

and when Inouye left the castle one night he was set upon by a mob and slashed and hacked and left for dead by the roadside. He recovered consciousness and was able to crawl to his mother's house, and it was only by careful nursing that he was brought back to life, and he bears on his face today the scars of the wounds he received during that night. Shortly after this time the Shogun was put down, and the revolution was organized by which the mikado again became the real ruler of the people, and the western civilization gradually worked its way in. In every movement toward modern progress both Ito and Inouye have been in the front, and it is due largely to them that Japan now stands shoulder to shoulder with any modern nation on the globe. Count Ito has long been the most influential and powerful of all the Japanese statesmen, and he is now pushing the civilization of which he got his first knowledge in this romantic way into the land of Corea, and there is no telling but that his ambition may be the eventual revolutionizing of China itself. He is certainly a most remarkable man, and all the diplomats who have met him speak of his wonderful ability. He had an interview with Li Hung Chang not long ago, and during it Li changed his views of Japan, which he had thought up to that time was dangerous of China, but Ito told him that Japan and China should be friends, and that it was to their interest to work together. I am told that Ito at this time really believed this to be the case, but he has since evidently changed his opinion."

A TALK WITH COUNT ITO.

I arranged, strange to say, for my talk with Count Ito by telephone. Think of it! Telephones in the land of Japan! I called up his private secretary, and was told that the count had gotten my letter, and would receive me at 4 o'clock sharp that afternoon. In a jinriksha, with two men to haul me, I rode along the edge of the moats which surround the palace grounds, passed the new parliament buildings, and on up by the American legation, into what is now the most fashionable part of the Japanese capital. It is made up of modern buildings surrounded by large yards, so walled in that they look like the fashionable suburbs of a European capital. Count Ito's house was a large one, of two stories, built of brick, with a great porte cochere running out above the front door. A Japanese butler, in brass buttons and European clothes, received my card, and showed me into a parlor as large as the blue room of the White House. It was furnished in foreign style, and was, to my eyes, not half so pretty as many of the pure Japanese homes. I waited a moment, when a dark-faced, heavy man of perhaps fifty years entered the room. He had a long body, but rather short legs, and he was dressed in a frock coat of black, and dark pantaloons, while his shoes were evidently imported from England. It was Count Ito. He is, I judge, about five feet six inches high, and he weighs about one hundred and sixty pounds. He is well formed and muscular. His eyes are a bright black, and not so almond in shape as the average Japanese type. His forehead is high, his nose rather thick, and his mouth, which shows through rather thin mustache and whiskers of black, is strong

and yet pleasing. He shook my hand in American fashion, and addressed me in English. He chatted with me about the growth of Japan, and he told me that he thought the country was just on the edge of its development, and that it had a great future. He referred to the Japanese troops which he was then sending into Corea, and when I asked him as to whether he thought that there might be a war between Japan and China he shrugged his shoulders, and said: "Who can tell?" We are sending our soldiers to Corea to take care of our people, and if the Coreans should ask us to help them put down the rebellion, we might possibly consent. There is one thing that is certain, and that is that if our soldiers are attacked they will fight, and, as it is now, China has already been the aggressor. But, you know, I can hardly talk on this subject just now. The situation is critical, and no one can tell whether there will be war or not."

DID ITO PLAN THE WAR?

This was three weeks before the war was declared, and there is no doubt but that Count Ito at that time had all his plans laid, and he gave me to understand during the interview that it would take very little provocation to bring his men into battle. A few days later the Japanese transports were carrying thousands of troops into Corea, and the condition of the Japanese army shows that Japan had long had war in sight. The military department was so thoroughly organized that 100,000 troops were shipped out of the country without creating more than a ripple upon the waters of the social and business life of the Japanese empire, and the troops which were sent to Corea were thoroughly equipped, both for fighting and for reforming the country. They carried telephonic and telegraphic material, and while the Chinese tried to live off of the people, they carried all of their own provisions and took coolies with them by the thousands to aid them in transporting their baggage. In connection with Count Ito and the different parties of the Japanese empire, it is curious to state that both the administration and the opposition parties delegated men to go along to report on the actual occurrences in order that they might use the same as political capital, and all of the newspapers sent corps of reporters. A few days after my interview, however, Count Ito made the censorship of the press even more rigid than it had been in the past, and the papers were warned that any comments upon or news of the war which might be published without first going through the hands of the censors would subject the paper to immediate suspension, and its editors to fines and imprisonment. This has been the policy of Count Ito throughout the struggle, and the little talk that I had with him is probably the last that will be given to any newspaper man until the war closes. I have received letters from Japan within the past few days, saying that no news whatever is given out to correspondents and that it is almost impossible to get anything authentic regarding the war. The Japanese outside of Count Ito and his confidential officials know practically nothing, and as for the Chinese, they systematically lie in regard to such matters as reports of their battles.

JAPAN'S INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

During my conversation with Count

Ito the question of Japan's industrial development came up, and he spoke of the growth of Osaka and of its cotton mills. He said that most foreigners in estimating Japan's possibilities forgot to put in the women, who are equal with the men in almost all manufactures, and who practically double the working force of the Japanese nation. They do a great deal of work in the cotton mills and they have a hand in the making of nearly everything that is shipped to America. As to cotton, Count Ito told me that Japan had thirty years ago about 5,000 spindles at work, and that this number had risen in 1883 to over 40,000. Within five years from that it had doubled, having then 88,000 spindles. This was in 1888, and there were twenty-four mills then at work. Four years later the spindles numbered 400,000, and there are now forty-six great modern mills, with 600,000 spindles. It is impossible to estimate the growth of Japan's modern manufactures, and the greater part of her cotton now comes from America, though much of it first goes to London, and is thence shipped to Japan. During the talk Count Ito referred very kindly to the United States, saying that he had spent some time in Washington looking into our monetary system, and that he had been awarded every facility by the Treasury Department. He spoke of the financial situation in Japan, telling me that the country was in splendid condition, notwithstanding the fall in silver, and he referred with satisfaction to the prospect of the treaties being revised within a very short time. Since then England has made a new treaty with Japan, and it is probable that the other countries will follow within a short time. Japan every day rises higher and higher among the ranks of the nations, and the day has passed when she could be considered anything else than the equal of any of the countries of Europe.

Wm. G. Carpenter

HAWAIIAN MISSION CONFERENCE.

The semi-annual conference of the Hawaiian mission convened at Laie, Oahu, Thursday morning October 4th, and continued four days, with President Mathew Noall presiding, who, after the singing, delivered the opening prayer.

The weather was clear and lovely, the attendance throughout was fair, and the spirit exhibited was one of love between the Elders and the natives. The latter displayed a desire for knowledge and information which was imparted to them by the former, whose encouraging and instructive remarks created joy and gladness in every heart.

The first day was general conference which time was occupied by the rendering of reports of the native representatives of the various branches and the native missionaries, who described the condition of their several branches and the labors performed by them during the past term. These reports were interspersed with interesting remarks by the missionaries from Utah.

On the morning of the second day, October 5th, a procession was formed at the Mission house, comprising the white and native members of the Female Relief Society, and marched in perfect order to the church building where the