

The World Window

Japan
Our
Ally

In his preface to a little brochure titled: "Japan Our Ally" written by W. C. Dawson, M.A., and issued by MacMillan and Company at the price of one nickel, the Right Hon. Sir Claude M. MacDonald, who was for twelve years British Ambassador in Japan, speaks in the highest terms of the Japanese Government and people. "I received," he says, "the utmost kindness and sympathy from the Japanese people. From the Japanese Government I met with the greatest courtesy and straight and fair dealing. In no single case, did they fail to do what they said they would do, and never did they take any step they had given me to understand they would not take. This, I know," he adds, "is high praise from a diplomatic representative. I can only hope that contact with European and American diplomacy will not have in the future the same deleterious effect which commercial intercourse appears to have had in the not very distant past." Dealing with the point raised in the last sentence, Mr. Dawson remarks that in old Japan, the position of the merchant was a very humble one and only since then have high born Japanese gentlemen turned their attention to commerce. In the early days of the opening of the country, unscrupulous Europeans flocked to Japan and compelled Japanese traders to retaliate.

Only forty years have elapsed since Japan emerged from her seclusion and took her place among the nations. Nothing in history is more remarkable than the circumstances attending the great change in the administration of Japan and the later peaceful revolution which in 1890 gave the country a constitutional government. Not that Japan is yet a democracy of the western type. The whole executive power remains with the emperor. He appoints his ministers who are responsible to him. With the consent of the Imperial Diet, he makes laws but the prerogative of signing treaties and declaring war or making peace, belongs to him alone. The Diet consists of two houses—the House of Peers and the House of Representatives. The former is partly hereditary, partly elective or nominated by the emperor. The House of Representatives is elected by a high franchise, votes are given by ballot and the members are paid. The Imperial Diet controls the finances and either house can initiate new laws, but the consent of both houses as well as that of the emperor is necessary for their enactment. Japan in addition, has a privy council whose members are consulted on all important occasions. It will thus be seen that the reformed constitution of Japan embodies features found in both the British and American constitutions.

Coming
of New
JapanOld Japan
and the
Mikado

Up to 1867, the Mikados, owing to their sacred character and veneration in which they were held as the direct descendants of the Gods were withdrawn from active participation in the affairs of the state. Its administration was conducted by the "Shoguns" who gradually assumed the privileges of the Mikado to an extent which led the first European and American diplomats to disregard him entirely. The two bombardments of Kagoshima, the capital of Satsuma and of Shimomura, the capital of Choshu, in 1863 and 1866 produced a great effect in Japan by revealing the superior military power of the foreigners and the national spirit was shown in the unanimous action of the Shogun of that time which began the construction of the new empire. In 1867, he handed back to the Mikado, then only fifteen years of age, the powers entrusted to him by his ancestors. This emperor was Mutsuhito who died on July 30, 1912. Described by Mr. Dawson as one of the greatest and most remarkable rulers the world has ever seen, he was called on to play the part of the far seeing statesman ruler who thinks only of the good of his people. He it was, who at once laid aside the old Japanese hostility to foreigners, encouraged his people to place themselves on a level with the other great nations of the world and crowned his work by conferring constitutional government on his people.

Of a kind with the act of the Shogun was that of the Daimyos or great feudal chiefs who in 1869 surrendered their territories to the central government which undertook the support of the four hundred thousand Samurai or feudal retainers. These retainers as a mark of distinction from the common people were allowed to wear two swords. The Samurai of all ranks agreed to lay aside their swords and commute their hereditary pensions for six years' purchase. This, Mr. Dawson remarks, is probably the most wonderful fact in the history of any people in the world. Commenting on it, Sir Claude MacDonald says that "this abolition might have given rise to serious trouble, but the statesmen of that time were undoubtedly a shrewd body, possessed of some humor, for when it was found that the abolition was likely to cause trouble, they induced the emperor to publish an edict permitting all classes to wear two swords if they felt so inclined. This edict was found most efficacious and did more to bring about the desired result than stern measures would have done." Between 1874 and 1877, three civil wars occurred, the last being the most formidable, but was finally suppressed after ten months' fighting. Japan was saved thereby from passing under the rule of a reactionary and military class.

Renunciation
By the
Samurai

Do It Right

If the government is going to operate the National Transcontinental Railway it should put a man on the job and give him some tools to work with. If the road is to pay at all it must depend upon thru traffic between Winnipeg and the west. It is the short line between Quebec and Winnipeg and should pick up considerable transcontinental traffic.

But to get passenger traffic the road must furnish up-to-date service and it must attract the attention of the traveling public. That can only be done by advertising, not only thru the newspapers, but thru well-placed patrons of the road.

