

A Year of War

REV. C. K. HARRINGTON.
(Concluded)

THE JAPAN WHICH THE WAR HAS REVEALED TO THE WORLD.

Japan has spent on military operations, during the year nearly \$300,000,000 and has put into the field about 500,000 well trained and thoroughly equipped troops. This of itself for a small Empire, a poor people as judged by western standards, and one only recently become a modern military power at all, is a remarkable showing. But there are things equally remarkable which do not loom so large in the public eye. One is the thoroughly up to date character of every branch of the service, the transport, the communications, the commissariat, the sanitary, the field hospital and so forth. Take it all around probably no nation could have equalled it, certainly no nation could have surpassed it. The husbanding of the fighting strength of the nation by the prevention of all preventable sickness in the army, and by prompt and skilful treatment of the wounded, has won the admiration of the world. In this way it is considered that the effective strength of the army has been doubled or quadrupled. It comforts one to know this cold winter weather, when the bitter winds are abroad on the Manchurian plains, that our troops camped along the Hun and the Sha are suffering no hardship that the free use of brain and money could prevent, and that it is only in the actual shock of battle that their brave lives are being sacrificed.

Another noteworthy matter is the business integrity shown by those who have had the financing of the war, and the expenditure of the vast sums consumed in the war under their direction. As far as we have reason to think there has been no "graft." The commercial world in Japan has rather a shady reputation abroad, and probably no worse than it deserves, but in its business dealings the army seems to have been above reproach. In the absence of a sense of honor developed under religious sanctions; the fervent patriotism of the nation, which almost amounts to a religion; and the keen sense of what is becoming in those who are fighting for Lord and land, has largely filled the place. And it may well be, too, that an honest pride in keeping clean hands before the western nations, especially before those Anglo-Saxon peoples which are supposed to attach a high value to straight dealing in money, has contributed to the happy result.

Coming now to the rank and file of the army, it is sufficient merely to allude to the soldierly qualities the troops have to a man displayed. Brave, hardy, patient, resourceful temperate and orderly, the war correspondents who have studied them on the field tell us that no better troops can be found in the world. If a man is needed to die, a hundred stand waiting for the honor, as witness the attempts to "Hobson" Port Arthur, and the perfectly reckless assaults on the various Russian positions taken during the year. It will need a big book of Jasher to hold the story of all the heroic deeds that are being done. And the valor shown is not the wild ungovernable valor of savages, fighting for lust of blood. We can never think of the Japanese as ferocious and bloodthirsty as we usually conceive the Cossacks to be. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Kuroki turns not back, and the sword of Cku returns not empty, and the regiments from Kyushu jeopard their lives unto the death, and from Hokkaido upon the high places of the field, but when the day has been won the ranks of warriors are transformed into companies of orderly citizens, caring kindly for the wounded of the enemy, sharing their own suppers with hungry prisoners, and writing polished and flowery epistles to the anxious friends around the home hearth. Never was there a braver army sent into battle, and never one more well behaved. We hear of no profligacy among the officers, and of no drunkenness and rowdiness among the men. The Emperor and the nation have sent forth the army on a righteous and honorable mission, on the success of which the national prestige, and almost the national existence, is felt to depend, and a sense of the seriousness and dignity of the cause seems to restrain the troops from unworthy acts.

The humanity and magnanimity shown during the war, both by the nation as a whole and by the soldiers on the field, is also most gratifying. This has been incidentally alluded to above, but is worthy of special notice. I dare say many people at home feared that the Japanese, a heathen nation and one accustomed to older methods of warfare, would be found guilty of many atrocities, and would be fairly matched in this respect with the rude Cossacks of the Czar. Did they not in former days, when forays were made upon luckless Korea, bring home whole boatloads of ears or noses as trophies of the fight? But if anyone has been searching through the records of this war for barbarities he has found them almost without exception on the Russian side. It does much to reconcile one to the war, cruel as it inevitably is, to find our troops so self-controlled, so civilized, and so humane through it all. The Russian dead have received respectful treatment, the Japanese even going so far as to send the money, or articles of value, found on the bodies, to the families left in Russia, when their addresses could be ascertained. The enemy's wounded have been as well treated as those of the Japanese ranks. The prisoners of war, of whom there are at present over 30,000 in this country, are treated rather as the guests

