

and causes them no little trouble. I asked Little Lamb how many children he had. He answered "one or two." "You have more than one or two," "Two of three." "And more than two or three," "Three or four." "Yes, and more than three or four, you have six." "No, only five." Speaking with a pastor he mentioned cultivating a bit of land. I asked how many baskets of paddy he had reaped. "Twenty or thirty." His wife who was near said, "We had sixty." "Yes sixty," he answered. They talk this way as witnesses in court and it is no wonder the officials say, "All Karens are liars." Yes, we try to correct this with other bad habits and have some success.

We had to stop a full mile below the chapel, and when our cargo was discharged we found we had forty-four boxes and packages. But a host of willing hands were soon there to carry our goods and an immense elephant to convey Mrs. M. chapelwards. The chapel on such occasions is always given up to the missionaries and the meetings held in a large tent near by. This year the tent would hold about one thousand people and it was often filled. More than six hundred visitors were present. From one village, distant a day's journey, eighty came, from another a little further, forty, and from another three days away, there were twenty. All these were lodged and fed by the entertaining church and there was no lack. We are not anxious the Karens should read some items that appear in home papers. They would be surprised that such a gathering should not find entertainment. Of course these visitors do not require such accommodations as people are accustomed to at home, but in proportion to their means the expense is just as great. The amount of labor the women perform in cooking for so many may be imagined. Some families had to set tables seven times to feed their guests. Missionaries run their own line in the chapel with their own food and own cook, but rice, eggs, chickens, coconuts, fruit, etc., are brought in abundance.

Wednesday morning is given to business, receiving the contributions of the churches selling books and other things. In one end of the chapel one hundred hymn books, thirty bibles, two boxes of soap, a large quantity of pain killer, quinine, castor oil, peppermint, etc. changed hands; and in the other fifteen hundred rupees or five hundred dollars were paid. The chief objects to which they contribute are the town school, the Acadia of our field, work among the heathen, the Burma Baptist Convention, the Theological Seminary and the poor. What they give their pastor is reported. He is a well-paid pastor, who receives one hundred rupees in cash and about the same in paddy. Many only get about half as much. Of course we have to lend a hand in many cases, often unknown to the churches.

At ten the triennial meetings of the Blue Ribbon began. Compared with other stations we are making great progress. One missionary wrote us a few weeks ago that every one in his field who tried to give up tobacco and the other filth had gone back. Another could report only twenty abstainers. The school reported about forty. We have gone right on and have now four hundred and fifty "in good and regular standing." But our methods of work are different. No poorer service can be rendered a man addicted to drink than to call him "a poor drunkard" and make him feel his case is hopeless. We never say a word about a "Herculean task" or dread "cast iron rules." We make no provision for falling away and being received a set number of times. We are reaping a rich harvest. Except one old man we should like to retire, all our pastors are true blue, and hundreds of children never taste these vile things. Would that our brethren could look on hundreds of clean faces, and neat, clean clothes, many jackets bearing "a fillet of blue."

On Wednesday afternoon Mrs. M. read a paper taking as her subject Beecher's saying: "The character of the young is God's prophecy of what he intends to do in the next generation." Remarks on that subject followed.

Wednesday evening we held evangelistic services. Scores of heathen Burmans came and a Burman preacher we took with us addressed them so did some Korean preachers who speak their language fluently.

Thursday morning the meetings of the association began. We were grieved to hear that the young man who was to preach had been hurt by a wild pig and was in the hospital in Mergui. While out hunting, his dog was getting the worst of a conflict with a large pig, he went to assist, and went very near the angry animal in order not to shoot the dog. While his gun hung fire the pig turned on him. But he will recover. As usual the missionary had to fill the gap.

The meetings went on steadily and were the best we ever attended. On Saturday evening there was a temperance concert and forty-nine new members joined the Blue Ribbon. As Mrs. M. pinned the badges on the jackets of some elderly people there was no little enthusiasm. At the Sabbath morning preaching service while the collection was being taken, a young lady stepped up on the platform and sang a solo that would do credit to many in more favored lands. She had never been to the town school nor indeed did we know her. What has God wrought?

The noticeable features of the meetings were good singing, good addresses, no one speaking for the sake of being heard; contributions in all amounting to twenty-five hundred rupees, or five hundred more than ever before, a

manifest spirit of aggressiveness in all departments of work. We thank God and take courage.

On Monday morning we began our homeward journey but did not arrive till Thursday afternoon. We had some discomfort but no accident and found all well and safe in Tavoy. Next week I sail away again to visit churches, schools, villages till the heat of March drives me home.

