

Messenger and Visitor

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Severe on the Russians.

The Independent is severe on the conduct of the chief Russian commanders in the naval battle in the Straits of Korea. It says: "We do not wonder that Rear-Admiral Nebogatoff does not accept his parole. He does not care to carry back to St. Petersburg the report of the Russian dead and wounded. He had no business to surrender and if he should return to Russia he would stand a fair chance to be hanged for cowardice. The same is true of Rear-Admiral Enquist who ran away with three strong cruisers during the first day's fight and fled to Manila, without waiting to see the result of the battle. He was able to sail at good speed for seven days. If ever an officer deserved hanging Enquist does. And there is not much to be said for Rojestvensky, although cowardice is not charged to him but only incompetency. There are old naval rules under which he would be shot. He did no scouting, but dreamed that the Japanese were here and there and that they had but a weak force at the Tushima Straits, which he could easily break through. When he saw a Japanese scout he took it as evidence that there was only a small force in the neighborhood, and into the jaws of death he went stupidly. It is an Admiral's business to know where his enemy is. That is what scouts are for. Equally incompetent was he to direct his fleet in battle. On the Russian side there was cowardice piled on stupidity. On the Japanese side there were the utmost skill and science. Hence the result." It is possible, however, that if *The Independent* were in possession of all the facts its judgment on the defeated Russians would be less severe. They were comparatively new and untrained to the business of war and were therefore at a great disadvantage in contending with the experienced commanders and naval veterans of the Japanese fleet. It was too much to expect of the Russians that ship for ship, gun for gun and man for man they should show themselves the equals of their opponents. Their defeat in anything like an even combat was a foregone conclusion. If there was some degree of incompetency on the part of the Russian commanders that was not surprising. Whether it was cowardice or common prudence which led to the surrender of Nebogatoff and the flight of Enquist may be a matter for further inquiry before pronouncing final judgment. Rear-Admiral Enquist says for himself that his squadron was complete when he entered the fight on the morning of May 27. He exchanged shots with the enemy at 1,000 yards. He attempted to pierce the Japanese line and make a dash for Vladivostok, but he was attacked by cruisers and torpedo boats, and forced to make a running fight. The main attack of the Japanese was concentrated on the Russian battleships. His own flagship was sunk, and he transferred his flag to the 'Aurora.' He was ultimately forced to flee to the south-west, taking that course at ten o'clock on Saturday night, and succeeded in making his escape with three of his ships in the darkness. He headed for Shanghai. A heavy sea was running, which threatened to swamp the vessels owing to their injuries below the water line, and in order to ease them as much as possible he headed to the south.

"Something to Blush for."

The New York Evening Post is of opinion that the treatment accorded to Chinese visitors in the United States is something to blush for. The Post says: In connection with our strained relations with China, it is interesting to note the treatment accorded to a party of four Chinese who arrived in Boston last week in the first cabin of a Cunarder. Although dressed as Europeans, well-educated as befitted members of one of the best families in China, provided with passports and also with a letter of introduction from Mr. Joseph H. Choate, the travellers were not allowed to land with the other cabin passengers. Set apart like so many wild animals, they were kept on the steamer all night, and not permitted to go ashore until they had been photographed and put under bond. Apparently the immigration officials omitted only the Bertillon measurements in recording the arrival of these persons of gentle birth and refinement. The Boston Herald naturally wonders what kind of an impression they must have received of the land of the free, and asks whether on their return to China they and their friends will favor American business men and interests, or our trade rivals who do not have scandalous exclusion laws. The incident also confutes Mr. Conger, lately our minister to China, who maintained that the Chi-

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ese merchants would not boycott us on account of our harsh exclusion laws, because low caste coolies are alone affected by them. But the boycott is on. The Chinese are awaking to the fact that the United States does not care for their company, but does insist that Americans should be received and protected in China; that it wants their money while denying to them privileges of residence granted to the peoples of every other country the world over. Our position is indefensible morally, and the Chinese know it.

Losses in the War

A Washington despatch says:—The first approach to an accurate statement of the Russian and Japanese losses in Manchuria is contained in a list of the batt'les and their casualties compiled by Gen. Tasker H. Bliss of the general staff. Some of the information has been gathered by the military information bureau of the war department. This has been supplemented by data from sources that are not revealed, but which are regarded as authentic. The number of men engaged and the percentage of losses in each battle is as follows, according to the compilation of Gen. Bliss:

Telissu—Russians 30,000, loss 16 per cent.; Japanese 45,000, loss 2.58 per cent.
Kahling—Russians 25,000, loss 8 per cent.; Japanese 60,000, loss 25 per cent.
Fenshuling—Russians 5,000, loss 4 per cent.; Japanese 18,000, loss 4 per cent.
Motieling—Russians 15,000, loss 6.6 per cent.; Japanese 20,000, loss 1.4 per cent.
Hziyoen—Russians 80,000, loss 6.2 per cent.; Japanese 18,000, loss 2.9 per cent.
Tashihchia—Russians 40,000, loss 3.4 per cent.; Japanese 60,000, loss 2.8 per cent.
Yashu'antz—Russians 40,000, loss 5 per cent.; Japanese 45,000, loss 2 per cent.
Liaoyang—Russians 160,000, loss 5.4 per cent.; Japanese 170,000, loss 6.49 per cent.
Sha river—Russians 180,000, loss 16.25 per cent.; Japanese 175,000, loss 5.8 per cent.
Sandepeu—Russians 65,000, loss 23 per cent.; Japanese 50,000, loss 14 per cent.
Port Arthur—Russians, 45,000, loss 34.33 per cent.; Japanese, 106,000, loss 42.6 per cent.
Mukden—Russians 400,000, loss 25 per cent.; Japanese 500,000, loss 12 per cent.

