

## PAGANISM'S LAST DITCH.

Western Watchman.

The war between Russia and Japan may be considered the last stand of the pagan world in its remorseless fight against Christianity; the final echo of the bloody arenas and amphitheatres of Pagan Rome. Japan is intrepid, resourceful and alert; so was Rome. Japan has the arts and sciences of the past, venerated with modern improvements and discoveries; Rome was a mistress in both; Japan is a great military power; Rome dominated the world. Rome drew the sword and challenged Christianity to a duel a l'outrance; Japan has done likewise. Rome lies in the dust of her urns; Japan will soon follow her to annihilation.

It is strange to observe the sympathy manifested for Japan in this war. England would gladly see her rival in the East crushed and gladly encourages the rash Asiatic Empire to enter into a conflict from which she in her cowardice shrinks. But what excuse has this country for sympathizing with the heathens of Japan? Russia is a Christian land. Her people are brave and chivalrous. They have held in check the hordes from the east and those she has not Christianized, she has driven back to their ancient steppes. Russia has done as noble service for Christianity in the North-East as Spain ever did in the South-West. Her people have not yet mastered some of the social problems that have become axioms in the West. Their religion is of the fervent and uncompromising medieval type. She punishes for heresy and executes for sacrilege; while she is herself the greatest schismatic of the ages and utters words of blasphemy against the Third Person of the Deity. But Russia is Christian—intensely Christian; and in the course of time her errors of excess will be corrected; and when she sits once more in the general councils of Christendom it will be to bring fresh blood and new life to the Catholic cause.

Japan stands for all that is brutal and degrading and demoralizing in Paganism. The ideal man among these Asiatics is he who labors most and accomplishes most in the world of thrift and industry. The Jews are materialists; but compared with the Japanese they are paragons of lofty ambitions and generous aspirations. The Japanese opened their doors and rushed out towards the West to capture our trade. They did not want our civilization, but our gold. They have adopted some modern ideas of government; but they have not changed their laws. They have organized their military and naval establishment on lines of Western war science, but they are animated with the spirit of Corsairs and look hopefully to the day when they will dominate the Eastern seas.

At the present time the conflict is precipitated by the refusal of Russia to allow the insular empire to gain a foot hold on the mainland of Asia. China is on the eve of dismemberment. Japan is on the spot and demands the lion's share of the Asiatic spoils. Korea and Manchuria are to China what Constantinople and Asia Minor were since the days of Peter the Great to Russia; the stepping-stone to destiny. Russia disputes the right of Paganism to an inheritance among Christian peoples. She tells Japan to remain in the sea, and not to attempt a landing on the continent. There is no principle on which we can declare Japan right and Russia wrong, or vice versa, except that a first class Pagan power is an anachronism, and a ghost-rush on the Christian present. Japan was tried and condemned when the last of the Roman Caesars was laid away in the tomb.

The world cannot look on with indifference while a Christian people struggles for life with a pagan nation. Japan does not stand for anything that Europe or civilization can approve. Brute force and beastly covetousness cannot at this late day supplant the charity of God and the dignity of man. The ideals of the Christian world are worth fighting for. They are to us what the fires and

household gods were for the pagan Romans. We do not mean that the Gospel shall be preached to the Japanese from the mouths of monster guns or that this war is purely one of error versus truth, or sordid selfishness versus lofty self-sacrifice; but we do say that the victory of Russia in the present conflict will make for nobler manhood and purer, bolier womanhood; that the solidarity of Christendom cannot now permit the Cross to go down before the Red Rays of the Japanese Sun, any more than before the Dragon or the Crescent in the bloody conflicts of the past.

## AN ESTIMATE ON THE LATE MR. LECKY.

Even before his death a critical generation had begun to strip Mr. Lecky of the laurels he had been wearing on very dubious merits. It is inconceivable how such a man could have acquired a reputation as historian in our times. Summing up his qualities in this capacity an editorial in the "Messenger" gives the following damaging appreciation. "Of Mr. Lecky's critical acumen and depth of research it is enough to say, that, in dealing with the greatest and most delicate question regarding the evolution of European civilization, he does not go beyond Milman and H. C. Lea, quoting dozens of times the most fanatical passages of these and similar writers, taking their quotations secondhand, and never, apparently, having examined in their context his own quotations from the Fathers. On two consecutive pages of 'European Morals' (Vol II., pp. 330, 331. Appleton, New York, 1903), Mr. Lecky quotes Lea ten times, and refers to 23 passages in this author's works. The passages quoted from Lea are of the most scurrilous character, bringing up again the very lowest accusations against Popes, priests, monks, and nuns. Mr. Lecky's two domestic demons were dogmatic Christianity and Monasticism. His puerile hatred of these rendered him incapable of any 'scholar's insight' into the Middle Ages."

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A woman of nearly pure African blood acting as principal of a grammar school in a fashionable district, with six white teachers, and several hundred white pupils under her charge?

Thus a clever writer in last Sunday's Boston Herald introduces a series of interesting sketches of people of African descent, by honoring whom, for their just deserts, Cambridge, Mass., honored herself as well.—Ex.

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