

AMERICA CLASPS HANDS WITH JAPAN

United States and Japan Are at the Fork in the Road

After Ten Years of Increasing Estrangement Between Uncle Sam and His Once Previous Apprentice, a Jap Mission Comes to Present Greatest Question of the Age.

Washington, July 25.—Various war missions having come to us from Europe, now out of the East comes a peace mission from Japan. The others came to induce us into war. This embassy comes to talk over the ways and means of averting another war.

Although the true interests of Japan and the United States are not in conflict, unhappily the two countries are drifting toward each other with prejudices and suspicions. It is full time that the backs of both were stroked the right way.

It is enough to provoke the silent cost of Matthew Calbraith Perry that the nation which he awakened from a sleep of centuries should now be the favorite bugbear of so many Americans. If the dead could but speak, what an outburst of noisy exclamations we should hear from that tomb down at Newport! Perhaps it would be well—anyhow for the diplomats of the two governments to make a pilgrimage to it and invite the spirit of the Commodore to preside over their negotiations.

For both nations need to keep in mind that there is an unbreakable link between them such as binds together no other pair in all the family of States. Nor is it merely a sentimental tie such as statesmen pooh pooh. If Uncle Sam was the godfather and mentor of Japan, he claims to debt of gratitude, because the god-child and pupil long ago repaid him and overpaid him in the credit it has reflected upon its sponsor and tutor. That account is squared; but let it never be closed in the ledger of memory.

Why Perry Opened Japan.

Although there is no voyage in history more romantic, when Perry hoisted the anchor of the Mississippi in Hampton Roads in 1852 and sailed

for unknown Japan, he was embarked on no sentimental journey. He went for the same simple reason that the Japanese, after 65 years, are now coming to us. Because the two peoples are next door neighbors and cannot afford to live apart. It is well to strip to the naked fact all these so-called problems in diplomacy and statecraft.

Neither diplomats nor statesmen nor merchants were the first to see the need of opening the Japanese ports. Its discovery was not reserved for the vision of the adventurous Perry nor yet the imagination of the two other New Englanders, Daniel Webster and Edward Everett, who, as Secretaries of State, were the joint authors of the letter of greeting which he carried from President Fillmore to the Mikado. The government at Washington only followed where simple whalers and pioneers had led. For the restless Americans no sooner had come to the Pacific in their westward advance than they began to knock on the bolted doors of Japan.

Five years before Perry first set foot on the Japanese shore, Ronald McDonald, of Oregon, deliberately cast himself adrift from a whaler in the Sea of Japan and made his way to land. This curious youth, who was the first American to pay a voluntary visit to the forbidden empire, found small chance to gratify his curiosity, as he was promptly locked up for having dared to profane the sacred soil. Some other American sailors having been wrecked and imprisoned in the same year, he was surrendered along with them to an American naval vessel which came to their rescue in 1819.

Not only were the enter barbarians prohibited from entering Japan, but their people were equally prohibited from leaving the country. When our

THE TRENCHES OF HOBOKEN



sailors saved shipwrecked Japanese from a watery grave, we only condemned them to a worse fate at the hands of the lord high executioner if we returned them to their native land. It mattered not that the unfortunate had been unwillingly carried beyond the limits of the realm by force of wind and tide; they could not escape the punishment that had been made to fit the crime of contamination by foreigners.

The Awakening.

Destiny having made Japan our neighbor in fact, it became necessary for us to induce her to be a neighbor in spirit and to convince her that she could no longer live unto herself alone. But when we started Perry on this mission it seemed to many observers as fantastic as a voyage to Mars. A London paper likened it indeed to sailing off to another planet in a balloon.

Nor would the Martians themselves be more astonished than the people of Tokyo were when Perry's signal guns boomed over the harbor of that city on a July afternoon in 1853. In the wild confusion that seized upon the capital, men ran about frantically shouting and women shrieked as they pressed their children to terrified breasts. Bells tolled. Priests invoked the spirits. Soldiers swarmed to the forts.

The startling news spread abroad, and for many months all Japan was filled with agitation as the nation suddenly found itself standing at the verge of a strange world. "To be or not to be," to go in or to stay out was the problem that puzzled the wisest heads. And the momentous question was submitted to a referendum.

In that strange referendum, the principal dignitaries voted almost unanimously for resistance, and preparedness became the order of the day. Forts sprang up along the coast; temple bells were cast into cannon; and 300,000 patriots poured into Tokyo for the defense of the city.

Nevertheless when Perry returned for his answer in 1854, the Prime Minister reconsidered the matter and craftily decided that it would be better first to acquire the arts of the foreign devil and then to fight him with his own weapons. The Shogun, who was the real ruler, the Mikado being hidden away as an invisible divinity, adopted this sagacious view, and the gates of Japan creaked on their rusted hinges as they reluctantly swung open.

