

News of The Far East.

Appalling Loss of Life and Property in a Storm in Korea.

Two Thousand Lives Lost - Pirates on the West River - Howie Suicides.

Spanish Massacred by Moros - An Interesting Budget of Late Advice.

According to news received by the *Empress* from Korea that country was devastated by a terrible storm on January 13th last, which broke out so suddenly that the boating population had no time to seek shelter. The loss of life and property was appalling. The *Chempulpo* correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes of the disaster as follows:

The storm raged more intensely on the southwest and west coast and many lives were lost, not to mention the considerable property destroyed. Kungsan appears to have suffered more than any other place. One of the coasting steamers broke from her moorings and was first driven upon some rocks and then washed ashore by an unusually high tidal wave. The sea runs so high that all the houses in the proximity of the beach were washed away occasioning the loss of some two thousand lives. At Chempulpo a Japanese schooner, in the height of the gale, was sunk at her own moorings in the inner harbor, she was loaded with coal. The harbor is strewn with the wreckage of countless sampans and junks and more than twenty bodies had so far been washed ashore. The embarkment by the steamship *Howie*, lately built in connection with the railway, was washed away. The stone beacon on the North Watcher has been completely swept away. This was erected in 1890 by the American relief contractor under an agreement with the commissioner of customs for \$28,000. The work was done without any official supervision and though it was well finished doubts were ever and anon expressed about its capacity to weather a storm. The work was finished in December and forthwith handed over to the charge of the customs, and \$10,000 was paid on account, with a promise that the balance would be squared up by January 5th. But the Korean government, acting on its old principle of delaying payments as much as it is possible, had not paid the balance when the storm broke out. Now the government refuses to pay anything further, alleging, though rather late in the day, defects of construction. But the lord high treasurer found out pretty soon that he was not dealing with a Chinese contractor, and had to pay the money, and quickly, too.

OHINESE PIRATES.

Still Raiding Vessels Flying on the West River.

During the last three months there have been no less than seven or eight cases of piracy on board the small steam craft plying on the West river, and in one case where resistance was offered by a native captain, the map was shot down and horribly mutilated in order to terrify peaceful voyagers and render resistance less likely. In no case, however, has a vessel with foreigners on board been molested, but if the accourents who perform these depredations are going to continue to go so free there is little doubt that it is only a question of time and sufficient inducement in the shape of an ample cash prize, when a daring and successful raid being made on a foreign commanded vessel will be heard of.

An analysis of the data available as to the recent pirates points to one or two centres of piracy, in the neighborhood, respectively of Takling and Kongsong, the one place being well up the river and the other near the outlet to the sea. Of course the whole river and its navigable tributaries are afflicted with the pest, but circumstances point to the above named two localities being the special prominence of piratical raids. Secondly, it may be noted that the pirates board the vessel at a distance from the point where their confederates are waiting for them and that they divide the spoils on board at one or two distant points, as passengers, to ally suspicion. Thirdly, their constant escape from capture points either to the fact that the official yamen runners and soldiers are in league with them or to their total inability to maintain order in the area subject to these piratical raids.

It may be mentioned that the Loting district, watered by the Loting river, discharging into the West river almost opposite to the city of Takling, is one of the greatest, if not the greatest, centres of piracy in the southern provinces. This river is navigable by light draft boats for a distance of fifty miles from its mouth (right up to the large business centre of Loting) though the distance overland is only about twenty miles, the course of the river being very winding. The merchants in this district, which is a large exporter of the valuable cassia oil, have to pay very heavy tribute to the pirates, in the shape of blackmail, in order to pass their exports and imports free of molestation down and up the river, and it is especially down, near the mouth of the river, that the pirates lay toll. This, within two or three miles of where several guard boats are lying, speaks for itself as to either the masculinity or impotence of the officials entrusted with the duty of maintaining law and order, for Takling is a large walled city and there are sufficient troops in the neighborhood to suppress raids if a real attempt is made to do so.

A list of vessels pirated within three months is given in the Hongkong Press. Twenty-one are shown to have been attacked, most of them being Chinese steamships.

Over eighty cases of piracy were reported in the native press during 1898.

SUICIDE OF HOWIE.

A Notoriety of the Japanese-Chinese War Drowns Himself.