H. MORROW.

Tavoy, Feb. 6th, 1904.

The War in the Far East

BY REV. C. K. HARRINGTON, YOKOHAMA

NO. II.

THE RIVAL ARMIES AND NAVIES.

People in Europe and America hearing that Japan had decided on an appeal to arms would naturally consider it the height of folly and rashness. Russia is the great northern Colossus, Japan is the Little Asiatic Power. Had we not better sit down first and consider whether with 10,000 she can meet her who comes against her with 20,000? But after all the disparity between the forces which the two nations can put into action is not so great. Of Russia's immense army, she had in Eastern Asia at the time of the diplomatic rupture probably not more than 200,000 troops. The Japanese land force consists of a Permanent Army of about 200,000, a Reserve of 200,000, and a Territorial Army of about 200,000, and her condition at home and her transport facilities are such that she can throw practically this whole force, if necessary, into the field in a few days. The Russian force in the east can only be augmented by the slow movement of her troops across the wildest continent on earth. And when the Czar's soldiers and the Mikado's soldiers meet, we over here are not afraid that the "little brown men" will be found lacking in discipline and valor.

The first blow as was expected, was struck at sea, and the success of the Japanese navy was admitted to be essential to any hopeful campaign on the mainland. To clear the sea, hold it against reinforcements by water from Russia, and float her own armies in safety to Korea, was the first item on the programme. Russia had on the eve of the outbreak of war, in eastern waters, what would be considered a very fine fleet should it come in battle array into Halifax Harbor for example. There were seven battle ships of from 11,000 to 13,000 tons, four first-class cruisers of from 6,000 to 12,000 tons, and seven second-class cruisers of from 3,000 to 7,000 tons. Three other ships are supposed to be on their way across the Indian Ocean. As against these Japan had six battle ships, six first-class cruisers and fourteen second-class cruisers, beside the Mishin and Kavaga. Experts considered the Japanese ships to be of a higher average of "battleworthiness." Both sides had large flotillas of torpedo boats and destroyers, and Japan especially has been anticipating great things from this branch of her navy. Japan had a great advantage in thoroughly furnished and protected dockyards, in which to repair and refit her ships after action, while Russia had to depend on Port Arthur, where large vessels cannot yet be handled, and on Vladivostok, now closed by ice. The Japanese navy has been sure of its superiority, and has been fairly aching for an opportunity to show of what stuff it was composed. The "Jiji," one day while the negotiations were dragging their weary length along, presented a cartoon of the navy as a marine with a warship for his bonnet and his mouth stretched in a cavernous yawn. Below was the Japanese proverb:—"One day like a thousand autumns,"

meaning that each day of delay seemed an age to the fingers itching to be at the guns.

THE FIRST BLOWS.

The war opened with startling suddenness. On the 7th, instant, as I have said, it was made public that diplomacy had "thrown away the spoon," and on the 8th, rumors began to arrive of great deeds by the navy. These reports were rather premature, but on the night of the 8th, and on the following day things were wrought that set the world talking and filled the cities of Japan with joy and bunting. It seems that the main strength of the Russian fleet was at Port Arthur, and the remainder of it scattered at various points up and down the coast. Three great battleships and one cruiser were at Vladivostok, miles by sea from the main squadron, while one or two were lying at Chemulpo, Newuhang, Shanghai, etc. As soon as the main Japanese fleet, which had been ready for days, or weeks, to go into action at five minutes notice, received the long awaited permission from Tokio, it set out from Sasebo, the naval base nearest Korea. Five ships were detailed to convoy several transports to Korea, and incidentally to take in hand the Russian Cruiser Varyag, and gunboat Koresetz, which were lying nonchalantly at Chemulpo, and the remainder of the squadron, sixteen strong, including all the mighty battleships, went on to Port Arthur. How they arrived off the port at midnight of the 8th, and found 11 men-of-war the flower of the Russian navy, drawn up outside awaiting them, and how in that night engagement they destroyed or disabled 7 of the very chief of them, almost untouched themselves, the telegraph has already informed the world. Meanwhile the five ships for Chemulpo had made short

work of the Varyag and the Koresetz, so that in two days from the diplomatic rupture half the Russian fleet was already hors de combat and the naval part of the war practically finished. The news of these glorious successes was sufficiently confirmed on the 10th, for the nation. To utilize its great anniversary, the 11th, to celebrate the deed of her navy, and henceforth the day will be remembered, not only as the anniversary of the founding of the Empire, and of the promulgation of the Constitution, by which Japan took her place among modern civilized nations, but also as the day in which she dealt Russia aggression in eastern Asia a mortal thrust, and confirmed her own standing as a self-protecting, independent power. Of course the land struggle has yet to come, and it would be unreasonable to hope for such sudden and signal successes for the army, as the navy has scored, but if skill, discipline, valor and endurance count for anything, and if "he is thrice armed who hath his quarrel just," we may hope for a speedy close of the war, and one that shall usher in a long period of peace and progress throughout all the east.

