

ST. JOHN STAR, SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1904.

HEROES OF JAPAN'S ARMY.

Kuroki, the Leader of Them All, Is Affectionately Called "The Shadow of the Ancient Generals"—Remarkable Record of Admiral Uemura.

It is a favorite saying of the Japanese people that Gen. Ito Kuroki, commanding the land forces in the war with Russia, has the true character of the ancient generals. When once he smiles even the children will come close to him. But when he becomes angry he is a fierce as a lion.

Kuroki's military record backs up the latter part of the old saying. He is a member of the famous fighting Satsuma club. During the war that preceded the Restoration he sided with the emperor, and, with all the traditional fury of his samurai ancestors, he attacked those of his clansmen who were opposing the mikado.

In the same army with him was Togo, now vice-admiral of the Japanese fleet before Port Arthur, and then, like Kuroki, a young man.

Every rickshaw man has his own story of how Kuroki slew many of his rebellious clansmen, in single combat, and men who served with him in these troublous days say that there is much foundation in fact for these tales.

The Restoration accomplished, Kuroki continued in the emperor's service, and ever since then his life has been devoted entirely to military matters. His ability had been recognized even before the civil war broke out, ten years after the Restoration, and his advice was largely followed in repressing the rebels, who were Kuroki's own clansmen.

From that day Kuroki rapidly rose in favor, and when the China-Japan war broke out he was given an important command and won victory after victory.

His treatment of the soldiers has been materially responsible for his success in handling great bodies of men. He personally looks after the smallest detail relating to their welfare, in an incredibly short time he learns to call thousands by their names, and if any soldier—even a coolie—has a complaint to make Kuroki stands ready to hear it. Then, when in the field he does not surround himself with comforts; the men know that he lives as they do—sleeps in a blanket, eats the same food—and they are the more loyal for it. Ask a Jap soldier who is his hero, and he will usually reply enthusiastically, Gen. Kuroki.

It is said that when he started for the seat of war in 1894, one of his staff officers implored him to take along a folding rubber bathtub and other accessories of the modern general's field equipment. Kuroki's reply was, "Am I a woman? He didn't take the bathtub.

The army office officials are also fond of telling this anecdote in illustration of Kuroki's devotion to war for war's sake and not for the booty or glory there is in it.

Many of the generals returned from the China-Japan war with rare loot. And it took many coolies to carry their possessions. Kuroki, on the other hand, was accompanied by a string

of baggage bearers. A friend expressed his surprise at the meagreness of the general's trappings. Kuroki drew several sheets of writing paper from a pocket.

"We received this as a present from the department of Jippei (Aid for the Soldiers)," he said. "I have nothing to bring home except this."

Kuroki's intimate friends have never heard him talk about his experiences on the battlefield. According to his wife, who lives in Tokio, he has kept a detailed diary of his army life, but neither she nor her children has ever heard him make reference to his victories or the honors that have befallen him.

"He is very gentle in the home," said Mrs. Kuroki recently. "He hates luxury and dress and fuss. Sometimes he buys antiques when the dealers press him, but he throws them in a corner and has no desire to decorate the house with them. He is easy-going with the children and does not interfere with their plans. But when the boys start to eat candy and between meals, he rebukes them, telling them that boys should not do such things. He himself does not eat between meals."

In this last particular Kuroki is an exceptional Jap. Perhaps this circumstance accounts largely for the robust health that he enjoys at the age of 61, making him as active and as light on his feet as a man of 30.

There is no more tactful man in the mikado's service, unless it is Togo. Indeed, these two men resemble each other in more ways than one. Togo, like Kuroki, being a staid soldier for detail, extremely dignified, meticulous of the men under him, free of affection, and equally disregarding of physical comfort.

The name Kuroki means black tree, and today the general is being affectionately called by that title and the more picturesque one of "The Shadow of the Ancient Generals."

Vice-Admiral Hikonoda Uemura, second in command of the fleet under Vice-Admiral Togo, has an enviable fighting record dating from the Restoration. He, too, is of the Satsuma clan.

During the China-Japan war he was in command of the cruiser Akitsushima and he opened the war by capturing the Chinese transport Soko. His daring at the battle of the Yalu caused him to receive high decorations, and when Prince Kitashirakawa was killed in Korea while with the army, Uemura was selected to convey the body to Japan.

