DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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ASIATIC DIPLOMACY.

China, like all great bodies, moves slowly, but at last the emperor has issued an edict setting forth the cause of the present war with Japan and commanding the various rulers and army officers to prepare for defense and to annihilate any hostile fleet or army that may approach the borders of the empire.

Japan long ago explained to the world that the Asiatic peace depended on the evacuation of Corea by China and that as this could not be accomplished by peaceful means the war was inevitable. In the proclamation it was set forth that the "equilibrium" in Asia was just as important as that in Europe, and that it was constantly threatened by the agressive policy of China. Now, the Chinese ruler maintains that the Japanese without just cause invaded Corea, a Chinese dependency, and treacherously attacked ships sent on a mission of peace to that country. He says the policy of Japan is condemned by the several powers as unreasonable and unjust.

No clearer evidence can be given of the influence western civilization has exercised on the diplomats of Asia than the efforts made by the rulers of the two belligerent countries to represent their motives and intentions in the most favorable light possible. Neither Japan nor China wants the world at large to have the impression that the war, however astounding it may be in its details, is prompted by that brute instinct which leads to combat and carnage among the beasts of the field. They both feel sorry for it, but they cannot help it. In fact the highest considerations of humanity and civilization demand that they butcher each other. To take their words for it, one would conclude that China and Japan, in the excess of their philanthropy, are so eager to preserve the peace of Asia and to assist their little neighbor in its struggles against rebels and thieves, that they have to fight each other for the privilege of rendering this great service. There is no selfishness in it, but their motives are pure and disinterested.

That is diplomacy of the genuine Bismarckian school. It is crude enough and too transparent to cover the real causes of the war; yet it is in a line with the diplomatic explanations sometimes given by European statesmen at critical points, and it shows a remarkable advance. Barbarous chiefs or rulers do not take pains to hide their real motives. If their weaker neighbors offend them, they will simply in a fit of rage command their generals to "go and eat" them and their land. When a country has learned the necessity of diplomacy it is already far advanced. The progress may as yet have reached only the ruling class and its immediate surroundings, but in countries with decidedly paternal governments that is both the most important and most difficult settlement. From the upper classes of the people any advancement will quickly exercise influence on the masses, who sooner or later will follow.

Now that war is declared in earnest we may look for a long struggle, unless something unexpected happens to bring it to a sudden close. Japan cannot well give in, for the reason that her defeat would mean internal revolution and perhaps the overthrow of the newly established civilization in that country. It is a grave question whether Europe can afford to remain passive in the view of such a probability. And that China will not retreat unless compelled to, may be taken for granted. The war is therefore likely to continue indefinitely ahead, or until the resources of one of the combatants are about exhausted. It is predicted by some that before it is ended the European powers will be involved. It is true the feeling in Russia, as expressed by semi-official organs, is very strong against England on account of Chinese sympathy for this country in its efforts to overthrow Japan's policy in foreign affairs of the world, and there is some rumor in Russia to which we gave credence in Paris on the road to India, that notwithstanding this, the probability is that the war will be confined to the Asiatic belligerents and that the European powers interested will be content to divide amicably any spoil they may be able to obtain as the result of their friendly offices.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

An educated and observing Hindu Potentiatam Rao Telang, writes a bright article on "The Hindu Wife" in the *Forum* for the current month, in which he indulges in certain comparisons that will hardly be deemed altogether palatable to Western taste. We can do no better than quote a few sentences:

"An impression seems to prevail in Western countries that there is no love between the Hindu wife and husband. The truth is, the Hindu families are the happiest in the world. The Hindu woman, having been tied to the fate of the man early, thinks only of him. His happiness is her happiness. She lives her husband devotedly. In the Western nations I observe that the man works from morning to late in the night to earn money. He has no rest. Who enjoys the benefits of his money? His wife. While he is struggling to get the almighty dollar, his wife is enjoying the luxury and leisure it buys. If she cannot get the newest fashion of ornaments or clothing, she is often unhappy, and consequently, if the husband cannot buy them, he, too, is made unhappy. Moreover, the women in America seem to have greater liberty than the men. The young girl is brought up by her mother to think that she is equal to man and in some respects superior to him. She reads love novels, spends much time at her toilet; she wears in her bonnet flowers, feathers, dead birds, seaweeds, moss, horse, thorns, big needles, and in her dress, pins, hooks, ties, iron and brass bars, clips, stitches, and what not; and on her bosom I have seen her wear a living lizard fastened with a thin chain. Her waist is laced tight by a corset, which makes her pant for breath. Thus equipped she sallies forth to make conquests of young men's hearts. She seems to me (pardon me, I write without offense) in each the mild and delicately sweet bud that even the commonest Hindu woman has. Her back is bold and defying to the men. This is all owing to the female feeling that she is equal to the man. In her pride she has forgotten woman's part."

