

Death Rides Upon The Sudden Storm.

Three Thousand Human Beings and Three Thousand Homes Destroyed in a Few Hours in Japan.

Empress of India Called Upon to Render Assistance to the Shipwrecked Soldiers of the Transport Morgan City.

Political Crisis in China Presages Civil War—The Crafty Empress—Dowager in a New Diplomatic Role—Other News of the Orient.

Such a storm as that which devastated Porto Rico a month or so ago, but tenfold intensified in fury, passed over Japan towards the close of August, working the destruction of no fewer than ten thousand homes, and claiming fully three thousand human victims, with innumerable fishing and other small craft.

The magnitude of the disaster was only just beginning to impress itself upon the lethargic Japanese when the Empress Dowager of India sailed from Yokohama, and the statistics were crowding the ambulance corps in the pursuit of such information as the Japanese civil service appears to glory in.

Having its origin somewhere to the south of the Bikuan Islands, the storm grazed the east coast of Kiusiu, and crossed Shikoku by the provinces of Tosa and Sanuki, invaded the main island and via Bizen and Bitchu, emerging finally into the Japan Sea through Lu-no-o and Hoki.

The previous typhoon—that of the 14th, 15th and 16th of August—had its origin at practically the same initial point, but followed a more westerly course, its ravages on shore being therefore insignificant in area.

The greater hurricane seems to have attained its maximum of violence at or near Itoatsu, the barometer falling to 724 mm., the velocity of the wind being 52 metres a second, and the rate of the storm centre's advance being 90 miles an hour.

The prefectures of Kochi, Takamatsu, Ehime and Okayama suffered most severely, according to present information, the greatest fatality being in Ehime, where in the neighborhood of the Beashu copper mine a large village was completely obliterated, with a loss of upwards of 1500 lives.

Here up to the morning of August 30 no organized attempt had been made to clear away the debris or recover the mangled bodies, the stench from which was already beginning to pollute the air.

Upwards of 125 corpses were recovered from the ruins of the mine, and it was estimated that the killed underground through cave-ins coincident with the passage of the storm numbered total 600 wounded, with a further number of 2000.

These latter were being humbly cared for by a staff of eleven surgeons from the medical school of the Osaka garrison, while a similar number of surgeons from the Sumitomo Medical hospital were assisting.

Ehime had been too paralyzed with shock and the burial of its dead to prepare statistics, the best of the following figures as a partial summary:

KOCHI PREFECTURE. Houses overthrown or inundated... 4,792 Persons killed... 36 Persons wounded... 33 Boats wrecked... 23

Houses overthrown or inundated... 2,162 Persons killed... 121 Persons wounded... 121

TAKAMATSU. Houses overthrown or inundated... 3,343 Persons killed... 129 Persons wounded... 113 Boats wrecked... 77

Hyogo prefecture reported twelve persons killed in the Yabu district, and 50 houses overthrown, later 157 dead and 1746 houses destroyed, was given as the total for the prefecture.

Tokushima reported the rivers Yoshino, Naka and Zennuyri rising 19 feet within 24 hours, and many dead.

On the 4th inst., at 3 p. m., the steamer Komoro Ma was foundered in Biwa lake. She had 50 passengers on board, twelve of whom were drowned and two badly injured. Search was still being made for the bodies of her drowned crew when the Empress sailed.

Affairs at Peking have been thrown into strange confusion, according to advices by yesterday's mail steamer, through the sudden and dangerous illness of the Empress Dowager, and the circulation of a report that Li Hung Chang had been called upon to resume his old rank and office.

The Empress Dowager's illness dates from August 12th, when she was attacked with violent vomiting, the fear being entertained that poison had been administered to her food.

The Imperial physicians declined to discuss this supposition, and three days later their royal mistress, although apparently recovered, was described by those having access to her presence, as quite the reverse of her former self mentally—being weak and listless, paying little attention to affairs of state brought to her attention.

At the same time the announcement was made that the resignation of Viceroy Lu, of Nanjing, had been accepted, Viceroy Yu Lu, of Tientsin, being named to take his place, although Viceroy Lu, in a memorial, strongly recommended Viceroy Chang Chitang (Hukwang province) or Viceroy Kuei Chun (Szechuan) to take over the Liang-kiang viceroyalty.

The Empress Dowager also determined to appoint Ex-Viceroy Li Hung Chang to his old post at Tientsin, vice Yu Lu, although this was directly opposed by her nephew, Jung Lu, who fears that Li

terday, the rising sun giving promise of a glorious day. This is a fitting finale to our trip, said one of the cross-sea passengers, for the voyage had been a glorious one. There were on board just 52 first class and 19 intermediate passengers, and a silk and tea cargo of 2,500 tons.