Faltering at the Threshold.

When 50 years had passed, another generation ratified the judgment of its predecessor and a grateful people set up on the wooded beach where Perry landed a bronze statue of the American who had guided the faltering steps of the nation out of its long seclusion. Nevertheless, there had been misgivings in the interval and Japan often found herself turning back.

When Townsend Harris, our first diplomatic representative, appeared in Japan to carry forward the work which Perry had only begun, he has to engage in a long and patient struggle before he was suffered even to enter Tokyo. His persistence so sorely tried the government of the Shogun that one of its members, as he solemnly assured the American, could not eat or sleep, his great agitation leaving him lean in body and causing the blood to gush from his nose. When at last, after 15 months of waiting, our envoy was permitted to enter the capital, its streets were packed with hundreds of thousands of people eager to look for the first time into the face of a Caucasian.

There was reason enough for the

anxieties of the Shogun. Antiforeign demonstrations, like the Chinese Boxer Rebellion in 1900, convulsed the country for years. Harris' secretary was killed in one of the frequent outbreaks, and in another the American Legation was burned. As an American ship was passing Shimoda in 1863, it was fired upon from a fort, and vessels of other nations receiving salutes equally unfriendly, a fleet of English, French, Dutch and American warships smashed the fortification, after which the four powers assessed an indemnity upon the national treasury.

An Adopted Child.

The conversion of the Mikado to the new order was not peculiar. All Japan in 1853. In the wild confusion that seized upon the capital, men ran about frantically shouting and women shrieked as they pressed their children to terrified breasts. Bells tolled. Priests invoked the spirits. Soldiers swarmed to the forts.

Thenceforth for 30 years or so Japan was the eager and brilliant pupil of the western world. Imitation being the sincerest flattery, her aptness in adopting our culture and our ways belied the vanity of nations and made her teacher's pet.

To America naturally the Japanese turned as to a sort of foster parent. Ours was the fatherland of New Japan. Many of her youth came to our schools. At the same time their elders at home were oftenest under the guidance of Americans, who went out to be the advisers of the older generation in government, in education and in business.

The spirit of a friendly service animated all our relations with the country. And the Mikado's empire remained still the only land outside of Christendom where Christian powers entrusted the protection of their subjects wholly to the laws and courts of the country.

Casting Off Her Leading Strings.

In due time this smart apprentice in the school of Western civilization came of age and he promptly demanded his liberty. As we had been the first to negotiate a treaty with Japan and the first to send an envoy to her, we cheerfully united with England in 1894 to give her the hand of full and equal fellowship in the company of nations. And the Mikado's empire remained still the only land outside of Christendom where Christian powers entrusted the protection of their subjects wholly to the laws and courts of the country.

No sooner had Japan cast off her leading strings than she dropped her American and European pupils and struck out on her own course. Ever since then she has been returning to the soul of the East and going farther and farther away from us in thought and feeling. How rapidly the gulf has widened, we realize when we look across it and wonder at our progress in the Russian war of 1904-5 and at our cheers for the Mikado's envoys as they rode through the streets of Portsmouth.

An Era of Estrangement.

The anti-Japanese agitation on the

Pacific Coast is only one phase of the psychology that is affecting all our intercourse with Japan. It has sprung up in the same atmosphere of suspicion and estrangement which has been gathering between the two countries for 10 years and more.

At the time when the San Francisco School Board announced the project of a separate school there were only 93 Japanese in all the schools of the city. When the agitation for the exclusion of Japanese immigrants from this country came to a head in 1907, there were not 100,000 members of the race in the entire United States.

In a spirit easier to praise than emulate, Japan pocketed her pride and made the famous "gentleman's agreement" of 1907. How faithfully she has kept it we may judge by the fact that fewer Japanese have come than gone in the 10 years since the informal compact was made.

The total Japanese population here still is estimated at under 100,000. Although perhaps not far from half of these are in California, they form hardly more than 2 per cent. of all the inhabitants of that State. In Washington and Wyoming they represent a little more than 1 per cent, but everywhere else they are a minor fraction in the census table.

Nevertheless the anti-Japanese agitation has continued unabated. Although Japan voluntarily stopped her people from coming to us, Congress would wantonly have affronted her by adopting an exclusion clause in the recent general immigration act had not President Wilson protested.

