the Western man in the attitude of each toward life.

"The Eastern man (I now refer particularly to the samurai) was always ready to die for the thing that seemed to him worth while—and there were many such things. The Western man is also ready to die for the thing that seems to him worth while—but there are few such things. The worth-while things in the East and the West differ as widely as does the attitude of the East and West, respectively, towards suicide as a means of attaining the worth-while things or avoiding the things that seem to be vitally injurious or disgraceful."

Citizens would welcome a definite statement from City Hall as to who is responsible for the delay in extending the street railway to Kane's Corner. Is it proposed to defer work until spring, and then possibly use up another year in discussing new terms? This extension should have been made by last June.

A citizen puts the following question to the Times: "As the present harbor channel is about 1,500 feet wide between the city and Sand Point, and as the channel between the proposed Red Head breakwater and Partridge Island would be 5,000 feet wide, how would the harbor current be increased by shifting the breakwater from its present position to Red Head? Also this one: 'Moving the breakwater to Red Head will mean that a great deal of the channel will become sheltered water, and will not be the entrance to the harbor by means of shifting the breakwater under these circumstances than if the breakwater is kept in its present position and much of the lower channel subjected to the sweep of the waves from the bay?' The Times does not like to shift the breakwater to these questions, but it passes the citizen's queries along to those who have the shifting of the breakwater under consideration."

Ontario is to commemorate the death of General Brock, killed at Queenstown Heights October 13, 1812. The Toronto Star asks people to remember on this occasion that the soldier is to be honored not because he kills, but because he is willing to die. It urges everybody to read, or re-read Rusk's "Unto This Last," in connection with the Brock anniversary. Rusk contends that a man ought to be ready to die "upon due occasion," and he gives these occasions: The soldier, rather than leave his post in battle. The physician, rather than leave his post in plague. The pastor, rather than teach falsehood. The lawyer, rather than countenance injustice. The merchant, what is his due occasion of death?

We may summarize the answer to the last question by saying: "Rather than sell dishonest goods, or overcharge." But to get the full answer you must read the book, which you may get in Every Man's Library for twenty-five cents.

Remember Tag Day Saturday.

She Chooses Her Own Tombstone Budapest, Oct. 8.—To save her friends from a terrible death, Miss Marie Jaszay, the famous tragedienne of the Budapest National Theatre, has ordered her own gravestone. She has chosen a column of red Hungarian marble seven feet in height, surmounted by a classic capital. In the centre is a floral wreath enclosing the following inscription: "I was born on the 10th of March 1870, and may those accept my thanks who have loved me in my life. Marie Jaszay."

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Oliver—Well, that isn't his fault. They've only been married a short time.
—From Judge.

POOLISH QUESTION.
Prospective Purchaser—Is there a mortgage on the place?
Real Estate Agent—Certainly. Didn't you observe the garage?

THAT'S SOMETHING.
Jinks—My fellow is a wonder.
Binks—What can he do?
Jinks—Well, for one thing, he can write with a post office pen.

EXTREME ILLNESS.
"We're terribly sorry about father," "Is he ill?"
"Yes, and so ill that everything we do for him is satisfactory." —Detroit Free Press.

PROOF POSITIVE.
Miss Winn—Does Wallie own that auto he drives?
Miss Blinn—I think so. He never sees me when he passes. If it wasn't his he'd pretend it was and ask me to ride.

ANY HUSBAND TO ANY WIFE.
My dear, the time has come when you must rally forth to buy That wretched winter hat that makes My summer savings fly. I can't but hold my breath and wait, And trust you'll see it's queer. Before the aberrations that They say are this year's style. And inwardly I pray that you Consider as a joke A fevered feather rising from A wad they term a toque. A bunch of plumes on a stem. A sunset lining to A four-foot brim of purple plush Adorned with maroon. A fervid plume that crawls along Or darts aloft and wobbles there—I pray you'll see it's queer. But I can only sit and wait, My only hope is that You'll keep your sense of humor when You buy your winter hat. —KATE PARSONS.

How He Escaped An Operation
And Was Completely Cured of Piles of 14 Years' Standing by Dr. Chase's Ointment.

Mr. Chas. Beauvais. Doctors say that about one person in every four suffers more or less from piles, and who can imagine a more annoying, torturing, disagreeable ailment? After trying a few treatments without success, and as the ailment grows worse, the medical doctor is consulted. An operation, he says, is necessary. You think of the suffering, expense and risk to life itself, and hesitate before taking such a step. In many thousands of such cases Dr. Chase's Ointment has made thorough and lasting cures. Read this letter for the proof.

Mr. Charles Beauvais, a well-known citizen of St. Jean, Que., writes:—"For 14 years I suffered from chronic piles, and considered my case very serious. I was treated by a celebrated doctor who could not help me and ordered a surgical operation as the only means of relief. 'However, I decided to try Dr. Chase's Ointment, and obtained great relief from the first box. By the use of three boxes I was entirely cured. This is why it gives me great pleasure to recommend Dr. Chase's Ointment to all who suffer from piles as a treatment of the greatest value.' Dr. Chase's Ointment, 60 cents a box, all dealers or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto.

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