He has taken part in every war that Japan has waged since the restoration. His work in the civil war against his own clansmen won him promotion from a lieutenant.

At one battle in this war he was hit on the chest with a rifle and seriously wounded, but he insisted on staying on the firing line, and to the surprise of everybody he got well without going to the hospital or receiving other than the rude treatment of the field.

Upon graduation from the naval school he took a lengthy cruise on the training ship Tsukuba to China, Formosa, and the United States. When the ship returned to Japan he was assigned to the Cruiser Genyo. When this vessel was sunk by accident in the Kishu Ocean, Uemura, at the peril of his life, refused to leave until he knew that his presence at his post would be of no further avail.

Admiral Uemura's wife is again repeating her work of the China war, when she helped the nurses to take care of the wounded at the naval station at Sasebo.

Prince Higashimura, also serving under Admiral Togo, is commanding the cruiser Chitose, which was built at San Francisco.

The prince is a graduate of the naval school at Bras. In the war with China he accompanied the squadron to Formosa and made a good record for himself. He is thirty-eight years old, and ever since he has been able to walk he has been trained in the science of warfare. He is now a vice-admiral.

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The empress is spending the spring at her favorite summer resort of Hayama, some thirty miles from Tokio, where she first learned of the war with China, and also of the conflict with Russia.

She is leading an extremely simple life, in order to make her contributions to the war fund and the various soldiers' aid societies as large as possible. She has sacrificed the greater part of her jewels and has replaced her gold head decorations with plated ones. Like the emperor, she has cut down the number of meals and has insisted upon the retinue doing the same thing. The populace is taking much satisfaction in the rebuke the empress is said to have given one of the court attendants for daring to wear a gold comb at such a time.

WORKING BY THE DAY.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was talking to his Sunday school class about industry.

"Our industry," he said, with a faint smile, "should not be of such a nature that the remark once applied to a certain sort could ever be applied to us."

"I tell you what the remark I allude to was."

"Two old farmers were walking down a road near Danfermine, when one of them pointed to a distant field and said, shading his eyes from the sun: 'That figure over there—I wonder if it's a scarecrow?'

"He stopped and regarded the figure very attentively for a space. Then he concluded, in a satisfied tone: 'Yes, it's not moving. It must be a scarecrow.'"

"But the other farmer had sharper eyes and a better understanding, maybe, of certain types of human nature. He looked at the figure for a moment and said: 'That's a man working by the day.'"

HE WAS SURPRISED, TOO.

Bleeker—"My congratulations on your marriage with the charming widow, old man. I knew you called on her occasionally, but I had no idea you intended to marry her."

Meeker—"Neither did I until she had it all arranged."

FOUR-FOOTED BAROMETERS.

Also Bipeds Who Can Tell to a Nicety When Showers Are Going to Fall.

The best barometer in our office happens to be a member of our staff, says London Answers. We can always tell what the weather is going to be like when he is about. Rain on the morrow gives him a severe headache today.

Today he may be calm and the sun shining, making everyone happy and joyous, and if our colleague gives vent to his animal spirits and joins in the merriment with the rest of the world, we know that the pleasant weather, with its calm and sunshine, will be repeated tomorrow.

But if he be depressed and afflicted with a violent nervous headache, that is a sign for all the members of the staff to come down to the office the following day provided with umbrellas, goggles and raincoat coats. It is going to rain—and it invariably pours.

There are few better informed meteorological experts than a fox terrier or an Aberdeen collie. Both smell the rain and storm which are yet far off. The collie, when the storm is in the air, becomes restful and very sleepy, refuses his food and gets half-tender; but when the rain falls the dog commences to wag his tail again.

A terrier reveals the secret of coming rain by searching holes in the earth and howling when any of his human friends go out, and he sleeps restlessly.

Pussy takes things more calmly and more philosophically. For cats like remaining indoors when the weather is prolonged, but the feline instinct in the matter of knowing when it is going to rain is so very acute that pussy prepares for a stay indoors some hours before the rain comes.

Watch her antics. She will curl herself into a ball on the hearthrug and will probably place one paw behind her ear. Now she sits up, huffy and commences to wash her face. Her fur is dull looking and she holds her head down. The coming rain influences even the nervous system of a cat.

Waiting along the streets you will, perhaps, have noticed a horse suddenly shaking his head and snuffing the air. That is a sign of rain. If the animal is pretty lively on its own account—that is, if he persists in crushing his snuff, throws his head up and down, yaws the ground and is slightly generally—most "horsey" men—that he is in for a change in the weather.