The Kobe Chronicle says the man Howie, who was arrested at Kobe on board the M.M. steamer *Sydney* during the Japanese-Chinese war, is reported to have committed suicide by jumping overboard from a steamer while on the way from Post Arthur to Shanghai. It will be remembered that he was engaged by a member of the Chinese embassy in America to blow up the whole Japanese fleet by means of some explosive which he professed to have invented. On the way across the Pacific with his Chinese employer, an American companion named Brown, he talked very big about what he was going to do, with the result that some one gave information at Yokohama that led to the arrest of the three men at Kobe. Howie and his companion, Brown, were released after a few days' detention at the *Jiyote Hotel*, having promised not to serve against Japan, and were given a sum of money to take them back to America. They left Kobe, however, for Hongkong. The Chinese was detained as a prisoner until the end of the war. Brown kept his engagement, but Howie did not, proceeding from Hongkong to Shanghai and entering the Chinese service. His experiments proved a failure and though he was at Wei-hai-wei when the place was besieged by the Japanese navy, he did not manage to blow up or burn a single vessel, but was finally falling into the hands of the Japanese when Wei-hai-wei was surrendered. He was brought as a prisoner to Japan, but, after detaining him for awhile at Sasebo, the Japanese let him depart, having no wish to be involved in possible international complications over such a worthless opponent. Howie, it appears, then again returned to China, and was given a situation by the Chinese, eventually drifting to Port Arthur, where he recently developed signs of insanity. Being sent to Shanghai for treatment, he, as already related, eluded those who were keeping watch upon him, and jumping overboard, was drowned.

SPANISH MASSACRED.

Spanish Governor Murdered by Insurgent Moros.

The Singapore Press publishes the following in a late issue:

The steamer *Lubau*, Captain Pfort, has returned from Port Royalist, Palawan, and reports that the Spanish governor and his officers have been murdered by the natives. After firing the church the natives retired to the hills, taking with them the women and children and some men as prisoners. The Spanish mail boat arriving a mail steamer called at Port Royalist, and sailed again doing nothing.

Captain Pfort interviewed the natives and brought away the governor's wife and other women and children, the priest and two soldiers. These are now safe in Sandakan.

Fire on a Steamer.

About four days after leaving Singapore, a fire was discovered amongst the cargo of the cargo steamer *Bambury*. It was for a time kept down by pumps and steam jet, but through the holes in the deck, but about 500 miles from Colombo the outbreak assumed such proportions that there was some thought of taking to the boats. This last alternative, however, was found to be unnecessary and the fire was again got under control, and the vessel arrived in Colombo harbor. The vessel is 2,650 tons, and is bound for Europe from Japan.

Li Hung Chang Realled.

A Peking dispatch to the North China Daily News states that Li Hung Chang, who has recently been busily occupied in determining and preparing for the construction of the Yellow River works in Shantung province, has been lately ordered by imperial edict of the *Empress Dowager* to return post haste to Peking, and was expected to reach the capital on the 1st inst. It is stated that this has been due to the uncertainty of foreign and palace politics at present, and the *Empress Dowager* appears to wish to have her old adviser by her side when occasion arises.

Too Many Steamers.

The Kobe Chronicle says: When the Japanese government had surveyed the whole of the Japanese navigation encouragement law, it was estimated that the annual calls upon the treasury to pay the subsidies would not exceed a million yen. Contrary to expectation, however, many ships have since been built and passed the examination entitling them to the bounty, that the expense under this head in the thirty-second fiscal year threatens to reach four million yen. In view of this enormous expense, the communication department is trying to check the increase. Their investigations have resulted, says the *Osaka Mainichi*, in a proposal to reduce by 50 per cent. the bounty granted to ships built in foreign countries. This proposal, it is said, will be submitted to the diet before the session closes.

Russian Admiral Leaves.

The Nagasaki Press of the 4th February says: H. I. B. M. cruiser *Pamiat Azova*, which arrived here on Thursday from Port Arthur, was specially detailed to convey to this port H. E. Rear-Admiral Ronouff, who has been appointed to the admiralty at St. Petersburg. His Excellency for the past two years has been second in command of the Russian squadron in these waters, and he will be succeeded by Rear-Admiral Veselago, who is expected here from Europe on the 6th inst. by the R.V.P. steamer *Moska*. Rear-Admiral Ronouff, who proceeds to Europe by the M.M. steamer *Tonkin*, due here on the 5th inst., has, we learn received the Order of St. Anne of the First Class for distinguished services in the far east. The *Pamiat Azova* will await the arrival of the *Moska* at this port, and will then leave for Port Arthur with the new admiral.

Grasping Russia.

