



HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

And when all the land of Egypt was furnished the people cried to Pharaoh for bread, and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

—The Courier, Dundee.

workmen were employed in tapping the rails and examining the sleepers. The entire traffic was dislocated for days before the arrival of the imperial train, and no one save those known to the authorities as absolutely reliable persons were allowed to approach the neighbourhood of the railway.

UNDER THE WAR CLOUD.

There can be no doubt Russia has strength in reserve for a terrible and far-reaching conflict, but the startling initial victories of Japan have dealt her prestige a terrible blow. The sleepy millions of the East are rousing themselves to possible deliverance from the oppressive heel of the aggressor with Japan as protector.

Little Japan seems to mount easily from victory to victory. Yet no one can foretell the outcome of what threatens to be a long and tedious war. One thing seems tolerably certain, that much of the strength and invulnerability of the Great Bear was mere bravado and self-assertion. It is an illustration of the old truism, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link." One does not make a strong nation out of an oppressed and ignorant people. The vigilance with which Russia has censored her press, trampled on the spirit of independence, and silenced freedom of thought, this spirit has not raised for her a

nation of strong defenders for the testing-time.

As for Japan, the plucky little nation that has sprung up, as it were, out of the sea in a night, its people are said to be celebrating their victories in the streets of the capital. One feels tempted to paraphrase two lines of Bliss Carman's "Coronation Ode":

"There are joy-bells in Japan, there are lights in Tokio town;
There is bunting in the Channel, where the fleets go up and down."

Whatever the final outcome may be, Japan has already drawn the eyes of the world to her Island Empire. When we stop to think that it is only fifty years since the Japanese saw the first steam vessels, only fifty years last July since Commodore Perry sailed into her ports, and broke down the barriers that separated Japan from the civilized world, when we stop to think of this, we realize more of the splendid possibilities latent in the Orient. No doubt one good result of an otherwise harrowing war, is that our people are studying the East, are coming to know the East. Men who have never taken any interest in missionary work are now intently interested in these lands. May it result in a great awakening to the needs and the place of missions in the history of the nations.