These figures give a total loss of 186,198 for the Russians and 156,186 for the Japanese.

There are no reliable figures as to the deaths from disease in either army, but they are reported to have been very light among the Japanese, but heavy among the Russians.

Norway's Secession.

The Storting, as the Norwegian Legislature is called, on June 7th declared the union between Norway and Sweden under one king to be dissolved, and that the King has ceased to be King of Norway. This action of the Storting practically dissolves the union which had existed between the two countries, unless Sweden shall determine to preserve the union by force of arms, which it does not appear that she is likely to do. The union has not been of a very intimate character. Each country had its own Parliament and was independent in reference to its internal affairs, and to some extent also in respect to external affairs. The principal bonds of union being the Crown and a common consular system, the two countries having a common representation at foreign capitals. It was in connection with this common consular system that friction and a demand for the dissolution of the union arose. As Norway is a free-trade country and Sweden has accepted the doctrine of protection, the fiscal interests of the two countries could not be identical. Accordingly Norway came to feel that her interests demanded that she should have her own consular system. To this the Government of Sweden, apart from the King, was willing to consent, but King Oscar firmly opposed the concession, with the result that Norway is seceding from the union. There appears to be no violent ill-will between the two countries. King Oscar seems to have thought that a union that was one in name only, was not worth preserving. There is no intimation that he or his government intend to use force to persuade Norway to remain in the union, and Norway on her part has shown the

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absence of any ill-will toward the present King by intimating her desire for a Prince of the house of Bernadotte as her King. It is said, however, that this desire will not be gratified, and it is also intimated that there is little prospect of Norway securing as King a grandson of the King of Denmark, who is understood to be her second choice.

Profits of Cotton Manufacturing.

The desire of a merger or combine, which already includes most of the large cotton manufacturing concerns of Canada, to secure control of the Montreal Cotton Company, has led the latter company to make a statement in respect to the extent of its business and its earnings, which not only bears on the question of consolidation but is of special interest for the light it throws on the tariff question. If the Montreal Cotton company has been prospering so largely as its president shows to have been the case, it is difficult to see what reasonable ground there can be for the 'demand' frequently made in the cotton manufacturing interests for increased protection. The statement shows that within the last five years the company, instead of struggling along against the great handicap that the high tariff advocates have claimed prevailed, has paid an average annual dividend of 8.65 per cent., besides writing off \$375,000 for depreciation of plant, and adding \$111,125 to a special reserve fund for bad debts. There is scarcely a doubt, it is said, that it was only in the stress of circumstances that the directors could be induced to sanction the publication of what the supporters of increased protection would consider as a statement most damaging to the best interests of the cause. But Mr. Ewing president of the Company, has made his statement, and the question from a public standpoint, particularly in view of an early budget at Ottawa, is not on what terms will the cotton merger secure stock of the Montreal Cotton Company, but what grounds have the cotton manufacturers for their appeal for further protection.

Talk of Peace.

The situation as between Russia and Japan is one that seems to hold some hope for peace or at least of negotiations being opened between the two hostile nations with that end in view. An identical note addressed by President Roosevelt to Russia and Japan on the subject has been published. The note alludes to the interest of the world at large, as well as the two nations immediately concerned, in having the terrible conflict brought to an end. It declares the friendship and good will of the United States toward both nations and urges that in their own interests and the interests of the whole world they open negotiations for peace. President Roosevelt declares his willingness to do what he properly can in the way of arranging preliminaries if his services in that respect may be of any value, but his proposal is not that Russia and Japan shall act through intermediaries but directly, each of the belligerents appointing delegates or plenipotentiaries who shall meet together to discuss terms of peace with a view to the naming of conditions which shall be acceptable to both nations. The note is entirely courteous in tone, and is said not to have been forwarded until assurances were received at Washington from St. Petersburg and Tokio that such a proposition would be welcomed. The action taken by President Roosevelt appears to have the cordial approval of Great Britain, France and Germany, and as it voices the desire of the powers generally for the conclusion of peace between the two warring nations, it will pave the way for negotiations having that end in view. There is little doubt that both Russia and Japan desire peace. The question is whether or not Russia can so far humble herself as to consent to pay the indemnity Japan will demand for her vast expenditure of blood and treasure in a war into which, as she holds, she was forced by Russian aggression.

—Rev. Dr. Spencer of Ottawa who has been spending several weeks in N. B. has gone to Belleville, Ont. for several Sundays. During his visit he has preached or lectured at Fairville, St. John, Cambridge Narrows, Mill Cove, Jemseg, Springfield and Upper Gagetown and met with a kind reception everywhere. Bro. Spencer thinks the Provinces by the sea charming for situation and the prospective union of Baptists a cause for much gratitude to God and much to the credit of the Brethren who has pioneered the movement.