The *China Gazette* says the Russian First Class of Newchang is now finished for 15 miles north of that port towards Kirin, and work is being vigorously pushed. A foreigner who recently made the

journey describes the whole country from Port Arthur up to Kirinchow (at the head of the Gulf) as being absolutely in the hands of the Russians. Russian officers and hundreds of Cossacks are to be met with in every village. They do not seem to interfere with the Chinese officials, but do their own business and proceed on their way as if there were no such thing as the Chinese government in existence.

Methodist Missionaries

A Summary of a Very Interesting Report in Many Fields.

Indications of the Growth of Religious Life Among the Heathen Tribes.

Modern St. Pauls Write Modestly and Hopefully of Their Labors.

The general report of the missionary society of the Methodist Church for 1897-98, which has just been issued, says: "In the annual report for 1896-97 attention was called to the check which our mission in West China had received in consequence of the riots in the cities of Cheant and Kiangnan. By the efforts of Rev. Dr. Hart and others a settlement was obtained from the Chinese government, an indemnity was paid, and our missionaries were able to return to their work under more favorable auspices. Better and more commodious buildings have been erected, good congregations assemble to hear the preaching of the word, souls have been saved, and information concerning Christianity is being scattered broadcast. Two hospitals are in successful operation, bringing medical help to thousands and opening the way for the Gospel among those who had not hitherto so much as heard of Christ.

In Japan.

Each year there has been some gain in the membership, but opposing forces seem to dispute every inch of ground. This state of affairs is not peculiar to our mission in Japan, but is common to all the societies laboring in Japan. The causes are various. The reaction against foreign influence; an intense national spirit; the rapid spread of erroneous doctrines; the efforts of Buddhism to regain its ancient prestige; the ready acceptance of materialistic science and agnostic philosophy by the student class; the waning of the faith of the natives with Christ and Japan; but not least, the opposition of the carnal mind to the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, have all played their parts in retarding the progress of the Kingdom of God. But even now there are signs of a brighter day. Native Christians who know the native mind, and are competent to speak, are of the opinion that there will be a change for the better in the near future, when the Gospel will spread more swiftly and find more ready acceptance.

Negroes Make Things Lively

Discharged United States Troops Terrorize Towns on Their Way Home.

A Hot Fusillade at Griffin - Trainman Killed and Several Persons Injured.

Atlanta, Ga., March 9.—The Tenth Immunes (negroes) Col. Jones, who were mustered out at Macon yesterday, began to show their ill temper as soon as the train bearing them home began to move out of Macon. Pushing revolvers and other arms, which they in some way managed to keep with them, they began firing from the windows. Bullets flew in every direction as the train sped on and passers by were compelled to seek safety. One person was shot at Macon, Will Goodyear, a 16-year-old boy, whose arm was fractured by a ball.

As the train passed the various stations on the road, the riotous scene repeated itself, the trainmen on the platforms to see the train go by.

At Griffin, Ga., where the first section of the train stopped, about 2:30 p.m. occurred the most serious trouble of the day. The regiment came over the Central Georgia railway in three sections. When the train stopped at Griffin the negroes, who by this time had filled up with whisky, began firing their pistols, and yelling like Indians. Over 200 shots were fired and the police were powerless. The city was at the mercy of negroes who kept up a fusillade of shots until the train carried them on. Firing pistols and yelling like Indians. The outrageous conduct spread rapidly over Griffin and it was determined that the next section of the regiment should be held in check. Mayor Davis telephoned to the governor, asking him to order out the Griffin Rifles. The governor sent him word that he would consult the authorities and instruct him in a few minutes. Mayor Davis then ordered out a company on his own responsibility, as there was no time to lose. The men were given five rounds of ammunition, and under the command of Lieut. David, marched to the depot. In addition to the militia the mayor and sheriff Morris deputized nearly 100 citizens to assist the officers in preserving peace and protecting the city.

About 5:15 p.m. the second section came in sight and above the roar of the train could be heard the rattle of rifles. Those which were being discharged indiscriminately. When this train came to a standstill, the negroes saw 200 armed men, who commanded them to keep quiet. The negroes, many of whom were armed, were as docile as lambs. Those who were fractious were clubbed into submission. When the train pulled from the depot, and the negroes thought they were out of the reach of citizens they began firing at houses. At the first shot a volley was poured into the train by the citizens and militia. George Agee, a trainman, was fatally shot in the abdomen, and one negro was slightly wounded.