Manitoba

The change of government in Manitoba occurred under circumstances almost unique. The legislature was not in session, there had been no recent verdict, there was no government at the polls, and yet the entire cabinet gave up their portfolios and retired to private life. They even gave further and guaranteed their former seats in the legislature to opposition candidates by acclamation.

We can only parallel it by imagining the Borden government resigning under circumstances which would make it quite feasible to return Liberal candidates by acclamation in West Toronto and Dufferin. Naturally the province is greatly stirred and speculation is rife as to what has been going on behind the scenes.

The Roblin government has been going down grade since the provincial elections in 1910 and

should have thrown up the sponge after the elections of last July. The scandal in connection with the new parliament building was the final straw. Nevertheless, there will be much dissatisfaction if the investigation into that scandal is quietly hushed up. A change of government should not always result in an immunity ban for evil doers.

Ready for War

A great many people in and out of the United States are belaboring the government of that country because it is not "prepared for war." Of course, a great deal depends upon the point of view. Canada is utterly unprepared for a war with the United States, but no one would seriously propose building fortresses along our 800 miles of boundary and filling the great lakes with dreadnoughts and submarines. The United States never contemplated invading any other continent and has naturally considered the matter of military preparedness from the defensive standpoint. Her fixed idea has been to keep her nose out of Europe and to insist upon European monarchies leaving the republics of the western world undisturbed.

The one trouble the United States had reason to dread before the outbreak of the present war was an attack upon the Monroe doctrine by Germany and Japan. No doubt in such a war she would have lost the Philippines, but she would probably in the end, have driven off the German fleet. But to prepare armies of invasion for keeping at least 5,000,000 men in barracks for three years. That would have meant the militarism which has been the curse of Europe for so many years.

THE FINGER OF SCORN



THE FIRING LINE O' NEWS

One robin does not make a spring, but one Robin may bring on a fall.

Manitoba has been doing its best to get into the limelight, but finds it hard to compete with the Lusitania and the Dardanelles.

Mr. Kelly, the Winnipeg contractor, who is said to have collected \$800,000 in extras on a \$1,000,000 contract, objects to having himself investigated by a Royal Commission. He has nothing to conceal, but thinks the law is unconstitutional. Thus do patriots ever spring to the defence of the constitution.

Who was the mysterious man discovered bound and gagged by the Ottawa police, who told of a plot to blow up the Royal family at Rideau Hall? Are the police seeing things or has the Mayor of Brockville been visiting Ottawa?

A suggestion that British merchant ships be sent out with a few hundred German prisoners of war locked up in the hold might not be a bad idea. The Germans could then have the pleasure of drowning from their own torpedoes.

Turkey is worrying about the future. We advise Turkey to look behind her.

It must be admitted that Turkey holds a strait in the international poker game. The Allies, tho, will be the ones to come thru and raise the ante.

Tut, tut on these professors who advise polygamy. Haven't men got trouble enough?

Archaeologists tell us that the Euphrates flows thru the Garden of Eden. Yes, yes, the British Indian Army is surely raising Cain in that vicinity.

Credit Germany with a little forbearance. She hasn't started to eat her prisoners yet.

Humanity may stand aghast at the Lusitania wholesale murder. But the Germans do not care a snap. You see, they don't belong to humanity.

Controller Foster didn't think city representatives should attend the American Waterworks Convention at Cincinnati, even tho Controller O'Neill paid the expenses. Controller Foster is incurably afflicted with economy.

Austria has been calling out the old men. Ah, the Landsdown, no doubt.

With provincial premiers resigning and intervening themselves all about him, Mr. Scott of Saskatchewan is undismayed. If he establishes prohibition and votes for women in one year he will have made a remarkable record for Canada.

Isn't there some way in which we can blame the war for the showing of our ball team?

We submit that the principle of loving your enemies was outlined some considerable time before the enemy started to drown women and children, poison soldiers and bombard churches.

About the only way we see for the United States to attack Germany is to seize the Hamburg-American liners and Milwaukee.

The old American Liberty Bell is falling to pieces. They can get another made in Germany.

A couple of New York business men, who lost relatives in the Lusitania outrage are turning their factory into a manufactory of war material for the allies. This is about as good a revenge as they can possibly take.

In a house occupied by Billy Sunday as his headquarters while in Philadelphia damage to the extent of \$1754 was done. The owners are attempting to collect the bill. "Furniture was smashed, china broken, walls gouged and over a hundred glasses disappeared," reads the despatch. Billy must have been rehearsing.

The German National Bank is unable to pay a dividend. Possibly because the people will not credit any checks.