RUSSIA'S SINS

For years Russia has been storing up wrath against the day of wrath, and one can not but hope that the time of reckoning is not far distant. The oppression of the Stundists, the cruelties suffered by the Jews, the wrongs of Finland, the blood and iron treatment meted out to the hapless tribes of Asia with whom her advancing frontier has brought her into contact; are but samples of the villainies which ought to be heavy on her heart to-day. Her gratuitous cruelties to the Chinese during the Boxer riots, the horrible massacre of a whole city full of defenceless non-combatants at Blagowestchensk, her conscienceless claim upon China for a huge indemnity, her unwarranted appropriation of the northern provinces of China, and her stubborn determination to hold them by the breach of all her treaty obligations, have made her name almost more of a synonym for barbarism and unscrupulousness in the East, than it has been in the West.

Japan, of course, is not girding on her armour merely that the oppressor of the nations may be humbled and the interests of mankind may be advanced. As I have said she considers it a life and death matter for herself. From a very early date in the Modern Period, when Russia first began to make herself felt on the Pacific, Japan has watched her advancing power with the gravest apprehension. And her already several matters on her slate against Russia, that she is naturally anxious to wipe off. One of these is the arbitrary appropriation of the island of Sakhalin, many years ago, and another is the forced retrocession by Japan to China of the Sanburg Peninsula, and the insolent appropriation of the same by Russia not many days after. It is with Russia in mind that Japan has been fitting herself in every respect for a tremendous struggle strengthening her influence in Korea, out of her poverty creating one of the finest armies and one of the finest navies in the world.

Why do we pray that the stars in their courses may fight against Russia? In a word, because the success of a Japan will mean the unhindered spread of Protestant Christianity among the 500,000,000 who make up the yellow races of Asia. Where Russia's hand reaches evangelical missions must cease. Japan marches with England and America, and wherever her flag flies religious liberty is enjoyed. Every missionary in the East prays for Japan's success, because he sees in it the manifesting of the "open door" not only for trade but still more for Eastern civilization and evangelical Christianity. By the good providence of God it is the two great Protestant English nations that Japan feels to be her friends in this hour of peril, and her antagonism to a so-called Christian Power does not, happily, become antagonism to the Christian world at large, nor to the Christian faith itself. We may well believe that the day of the declaration of war is the beginning of a mighty forward movement of the Christianization of the empire, and through Japan of a mighty Christian movement in Korea and China. God is still abroad among the nations, and His footsteps are in the history that is making to-day. He who through the shock of war gave North America to Protestantism, can through the arms of Japan give Asia to the evangelical faith. Isaiah saw Go's intervention for His people in the destruction of Sennacherib's army. Would he not see it to-day in the collapse of the Russian fleet? And may it not be the purpose of Him whose way it is to mingle mercy with judgment, that Russia herself shall come forth from the stress of this war, and from the vast internal commotions which are almost sure to arise, a sadder, but wiser and better and freer nation?

Is That All?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved." Is that all? We may well ask wonderingly. Yes, when we remember the prepared conditions. It is a response made to a man under a deep conviction of his sin and peril, and ready to take any way of escape that is afforded—And back of the reply is the redemption wrought by Christ. A friend visited a workshop in Halifax harbor—Among other things she was shown the mechanism for firing one of the great guns. Just the changing of a little lever, and with properly prepared conditions hundreds of pounds of metal would be hurled miles to bore through armour-plate or demolish a fort. Is that all? Yes, the engineer stands by his valve. The engine is throbbing with power; but the machinery of the great factory is silent. Presently there is a slight motion of his hand and all the spindles are whirring and the shuttles flying.

Just a turn of his hand! Is that all? Yes, because the conditions were prepared. Many months have been spent in preparing for the World's Industrial Exhibition. But the vast aggregation of machinery is silent. One day a child in a distant city touches a button and every wheel springs into motion. A button touched! Is that all? Yes, because of the prepared conditions. "Believe on the Lord Jesus?" Is that all? Yes, because back of that faith is the life, death and resurrection of the Lord. Back of it is the mighty reservoir of power and blessing accumulated at Calvary. Faith lets this power into our hearts. Then old things are swept away, and we are transformed.

J. W. P.