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**Japan's Strong Hand**  
**Now Seen in China**

The progress of the crisis in China precipitated by the determination of Yuan Shi-Kai to restore the monarchical form of government, is well worth watching as a phase of the vast process of change which is going on in the Far East. In this crisis is involved the death or survival of the principle of equal opportunity—the so-called "open door" which John Hay sought, with foresight and firmness, to establish in China—and with it the extinction or expansion of American trade in that distant market, so rich with potentialities.

The significance of China's fate to Americans is indicated in mathematical terms by the fact that out of a total value of \$450,000,000 of foreign goods purchased by that country in 1913, the share that fell to American exporters was only \$26,000,000, while Japan sold goods worth \$90,000,000. In the readjustment of the world's trade relations that will follow the war, the importance of the Chinese market will be greatly enhanced. And every step that Japan is taking in China in the present contingency is aimed at insuring for Japanese commerce a position of preferential or exclusive rights, necessarily at the expense of the rights of other exporting nations, including the United States.

"The open door in China is almost closed already," said a man who has lived for many years in the Far East to the writer: "only a crack remains open, and that is destined to be shut with a slam if Japan carries out her present plans."

The opposition which Japan is offering to the re-establishment of the monarchy in China is a phase of the campaign for political and commercial domination which Tokio is carrying on while Europe's hands are bound by the thongs of war. Despite an obvious conflict of interests, Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy are backing Japan's interference in Chinese affairs.

**Japan's Double Chance.**

The entente is anxious to avoid any internal convulsion in China which would furnish Japan with the eagerly awaited pretext to intervene with military force on the Asiatic mainland, while Japan is availing herself of the double opportunity to dictate terms for the new order of things, and to promote discord which may precipitate the very convulsion which her European allies are seeking to prevent.

And the immediate object of Japanese opposition in the late lamented republic is Yuan Shi-Kai himself. It is the personality of Yuan Shi-Kai and his well-known anti-Japanese attitude that have caused Tokio to reverse its policy toward the republic.

When the world, back in 1912, rubbed its eyes in astonishment at the strange spectacle of a China aspiring by force of arms to a republican form of government, Japan directly and by indirect methods offered every obstacle to the realization of what seemed to be a national ideal—if it is possible for a loosely connected group of provinces, lacking common interests and even a common language, to develop a national ideal.

The revolution succeeded, however, thanks to the superior organization, resources and intelligence of the southern provinces. Out of the turmoil and bloodshed loomed up the familiar figure of Yuan Shi-Kai—the same man of the north who for more than a generation had been the power behind the painted throne of the Manchus.

In name a president, but in fact a dictator, Yuan started out on a policy of internal development, of military preparedness and industrial organization which aroused keen distrust at Tokio, which under the old Manchu regime had found a stumbling block in the aggressive personality of the first "president" of the Chinese so-called republic.

Considering it inexpedient at that time to attempt any reversal of the verdict of events—events to which the United States was the first power to commit itself by its prompt recognition of the new republic—Japan bided its time. In the meanwhile it kept its hand in affairs on the mainland by affording asylum—and perhaps much more—to Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the southerner who had aspired to the presidency against Yuan Shi-Kai and had failed to win the coveted post of power. The activities of Sun Yat Sen in Chinese affairs from his offices in Tokio up to a short time ago served in a considerable measure to crystallize Chinese opposition to Yuan.

**The Japanese Demands.**

When Europe became involved in war, however, Japanese diplomacy saw its opportunity, and one of the first events after the ousting of the Germans from Tsing-Tau was the presentation by the Japanese minister at Pekin, Eki Hiroki, of the twenty-one demands which confronted China

with the choice of running a risk of war with Japan or surrendering its sovereignty into the hands of the insular aggressors.

Sixteen of these demands were conceded by China after a diplomatic battle in which that country found itself deserted by the signatories to the principles of the integrity of China and the "open door"—including the United States, which through John Hay had formulated that principle.