Driver Wheeler, the Canadian who helped rescue the guns at Langenscheidt and has been recommended for the V.C., is receiving shocks of letters from admirers in England. With a somewhat different meaning than ordinarily we might remark serves him right.

The Conservatives in Manitoba may come back quickly enough if they are not burdened with the load of carrying a lot of ex-ministers. There is a chance for a man with a clean record to trip Premier Norris up before long. Will Hon. Arthur Meighen please come forward and take a seat on the platform.

Both political parties are nominating candidates for the House of Commons as quickly as possible. Perhaps the election is not so far off after all.

"The War has effectively put an end to this crawling before foreigners," declares a German journal. Exactly. Now they find that a quicker pace is required when our lads get behind them.

A couple in the Toronto police court, charged with bigamy, both claimed as an excuse that their life partners had deserted them. United they stood, deserted they fell.

After the war we suppose the British arms will bear an engraving of Lloyd George slaying the Flagon.

The Italians respect the rules of grammar. Trent, Trieste and Trentino are nouns and Italy wouldn't decline them.

A Boston clergyman advised the unemployed who could not get relief to parade in the downtown streets in a state of nature. The idea being, no doubt, to emphasize naked poverty.

Italy appears to have adopted the watchful waiting policy also.

Wonder what would have happened to any Britisher in Germany rejoicing over the loss of more than a thousand German lives. Sometimes our justice is injustice to our own people.

Had he been spared, Elbert Hubbard's ready pen might have brought further home to the people of the United States the kind of people the Allies are fighting. The thin veneer of German culture peeled off readily, leaving the savage, naked and unshamed.

The United States now finds out that she has failed to assimilate the foreigners who have thronged in. Certainly the States has bitten off more Germans than any decent country could chew or digest.

The Liberals were reproached with loading up the mails during the last week of the parliamentary session, but it was their last chance to get out their mail free of charge. The party in power can frank mail the year around.

Would it not be as well to have a 3c stamp. The words "war tax" could be printed thereon if desired.

The "See Canada First" propaganda is a good one, but it should be taken up by the government which now has control of a transcontinental railway. A beautiful country and an ideal one for tourist traffic lies between Superior Junction and Winnipeg.

CRUSTS AND CRUMBS

By Albert Ernest Stafford

ALL THE hundreds of thousands who have fallen on the battlefields of Europe in the present war have failed to impress non-combatant humanity as the loss of the 1134 lives among the passengers and crew of the Lusitania. The sensation was equal to that caused by the loss of the Titanic and in some respects was more profound. The loss of the Empress of Ireland did not create nearly the same degree of interest. In each case the interest that aroused most feeling was of an intimate personal character. I am rather inclined to think that the average person was stirred by the number of prominent people drowned, and at the same time I think it is hardly fair to attribute such an interest merely to snobbery. There were curious parallels between the Titanic and the Lusitania in the number and importance of the prominent people lost. An Astor perished on the Titanic and a Vanderbilt on the Lusitania. In each case the young representative of typical American families of princely wealth, and in each case these men behaved with a coolness and gallant bearing, and a consideration for the safety of others which must have done much to redeem them in the estimation of their social—or perhaps I should say, socialist enemies. In the popular theology of the day it is a most difficult thing for the very wealthy to leave their wealth. We are preached into believing that the last end of men of great wealth is a terrible affair, and that when sudden destruction cometh upon them they fall into panic and call upon all their gods to deliver them. It is a good thing and a fine thing to know that two such typical millionaires as John Jacob Astor and Alfred Vanderbilt could meet a tragic fate with the unperturbable spirit of true Knighthood. Whatever they may have been in life, and it is nobody's business to judge, they met death as we should all like to meet it, like gentlemen in the flesh, and immortal beings in the spirit. And for the most part, so far as we can learn, so did the rest of the passengers. We are all beginning to realize that the All Father has nothing worse in store for us than the experiences thru which we have to pass on earth.

IT MUST needs be that evil shall come, but woe unto him by whom it cometh," is the assertion of the Christian Master. No one perishing on any of the great liners for whom the experience was not necessary. The goodness or evilness of such an end we cannot decide upon. Each case has its own determining factors, and the links of destiny are so inter-knit that we cannot judge by the conditions of the one who is lost alone. We would have to know all about those who are left behind, and the bearing upon their lives that the change for the others brings about. The sudden departure of these calm and unobtrusive ones, than are those who depart. Whatever befalls it is the reaping of a harvest sown in some perhaps unidentified or unremembered seed-time. And it is the attitude adopted towards the new harvest that constitutes the new seed time. There may be dismay, or doubt, or rebellion or complaint, or there may be quiet acceptance of the fulfillment of the law, glad acquiescence in the discharge of a debt, eager co-operation in the divine process of life that leads to unknown regions of consciousness and wider knowledge. We must see, surely, that the determining factor in each case is the individual himself. God did not compel any passenger to purchase a ticket or sail in a particular steamer. But a power of will and choice and perhaps what modern psychology may call subjective knowledge, led the individual to a decision. I am satisfied it is the real self, "seated in the heart of every creature," that brings us to a settlement. How long we hesitate and the advice of friends impels, and events seem to insist. Still we hesitate, until at last there occurs that which reveals to us what inwardly we knew all along to be our real will. That is to say, the soul knew, our true self. And in supreme moments, when we stand face to face with the inevitable, this great knowledge gives us the calm, the imperturbable peace, which distinguishes the heroism of those who, without opportunity to act, can only await the end.