There was no trouble in Atlanta as the police were prepared for them.

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monstration, held in the valley about April 1st, produced something of an spirit of unrest, which was offset by most encouraging Easter services. The funds are all in advance and the membership increased since.

The chairman of the Bella Bella district, Rev. Thomas Crosby, says that besides attending to that extensive district he has had to look after the mission at Glad Tidings. This has taken some time, but in the absence of the president of the conference lay workers have carried on the work. The church on Herald street, Victoria, has been cleaned and painted at a cost of forty dollars and there is a good advance in the missionary giving on the mission. The visits of

The Glad Tidings

over the Bella Bella district have been a great blessing during the past year. Early in the fall we had some much needed work done, and the vessel is now as good as ever. Her engines are in good order, and on her last trip of 1,300 miles she made good time on little fuel. A man should be placed on her to every creature on the coast.

Rev. W. J. Stone in his report sees the dawn of a brighter day for Nitenat. Forces for good he says have been silent, acting on the minds of the Nitenat Indians, leading them to clearer perceptions of right and wrong, especially of the latter. They have learned the fearful consequences of wrong-doing when they saw one their chiefs meet an untimely end through this most terrible agency that Satan uses to curse the red man.

Medical Missions.

Dr. Bolton's report shows the double benefit of

He says last May a branch hospital and dispensary was opened at Rivers Inlet. The missionary spent the greater part of June there, during which time he visited the sick and the aged, and attended to the seven amies, until about 3,000 people were dependent on the mission for medical aid. Among these were hundreds of heathen Indians filled with superstition and prejudice. The proportion of sick, and the character of the case among these tribes, were appalling. Several were treated in the dispensary at Rivers Inlet in first-class surgical dressings were performed each day. Visits were also made to the Skeena, and many cases were treated; on one occasion during three days stay there being no less than 130 patients. The hospital there was full all the season, and as three applicants in one day were turned away for want of room. July was spent at Clayoquot with an attendance of about thirty, principally young men and women. Rev. Mr. Tate says a medical missionary is needed for this district, and a cry comes from several tribes further north for missionaries.

At Cape Mudge, the missionary says, the year has been

One of Encouragement.

At Bella Coola also the same encouragement is noticed. The heathen village has been frequently visited and the prospects for the future look bright. Services have been held monthly twelve miles up the valley among the Norwegian settlers. They were well attended. The native agent at China Hat writes that the people there want a new church, and have subscribed \$300 to this end. At Kitchikan the mission property has been improved, a new school house built, also an outhouse. The services have all been well attended. During the year the mission sustained a severe loss in the death of Wangkungmalony (Charles Amoo), who was practically the missionaries' right arm. Good reports also came from Hartley Bay and Kitlope.

The chairman of the Simpson District

says the removal of Bro. Crosby and the appointment of a new missionary was an event keenly felt by the Indians as he had been the chief founder of the mission, and had ministered to the people during twenty-two of the twenty-four years which have elapsed since its organization. The Sunday schools at Port Simpson, Indian and White, have done excellent work under the superintendency of Mr. Richards and Dr. Bolton. The division between the Salvation Army faction and the "Workers" has not been healed, but there is a kinder feeling towards each other than formerly.

The Crosby Home for Girls and the Boys Institute have progressed encouragingly, the former has 44 and the latter 22 boarders. Much praise is due the work done by Dr. Bolton, the medical missionary and his devoted nurses. The work at the canneries and fishing camps and at the Georgetown sawmills has been done largely through the efforts of local preachers and exhorters. That the work has been successful among the Indians of this district can be gathered from the fact that during the year but one Indian was found intoxicated, and that by the use of essence of ginger taken as a medicine in allopathic dose. This speaks volumes as there is an abundance of liquor near at hand.

Rev. S. S. Osterhout, in his report from the Naas, says good progress has been made, and the prospects are bright. The church at Fishery Bay has been enlarged, he old one being too small. The Indians gave most loyal subscriptions and free-will labor. The small fish season was a busy one and the missionary who was the only resident among hundreds of Indians felt in need of assistance, especially in the medical work.

Rev. D. Jennings, of Port Essington, says the people at the mouth of the Skeena have made real progress in the divine life. Rev. B. O. Freeman, the missionary on the

Queen Charlotte Islands.

says in December the church was removed from the deserted village of Gold Harbor to Skidegate, where it is also used for a school house. During the year twelve Indians died, all giving death bed testimonies.