Five of the twenty-one original demands, owing to Yuan's unalterable rejection of them, were left by agreement for future consideration. These provide, among other things, for the completion of Japanese political power in China by the appointment of Japanese officials and soldiers to supervisory positions in the political, military, police and commercial branches of the Chinese administration. It is probable that these deferred demands—the famous group V—will now be brought up by Japan for acceptance by Yuan Shi-Kai as Japan's conditions for her recognition of the restored monarchy.

Will Yuan yield, or will he risk the final test of war? He has no other choice, in view of the acquiescence of the world—including the United States—in the Japanese process of closing the door to equal opportunity in the great country of vast resources but embryonic political, commercial and military organization.

Tramp—Could you give me work?  
 Farmer—Yes, but I won't.  
 Tramp—Shake hands, Mr. You're all right.—Washington Star.



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THE CAREER OF SKIP

BY WALTER LENNOX

SKIP came from a long line of thoroughbreds; and his natal place Buxto, a little fishing hamlet on the West Coast.

There is no official record of his birthday; but Skip's canine babyhood was remarkable. When but five days old, he was furtively removed from the kennel by Dick Bradworth, an engineer who ran "old 125" during the construction of the S.S. & W. Railway, whilst Dick was making his customary visit on Sunday afternoon to Phoebe Dean, the buxom daughter of Skip's original owner.

Skip was duly conveyed to the camp in an old flour-sack and was made quite comfortable in a purloined cracker-box under Dick Bradworth's bunk; and Dick's account at the store for the ensuing month consisted of:

Two pairs overalls.  
 One pound Home Rule tobacco.  
 Ten tins condensed milk.

Next month, the "tinned cow" was absent from Dick's monthly account.

Skip had again been surreptitiously removed! The abnormal number of swear-words set down to Dick's account for the ensuing week suggested that something unusual had happened to Dick. Skip had been stolen!

No amount of vigilance or detective service was effectual in discovering his whereabouts, though suspicion pointed in the direction of George Dawson, a cleaner, who had recently left the camp.

Father Martin (who came to the camp every alternate Sunday) had arrived late on Saturday evening, and was getting ready to retire, when he was disturbed by a nocturnal visitor: it was Dick Bradshaw.

The clergyman was glad to see Dick, as he was regarded as a backslider (he rarely attended the Sunday services). But Dick's visit had nothing to do with affairs of the soul. After shaking hands with Father Martin, without more ado, he shot out:

"I had, the Father replied; but Skip disappeared two weeks ago!"

"Gee Whittaker!" exclaimed the excited engineer; "gone again?"

Father Martin seemed quite puzzled; but ere he had time to give expression to his surprise, Dick broke in:

"My pup, Father!"

"Strange," replied, the good Father; "why, I paid George Dawson ten dollars for Skip, about a fortnight ago; and I shall spend another ten to try and locate him. You know, Dick, I cannot retain stolen property!"

The Father then went on to explain how Skip came into his possession.

George Dawson had been married quite recently; and George's wife had become quite moody over the attentions George had been paying to the pup.

"Really, Dick, I believe that the Dawsons would have figured in court proceedings for separation, if \$10.00 had not taken that pup off George Dawson's hands!"

"Well, Father," said Dick, "if you find Skip you may keep him; I stole him myself from Uncle John Kearley; but Phoebe made it alright with the old gent; and I gave him ten dollars compensation for the loss of the pup."

"Pretty expensive pup, Dick," remarked the cleric, as Dick bade him good night.

Father Martin then postponed his preparations for bed; lit his pipe, and began to muse on the vicissitudes of puppydom.

About a month later, Father Martin got a call to an outlying settlement, some twenty miles distant. When he arrived at the domicile of the supposed invalid, he noticed that the members of the household seemed unusually demure.

"Nothing very serious wrong with George, I trust, Mrs. Dawley?" Father Martin queried sympathetically.

Mrs. Dawley was evidently in deep distress; she kept twirling the ends of an immaculate white apron, painfully silent the while; and then said, quite penitently: "Father! George stole your dog! That's what ails him now; he's not very sick; but he's afraid there's a spell on him!"

(To be continued)

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