The writer once asked a professor of metaphysics at Cambridge University if he could account for the phenomenon which brought these strange signs about. In his opinion, it was some hidden force of nature which so far has baffled discovery. The influence was electrical, he affirmed, and was only exerted by sun beams and made with highly wrought nervous systems.

Birds, too, are endowed with a remarkable instinct which enables them to measure up their responsibilities in connection with their nests. Birds never fail to return home long before it rains or a storm approaches. The common sparrow comes first. From his nest he chirps warning to his feathered brethren of larger species than his own.

LAKA-CARA TABLETS

THE human system is at best a delicate machine. It is fitted to take care of the food and drink necessary to life. But you are careless. You eat this and that without regard; you may drink too much, too fast; you may eat irregularly tomorrow you probably eat before a first night sleep. Clinging to the bottle, or consumption, results. The impurities that ought to be carried off find easy lodgings in the body.

Laka-Cara Tablets help Nature where you abuse her. They act soothingly, but speedily, on the stomach, and the poisonous accumulations, which you are so prone to blame on, are carried off in the natural way. Laka-Cara Tablets are delicious in their action and easy to take, because they come in small, tablet form, chocolate coated.

Get your bowels into proper working condition, and you will probably find yourself a well man or woman.

Per package of druggists' 35 cents, or by mail postpaid on receipt of price.

FRANK WHEATON
FOLLY VILLAGE, N. S.
SOLE AGENT FOR CANADA

OVER-EATING AND OVER-DRINKING

Robbins, excitedly announce a coming change in the weather, from fair to rain, or vice versa, from the tops of trees. Like the sparrow, which chirps incessantly, the robin twitterer frantically. Other birds bespeak every notion on the dial of a barometer, and these who follow the habits of the domestic of the feathered kingdom can read the signs with ease.

Sailors, for instance, study the sea-gull. The latter makes a splendid living barometer. If a covey of seagulls fly seaward early in the morning, sailors and fishermen know that the day will be fine and the wind fair, but if the birds keep inland—though there be no haze hanging out toward the sea—debate unpleasant weather—interested folk know that elements will be unfavorable.

Of all weatherwise fish, the dolphin is the most remarkable. During a fierce gale or storm at sea the mariner knows that the end is near if he can see a dolphin or a number of that fish, sporting on the high sea waves.

Bicycles and all athletes depend on BENTLEY'S LINIMENT to keep their joints limber and muscles in trim.

Crumbs of comfort are usually missing from a woman's first loaf of bread.

HOW LENSES ARE MADE.

Many Processes Before They Are Ready For Use.

When a popular camera was first under consideration, it became necessary to secure a good lens at a popular price. This was possible only by the devising and making of special machinery and tools, and by buying the raw glass and manufacturing in large quantities. Lens glass is made principally in Germany, France and England. Brought to the manufacturer in small slabs, it is cut by revolving saws into the different sizes and then subjected to a series of grindings and polishings that must eventually enable the tester to fit the lens over an absolute form of the shape and size required, so perfectly that a deviation of one two-millionth of an inch is instantly detected.

The cement used for building up lenses from single glasses is a preparation so delicate that it cannot alter this perfection. The making of lenses for photographic work has now become an immense industry, and in many cases the shutters are also made in conjunction. Highest skill is employed to perfect this first requisite of the apparatus; but careful as these makers are to prove their work, the lenses are also always thoroughly tested by the camera experts.

This does not mean that they are subjected to anything like the different tests the amateur will apply later on; but they are ascertained to be of correct finish, focus and mount, and the focal scale is tested by objects at the stated distances; the finder is brought into alignment, and then the camera needs only the final touching up of rubbed spots to be ready for the market.—W. B. Ashley in Outlook.

WOMEN FIGHTING IN JAP. ARMY.

Richard Chester, of Tanegashima Island, Japan, a contractor to the Japanese government, is in Victoria, en route to the Orient. He states that at least ten per cent of the Japanese soldiers in the field are women disguised as men. He says that the average Japanese woman of the coolie class is as strong, if not stronger, than the man.

Mr. Chester asserts that prior to last December Japan had landed 130,000 men in the vicinity of Ping Yang, Korea, from which point they were quickly distributed throughout the country. These men were all fully armed and prepared to keep the field for an indefinite period.