The report of W. H. Pierce on the up-

RISE OF AGNOSTICISM.

A passing phase of recent thought, that need not be long dwelt on, is Agnosticism. It may be called the culmination or advanced stage of scepticism of the thirties and forties. The relation of Hamilton and Mansel to it has been pointed out. They prepared the ground for Huxley, who had much of the challenging temper of Huxley, but mingled with scientific caution and reserve. A new attitude of mind was the result, the outcome of these two tendencies. With much of the iconoclastic mood, he did not countenance sweeping criticism. He would not deny the probability of life after death or the existence of a Supreme Being. He assumed the position of one who is non-committal. Intellectual honesty compelled him to take some such position. In the absence of positive proof respecting certain theological and metaphysical conceptions, he preferred not to affirm dogmatically whether they are true or not. Recognizing that the boundaries of the unknown (so-called) are forever shifting, he maintained a suspense of judgment. To express his mental attitude toward matters of doubt, he used the word "agnostic," unverifiable, he coined the new term agnostic from the Greek word agnosco—"I do not know." It was merely one of the details of Positivism brought into clearer relief. Huxley's position, being substantially that of Mill and Spencer. The doctrine was at first misconstrued, denounced, and laughed at. Later, its distinctive features were seen to be not so very objectionable after all, aside from the weakness of negation. In time, it received the qualified approval of philosophers and theologians. For awhile Agnosticism gave rise to heated polemics, but its discussion soon ceased.—From paper on "Victorian Thoughts and Thinkers," in Self Culture for March.

THE LONDON DAILY CHRONICLE REFERRING TO THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE FRENCH CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SAYS IT HAS ASCERTAINED THAT LORD SALISBURY DID EXPRESS REGRET TO M. PAUL CAMBON, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, REGARDING THE MEANS WHICH WERE EMPLOYED TO ENFORCE THE BRITISH CLAIMS.

WHAT IS A "PRAGMATIC" AGNOSTIC?

A Much Discussed Question.—London, March 14.—The Herald to-day decided a long debated question of intense interest, and gave the name to a new movement in the world of letters and the betting acts which he made. A friendly action against the Kempton Park Company to decide the matter has been delayed owing to the illness of the late Lord Salisbury. The Herald has now been given in favor of those declaring that enclaves.

THE GOMEZ DEMONS

Police men Try to Stop the Receive a Warm Reception.—London, March 14.—The Herald of yesterday, published the report of the police officers who had been sent to do so. Chief of Police's mounted inspector and two and three attempted towards the residence of General Gomez yesterday, police to prevent the parade to do so. Chief of Police's mounted inspector and two and three attempted towards the residence of General Gomez yesterday, police to prevent the parade to do so. Chief of Police's mounted inspector and two and three attempted towards the residence of General Gomez yesterday, police to prevent the parade to do so.

States Will Not Interfere

Washington, March 14

America Declares Her Interest in the Great European Question

Will Not Help China, the Integrity of Empire.

sadors and ministers here those powers having large China, have communicated foreign offices the substance answer of the United States does not intend to maintain an attitude neutrality in reference to the dispute between the governments that they announce of the United States of supreme importance.

China's Moral Influence

A prominent member of corps, representing one of Europe, said: "It is most all the powers to know the States does not intend to maintain an attitude neutrality in reference to the dispute between the governments that they announce of the United States of supreme importance."

China's moral influence in the East is being developed, and the United States, which has taken part in the war, and think it will be so foreign.

This diplomatic official said that if Italy secured from China, it would put an end to the Italian interest in the Chinese southern posts of China the closest for the big trade Manila.

HERSCHELL'S SUCCESS

Lord Russell of Killowry, statesman and statesman, was present at the meeting.

London, March 14

of the Associated Press, Baron Russell, to-day, regarding the probability of the late Baron Herschell joining High Commission, as a Vice-Chancellor of the High Court.

Lord Russell said

anything regarding the coming from Her Majesty's. He could say nothing regarding the appointment.

THAT UNLUCKY NATION

Chicago, March 14.—Peering in regard to the superstition with the number thirty-volved in the death of John Miller, the death on that day by falling window from which the window was the fall from the ground. The man died, twice 13. Miller, the meet his death from the from England of the late Lord Salisbury, had worked just 38 times 13, when he fell and

THE POPE'S HEIR

London, March 14.—The Pope from Rome announces that suffered from a renewal of but it is added that his physical regard his condition as serious.

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AVILA AXLE GREASE

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