WE cannot escape the conclusion that in a universe where absolute justice prevails there is no chance element in the presence of any particular passenger on board these ill-fated ships. To suppose chance

had anything to do with it were to suppose life a delusion, a madness, a mockery. It is bad enough to know that this present phase of life is illusionary, but even our illusions are subject to law and regulated by the nature of things. If it be eternally true that not a sparrow falls to the ground "without the Father," it is equally true of those who pass from human life in what we call accident. To know this is the beginning of wisdom, but the end of wisdom is in active obedience to that knowledge and co-operation with "the Father," not in mere passive resignation and apathy. There is all the difference in the world between positive acceptance and negative compliance. The difference in attitude determines a large element in character for the next incarnation. These are the important considerations, and for the most part they get little attention from people in general, who are more impressed with the outside spectacular phase of the affair, several hundred funerals at the same time, a large number of more or less notable people going to their doom at once than they are with the effect on the character of those who are involved. But it is thus the ordinary human mind is constituted, and I was more affected myself by the loss of W. T. Stead on the Titanic, of Laurence Irving on the Empress of Ireland, and of Elbert Hubbard on the Lusitania than by the rest of the tragedy. I knew them and they made a part of my life. The others appeal to one in the mass, but not individually because they are not familiar. We should be honest about these things. It is not hardness of heart, or want of thought. Probably any of us would have given his life to save one of those who was lost. And I am sure none of us but felt the piercing and wounding piteousness of the hundred and fifty little infants massacred by order of the New Herod of Berlin. But we ought to be clear in our minds that it is the spectacular side of these things that affects us and not the human personal side. All these 1200 people might have died at their homes at the same moment, scattered up and down the continent, and it would have made no impression upon us, any more than the death of thousands of people, every day in the year, with whom we are not on terms of intimacy, makes an impression upon us.

HAS any one supposed it lucky to be born?" asks Walt Whitman. "I hasten to inform him or her it is just as lucky to die, and I know it." Elsewhere in the "Song of Myself," he adds, "Births have brought us richness and variety. And other births will bring us richness and variety." Death, like birth, means a new chance for him who is ready for it. I do not suppose among all the men I have known any man was better prepared for death than Fra. Elbertus. His passing is a real loss to the world. It is not merely his humor, his sound sense, his literary capacity that is to be considered. He made a real advance in dealing with men, with social problems, with the great question of employment and the development of the best in those around him. His social experiment at East Aurora was much more than an experiment, and I hope its present success will be maintained by Elbert II. and Roycroft remain as a permanent memorial of one of the sweetest and sanest souls that have walked on earth. My first visit to the Roycroft shops was by invitation and he introduced me to the audience gathered in the beautiful hall because he said he had been told by Madam Le Pionnier, whom he had met crossing the Atlantic, to make my acquaintance. Next day we had a delightful ramble round the pretty country, he dressed in a dark blue shirt and blue jeans. It was apple time and we sat under a tree in an orchard and munching apples and discussed literature and art and socialism and theology and we were agreed about them all. He feared that theology was too otherworldly to be useful here, but he was satisfied before we rose that "sanctified common sense," as I called it, the phrase, I find, was used by Rev. A. B. Grosart in 1874—depended for its usefulness on those who used it. The distortions of those who misconceived it, and the apathy of those who disregarded its inspiration were not the errors of Theosophy, but of human nature. Elbert Hubbard was a Rajput, a true man of action and Kshatriya, and his whole philosophy and practice were based on action, or Karma Yoga. The last issue of The Philistine for May, Vol. 40, No. 6, has two characteristic mottoes. "Requisites for an all-round education are: Ambition, Aspiration, Application, Respiration. Perspiration," and "Yesterday is dead—forget it; tomorrow doesn't exist—don't worry; the day is here—use it!" And the number opens with a sentence which may well be chosen for his epitaph for he has fulfilled all the conditions. "He has achieved success who has worked well, laughed often, and loved much."

My spirit is yours, dear brother.