MONTREAL CLOTHING STORE, Opera House Block, 207 Union Street, St. John, N. B.

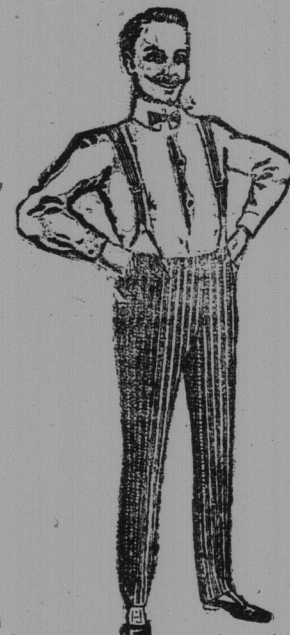


By the rush we had on our opening day, Saturday last, one would have thought we had the whole clothing trade of the city, which only goes to prove that our large stock of up-to-date clothing, at such low prices, cannot be competed with in the city.

People seem to have taken full advantage of the fact as the store was crowded with purchasers, both day and night. We hope to have a busy day again for next Saturday, and we are still fully prepared to receive the patronage of the many thousands of people in this "Celestial City" of ours and throughout the country. All will be promptly waited upon, as we spare no expense in procuring ample help.

Shrewd buyers will be interested in our window display.

Gentlemen, you cannot help walking gracefully in one of our up-to-date suits. Give us a trial and you will then be satisfied, or your money will be cheerfully refunded.



We Make the Following Offerings for Saturday:

MEN'S DEPARTMENT---Specials.

MEN'S SUITS, in Fancy Stripes, at\$3.50, \$5.00, \$6.50, \$8.00, \$9.00 to \$12.00—Harry would look swell dressed in one of these suits.
MEN'S SUITS in Fancy Tweeds at\$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.50, \$9.00 to \$12.00—Don't these prices make it hard for you to keep your purse in your pocket?
MEN'S SUITS in Blue and Black Serges at\$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$10.00—We'll risk our reputation on these suits.
MEN'S SUITS in Clay Worsted, at\$9.00 and \$12.00—Buy one and be happy.
MEN'S SUITS in West of England Cloths at\$12.00 and \$14.00—You'd look swell dressed in one of these.

YOUTHS' DEPARTMENT---Specials.

YOUTHS' SUITS, in Fancy Stripes, at\$3.50, \$4.75, \$5.00 and \$7.50—In one of these suits your boy would look like a gentleman and feel like a king.
YOUTHS' SUITS, in Fancy Tweeds, at\$5.00, \$6.00, \$6.50 and \$7.50—Bring in your boy and we'll suit you both.
YOUTHS' SUITS, in Blue and Black Serges, at\$5.50, \$7.00, \$9.00—Youths wanted to test the excellence of these suits.

BOYS' DEPARTMENT---Specials.

BOYS' 3-PIECE SUITS in Fancy Tweeds at\$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.75, \$5.00 and \$7.00—Your boy would look a new one dressed in one of these.
BOYS' 3-PIECE SUITS in Serges at\$3.00, \$3.50, and \$7.00—These will just make a boy feel like a man.
BOYS' 2-PIECE SUITS in Fancy Stripes, at\$4.50, \$5.50 and \$7.50—Come and see the lovely patterns we have.
BOYS' 2-PIECE SUITS in Fancy Tweeds at\$4.00, \$5.00 and \$7.00—Hard to beat.
BOYS' 2-PIECE SUITS in Serges, at\$4.00, \$5.00 and \$7.00—Are great value for the money.
BOYS' 2-PIECE SUITS in Fancy Stripes, at\$4.00 and \$7.50—Are the best in town.
BOYS' NORFOLK SUITS, at\$1.50, \$2.40 and \$2.75—The prettiest designs and all the fashion for the youngsters.

ONE PRICE IS STRICTLY ADHERED TO WITH US.

We have not only the LARGE ASSORTMENT and LOW PRICES, but we have the SUITS to SUIT your fancies. We have Men's Pants in abundance and the Prices range from 75c. a pair up to \$3.50; Youths' Pants from 90c. up; Boys' Pants from 25c. up. The swiftest assortment of Gents' Furnishings can be had here. A dollar saved is a dollar earned, and one can save many dollars by purchasing from us. Give us a call and be convinced for yourself.

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