of the nation than as whilom enemies. The native kindness and courtesy, which all travellers remark, have had a fine field for exercise, and have shown to special advantage against the ruder and harsher character of the Slav. When the Vladivostock squadron sank the Japanese transports they left a thousand helpless men to drown without lifting a finger to help them; but when a little later, almost on the same spot, Kamimura's fleet destroyed the Rurik, the ring-leader of those same ships, they took the truly noble revenge of saving every man who could possibly be rescued eight hundred or more. The poem recently composed by the Emperor embodies what seems to be the spirit of the nation:

"The Foe that strikes thee, for thy country's sake
Strike him with all thy might; but, as thou strik'st,
Forget not still to love him."

Japan has returned good for evil throughout this war, and has shown herself truly chivalrous, not only by her bravery, but also by her humanity. The God who in dealing with heathen nations in old time, for three transgressions and for four refused to turn back the punishment from Syria or Philistia, or Ammon, may be trusted to reward the integrity and humanity displayed by this modern heathen nation.

THE PRESENT TEMPER OF THE NATION.

The fear has been expressed in some quarters that Japan's success in this great war would develop in her the "big head" that she would become altogether too bumptious and high-cock-a-lorum, to the effectual setting back of the tide of moral and spiritual influence which has been flowing in upon her, and to the serious checking of her own growth in things vastly more important than army and navy. And indeed any nation might well be expected to be a little light-headed with such a list of victories to its credit in a single year; and if some degree of elation is evinced what nation will feel inclined to cast the first stone? Neither of those represented by the British Lion and the American Eagle, surely, for had either of these so thoroughly downed the Russian Bear, would be now advertising for

"A lodge in some vast wilderness,
Some boundless contiguity of shade,

in which to hide his modest blushes, and escape the plaudits of bystanding nations?

As a matter of fact, the calmness which the nation has shown, not only the calmness of fortitude in the dark days of the war, of which there have been a few, but the calmness of self-restraint in its bright days, has been not the least remarkable feature of the year's history. Walk through the streets while they are fairly ringing with the bells of the "extra" boys, sowing broadcast the news of some decisive victory, and except a flutter of flags along the house fronts no sign of anything unusual will be noticed. At certain fixed times the great events of the war have been celebrated with wholesale decoration and illumination of the cities, and with monster torchlight, or rather lantern processions, and these have been entered into with gusto.

The capture of Liaoyang and the fall of Port Arthur, especially, were made occasions for general rejoicings of this kind. In Yokohama foreigners and Japanese vied with each other in doing honor to the deeds of the army. Some of the streets of the native town were a perfect picture both during the day and after nightfall, being transformed into "tunnels of flags," as the Japanese say, the houses on either side and the sky above being well nigh hidden by the profusion of flags, lanterns, and red and white striped festival bunting. Evening processions with thousands in march made the streets ring again with the Japanese hurrah, "Bankai." But the populace indulged in no excesses of any kind. Foreigners along the line of march were lustily cheered and treated with unvarying respect. It was just an orderly happy crowd, like a big family merry-making, men, women, children and babies having a good time in a simple way, and going home at nine o'clock tired but goodnatured.

Apart from these special celebrations the nation has seemed unusually quiet and serious. This may be partly accounted for by her realization of the strenuous nature of the struggle into which she has entered. America must look back to her Civil war, and England to the wars of Napoleon, to appreciate the gravity of the situation. The future of Japan as a self-dependent and expanding nation is felt to be at stake, and against such an antagonist as Russia she felt that she must put her back into the conflict. Each great success has of course lightened the cloud of anxiety, but she is not yet sufficiently clear of the shadow to be very light-hearted, not to say light-headed.