DANISH MERCHANT PAYS FOR HIS TRICK

Copenhagen, July 25.—Philip Beck, a Danish wholesale merchant and exporter, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment yesterday, thus disposing of a celebrated case for violation of the Danish export regulations. Beck was arrested in August, 1916, after a German cruiser had captured the Danish steamer Ydun while bound from Frederikshaven, Jutland, for Copenhagen, with 500 cases of lard on board, consigned largely to Beck. It was suspected that the capture was arranged with Beck's connivance to simplify the problem of delivery of the lard to Germany. The Ydun, on which there were about 150 children returning from a holiday in Jutland, was taken by the cruiser into Swinemunde, which occasioned great indignation in Denmark.

HUNGARY WANTS PEACE.

Copenhagen, July 25.—Advice received here from Budapest gave an outline of the address of the Hungarian premier, Count Moritz Esterhazy, before Parliament, concerning the war. "We are waging the war," said the premier, "as a defensive war, and our goal at the conclusion of peace will not be for conquest. We have in addition to our peace manifesto expressed readiness for an honorable peace and accord with the Allies." Count Esterhazy said the speech of the German chancellor, Dr. Michaelis, before the Reichstag, showed that Austria-Hungary and Germany were continuing the war without aspirations for conquest.

The huge garden hats trimmed with brilliantly colored flowers are said to be keeping back the black velvet ones which usually are sent over from Paris in hot midsummer.

Women's Reward Must Come After the Struggle is Ended

The Women of England Have Shown the Country that They Equal the Men in Value, and Will Demand Equal Share in Work of Reconstruction.

The work women have done, and the part that they have played during the war, raises the question whether they have an equally great part waiting them in the reconstruction and upbuilding which will come with the age of peace.

It seems as if the people can only bear the thought of the strain and struggle, the sacrifice and the sufferings, by looking forward and by anticipating the days when the blood-stained earth shall yet become the garden of the Lord, when the ruined dwellings of men shall be rebuilt on fairer and nobler lines.

The plague of London was finally rooted out by the fire that destroyed the noisome alleys and dens where the pestilence wasted at noon-day. So, in our time, war and its consuming fires have destroyed many a city which meant destruction to its overcrowded inhabitants.

The men that have come from overseas to fight in the countries of Europe have brought new ideas with them as to space and light, and these sons of the New World have looked up and wondered that the Nations have been content to dwell under conditions which have dwarfed and stunted the race and rendered life sordid and miserable.

As with the material world, so it is with the social life of the community. In the great struggle for existence and for freedom there has been a universal overthrowing of ancient prejudices enshrined in a horde of petty maxims.

Men and women have had no time to consider the proprieties of outward conventions. What the hand has found to do has been done with all the God-given might of the heart of a Nation.

In the meanwhile, men have fallen by the tens of thousands, and women are considered no longer as only fit to weep while men are at work.

The instinct of life is strong within us all as individuals and as Nations. We know with all other created things we shall set out on reconstruction. We shall guard youth with a more vigilant care than ever before.

On the ruins of the old we shall build the homes of the toilers who have brought and perished but have not labored in vain in that they live on forever in the life of the people. We have learned that the State is a whole and we cannot do without any one class in the community.

Our interests are varied by our gifts, but the commonwealth rests on each of those gifts having full scope and its due reward. The contribution to the wealth of the Nation which is made by the toll of the laborer or

the researcher of the scientist is equal in value, though each exercises a different talent.

That ought to be the outlook on the position of woman in the new age.

She is of equal value with the male in the work of the community, though her talents are of a different order.

She must ever be the nursing mother in the State. Equally she must be the dispenser of the fruits of the toil of the worker.

If we are to have a race fit to people our dominions at home and beyond the seas woman must have a voice in the reconstructed legislation.

She must no longer be the bonds woman of industrial commerce; she must be an equal partner in the wage earning class.

If the churches rebuild the ark wherein is enshrined the faith once delivered to the saints, women, who are not excluded from the hierarchy of saints and martyrs, should have their appointed place and work in the church visible and militant.

If the community would only realize that it is a weakness to keep any part of the people in subjection and under penal laws, that realization would enable it to double its strength in the work of recreating the social good.

Legislation that governs the lives of the race, their birth, their nurture, their civil and religious teaching, legislation which is to rear anew the home life of the crowded city, and de populated country-side; laws which are to purify social conditions, and uprear new standards of morals and temperance, these things can never be wrought out in a free State unless the whole people are called to aid the work.

The State did not question whether it was right that women should make munitions of destruction. When it has time to think it cannot question that women must have a free and a living share in the counsels of the Nation that is yet to be born and reared in times of construction.

Class and sex warfare must forever be ended. There must be a better understanding between capital and labor, and equal legislation must govern the sexes.

A Nation that can proudly say it trusts the people in the fullest sense and that it has abolished the last signs and symbols of the age of serfdom is a Nation that can ask that its ways may be recognized by the father of the widow and the orphan, and it can depend on the whole-hearted co-operation of women in the days that are yet to be.—London Weekly Dispatch

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