Mr. J. H. Dixon, a Scottish gentleman who has been spending the past three months in Japan, and was two months in Victoria for a few days as the guest of Mr. Newcombe, Mr. H. MacKenzie, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hornsby, and Mr. A. K. Rhoden left the ship here.

Of the others crossing, Mr. Arthur Peterson is paymaster of the flagship Baltimore, now on the Asiatic station, and with Mrs. Petersen and Mr. Sheaff, his secretary, is homeward bound for Philadelphia, where he will be two days here as recently as August 17, two days after the capture and burning of the Saturnus by the insurgents, who still hold her master, a delegate of the Atlantic, Aguinaldo's headquarters.

The Americans look upon the destruction of the Saturnus as a piece of arrogant impudence—insamuch as there were two American gunboats just round the spit at San Fernando, not two miles away, and they arrived in time to see the big 700-ton vessel go up in smoke, the costly cargo, and to hear the yells of the wailing Filipinos.

Mr. T. J. Feeder has been engaged for several months past with the famous Hobson in refitting for service such of the Spanish fleet falling before Dewey's guns as came to the victors. Of these but three are named—the Don Juan de Austria, the Isle de Luzon and the Isabel II. They have been in the shipwrights' hands at Hongkong during four months, and are now ready to sail for Manila, where they will be met by the junction with the six new gunboats that are said to have been specially ordered from the Illinois Steel and Iron Co.

Kabe Otsu, president of the Yokohama chamber of commerce, chairman of the central board of the Tea Traders' Guild, and member of the high board of agriculture, commerce and industry, passed through on his way to Philadelphia for the trade conference there, which he attends as delegate of the Tokyo and Yokohama chambers of commerce. M. H. Midusa and T. Ooka are similarly bound.

Mr. W. S. Nation and E. Barnard, of the Royal Engineers, have been enjoying a holiday trip through the islands of the Pacific, aggregating over 30,000 men, all Chinese. Hence, if actual fighting commences, it will finally merge into a race war between Chinese and Manchuria.

The Empress Dowager remains as inscrutable as ever, showing no marked leaning for either of the rivals. But those who are thought to think that her policy inclines towards that of Prince Ching, the armistice guard she expects bloodshed in the near future.

There are some among the European students of Oriental politics on the scene who are somewhat sceptical of the Empress Dowager's recent illness has been assumed, in order to keep the rival factions from springing at one another's throats until her plans are matured; for undoubtedly she has another coup d'etat which she is silently and secretly preparing. Upon those who are supposed to be in the confidence of her majesty, the design it is said she has formed is to get Marquis Ito to come to Peking, and to send Li Hung Chang, who is thought to be her deputed in the government of China.

THE MORGAN CITY'S MISHAP. Shipwrecked Troops Face Hunger Until Relieved by the Empress—A Sarumarian's Misadventure.

The R. M. S. Empress of India arriving here yesterday was signalled as a shipwrecked vessel at Onomichi, Japan, on which the shipwrecked men of the transport Morgan City, including the 3000 men of the Third United States Cavalry, were stranded.

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Important Information For Shipping Men Now Furnished by Euthydas, a Maritime Volunteer.

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THE BRIDE SUITS. Mayor Redfern Will Recommend a Motion Looking to a Settlement.

Mayor Redfern has given notice that at the next meeting of the council he will recommend the following motion: "Whereas there are a number of suits for damages arising out of the record of the bridge accident entered against the city, and whereas, it is desirable that the same should be settled as speedily as possible; therefore, be it resolved that the legal advisers of the city be instructed with power to arrange with the plaintiffs for a settlement which would be mutually satisfactory, and that a committee consisting of the Mayor and Aldermen Hayward, Brydon and Stewart be appointed to consult with the City Barrister and City Solicitor as to the best means of bringing about the desired result."

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A Life-Saver's Record.

Facts Upon Which the Humane Society's Representative May Take Action.

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TRADE INCREASING.

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PROVINCIAL NEWS.

COBBLE HILL. Cobble Hill, Sept. 19.—At a reception given on Monday by Mr. and Mrs. John Nightingale, of Cobble Hill, about thirty-five invited guests had a most enjoyable time. Numerous amusements were indulged in, and after refreshments were finished, the reception was ended with three cheers for the popular hostess.

BARKERVILLE. The Cariboo Gold Fields are running a drain on their pit to catch bed rock above and are said to be going through some remarkably good ground.

Gold Commissioner Brown, who has been known to all as a greater depth than any other, but not yet well. He was lately visited by the doctor from Quesnel, there being no medical man now in Barkerville.

The Black Jack hydraulic mine washed up, it is reported, about 400 ounces of gold.

John Peabody, of Stanley, was buried on the 2nd after a short illness. Mr. Peabody was known to all as a greater depth than any other, but not yet well. He was lately visited by the doctor from Quesnel, there being no medical man now in Barkerville.

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