The burden of the war is not a light one, even from an economic point of view. Taxes are high and constantly tending upward, and all the necessities of life follow in their train. Even our missionaries have to draw in our belt buckle an extra inch, so to speak. The great mass of the people, who barely manage to live in frugal comfort at the best of times, must find the narrow margin left for farther economy very closely pared down, and many of the poor must be badly pinched indeed. The families which are represented by the 500,000 young men called away to the war are left in many cases in sore straits in spite of all that is done by the government and by private charity to relieve them. This latter is not a little, as the nation feels a responsibility to save the men at the front all anxiety in regard to their families left behind. I suppose no nation

has ever done better by its soldiers and soldiers' relatives, both through government channels and by spontaneous benevolence, than Japan is doing during this war; but the number to be helped is so large, and the resources of the average Japanese are so meagre, that at the best a great many of these families will find it hard to keep the wolf from their cabin doors, while their natural bread-winners are in the field driving back the Bear from the doors of the East.

And darker than this shadow of want is the shadow of sorrow cast over the land. There have been many victories. There has been nothing but victories. But after each victory there is the list of the dead, and the tale of the wounded. The three chief battles, Liaoyang, the Sha, and Heikoutai, alone aggregated over 40,000 casualties, and the siege of Port Arthur cost perhaps another 40,000. It is probably within the limit to say that a hundred thousand men of the flower of the nation have met death or wounds since the campaign opened. And who can say that she will not have to sacrifice another hundred thousand before the present year is out. The shadow of death and sorrow is a very real shadow upon the Land of the Morning Sun, and tends to sober the people in the proudest moments of victory.

Not inconsistent with what has been said above is the fact that Japan is coming to a new confidence in herself, as one result of this war. She has gone forth clad in modern armor, equipped with modern weapons, and has met a great Western power in fair fight, conducted according to the most approved modern methods; and has been more than victorious both on sea and land. Hereafter she need not fear that common fate of Asiatic countries, the eventual loss of independence; but may give herself with singleness of mind to the working out of the national destiny in other lines. The close of the war will probably witness a new era of rapid advance in all those directions in which Japan has already learned to move. Yet I believe that as a nation she will continue to treat Western Powers with respect, and that the individual Japanese will not soon lose that charming courtesy and air of deference which endears him to the tourist's heart.

The Life More Abundant.

REV. E. L. STREVES.

John 10:10. I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

Life is the strangest and most wonderful phenomena that for definition ever baffled the language of man. Men have written and will continue to write on the science of life but will no more comprehend that about which they write than can the common clouds of earth comprehend the daisies that spring from their mould, or the daisies understand the joy of the child who gathers and appropriates their native beauty. Life appears to have its origin in a kingdom that is higher than the material. It is God-breathed and God's a spirit. Though we have life, can measure it, appreciate it, enjoy it, we understand it not. Though we have intelligence, intellect has never yet solved the riddle of its origin or its process. As Darwin, the world's greatest naturalist philosopher has written, "In what manner the mental powers were first developed in the lowest organisms is as hopeless an inquiry as how life itself first originated. These are problems for the distant future if they are ever to be solved by man." (Descent of Man.)

In a blind way we grasp at life's phenomena and express our concept in definitions that do not define, or in metaphors that are themselves as obscure as the thing they are meant to make plain. We say life is "correspondence with environment" and think to cover our ignorance with the pleasant sound of scholarly definition, or in unscholarly simplicity we define life as existence and measure it by our years, moralizing with Franklin, "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time for it is the stuff life is made of. But what has time to do with life? A man might live a thousand years and yet in Rip Van Winkle somnolence live unconscious of his years so that of a truth it may be said of him he never lived. To live is to comprehend, to enjoy, to be "up and doing" and while this in no sense defines life, there can be no life without feeling and action; and the more of feeling and action, the deeper and richer our sensations the "more abundant" our life.

The life of Methuselah is reckoned by nine hundred and sixty nine years and then his biography is completed with the words "he died." One sentence alone records this longest of human lives. How inadequately such a life compares with the rich and noble character of that disciple who though "born out of due time," was the instrument in leading many souls to Christ, and was able after unimagined horrors of persecution, to exclaim "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown."

Truly "we live in deeds not years, in thoughts not breaths, in feelings not in figures on a dial. We should count time by heart throbs. He lives most who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

Then in the first place we may say that life is the power to feel, to act, to suffer and to enjoy. In other words sensation is the primary difference between that which is dead and that which is set life. Rocks and stones have no sen-