This is all very severe, as everybody will admit; and our course will be set down at once as an extremist of the most pronounced sort. Yet there is enough justification for his faultfinding to save it from the stigma of falsehood — too much truth, indeed, to warrant extended criticism of the critic. Without Western woman would want to change places with her Hindu sister, there is much in so-called civilization that deserves ridicule and rebuke. Finally, whatever Mr. Telang's objections may amount to if estimated in their true weight, they cannot be without the value which is said to exceed the false flattery of a would-be friend.

PNEUMATIC GUNS.

The successful final tests of the pneumatic dynamite gun, made at Sandy Hook yesterday (Sept. 4), mark an important development in coast defense armament. The heavy dynamite gun has not proven satisfactory as a part of the armament of war vessels, for the reason that it must have a stationary base, and in order to change the direction of the shot the position of the vessel must be altered. This is, of course, a too unwieldy task in the midst of an engagement, and so far as present knowledge of the gun's manipulation is concerned, the dynamite throwers are unsuitable for naval warfare.

But if the pneumatic dynamite gun is not brought sufficiently under control to be used to advantage on board ship, it makes up for all deficiencies there by its excellence as a weapon for coast defense. A gun that can throw 117 shots in three hours a distance of three miles, or fifty shots the first hour, as did the pneumatic gun at Sandy Hook, is a marvelous creation of mechanical skill. The shell which the weapon hurls at the rate and to the distance indicated contains 500 pounds of dynamite, and weighs altogether 1100 pounds. There is no war vessel afloat that could withstand a well directed missile of this character.

The big pneumatic gun is the most formidable engine of destruction known in modern military equipment. It weighs 50,000 pounds, is 50 feet long, with a bore 15 inches in diameter. When ready for use it is set in a circular table of masonry and sheltered by curable structures. It is supplied with an electric motor that moves it in any direction desired, elevating and lowering the muzzle at will.

The last test made was for speed in firing, as recorded in the dispatches. The first test was for accuracy, and was none the less satisfactory. The huge projectile was slipped into the gun, the breech of which was swung to an angle of thirty-five and a half degrees, to carry the shell one and three-quarter miles. A pressure of 1,000 pounds to the square foot was applied, and the quarter of a ton of dynamite was started on its way with a roar that was heard and felt for a new miles around. The projectile described a semi-circle so accurately that the eye could easily follow it. Its flight did not appear to be swifter than the flight of an arrow. A drop gun was attached, and it was two and a half minutes after it entered the water before the explosion came. Then the earth trembled for five miles around, a vast column of water shot up, and a great wave formed and spent itself on the beach. The second shell burst on impact with the water, and the earth shook and buildings trembled as before. The accuracy was remarkable, the variation from the line being 75 per cent less than for the ordinary heavy rifled cannon. If the most heavily armored war vessel afloat had been struck or had the shell exploded in the water under it, the vessel would have been destroyed.

At Sandy Hook a battery of three of these guns is to be created. With a battery protected by such weapons it would be impossible for a hostile fleet to enter against the well-directed fire of even one of them. There is no powder, no smoke, very little noise, but terrible effectiveness in execution. In the pneumatic gun it is conceded that the United States has the greatest and best of all huge weapons of war. It probably will serve as one of the guarantees of international peace so far as this country is concerned. It certainly would make a hostile fleet chary of entering an American port defended by it.

"THUNDERING DOWN THE AGES."

The recent prominence in the newspapers of Assistant-General Tarsney of Colorado, who was tarred and feathered, and of his brother, Congressman Tarsney of Missouri, who stood out against the caucus action of the Democrats on the Senate tariff bill, recalls to Rose Field's Washington an anecdote told by another brother, ex-Congressman Tim Tarsney of Michigan, of his reception in a Connecticut town where he had been sent by the congressional campaign committee to do some political missionary work. The people had turned out with brimming enthusiasm and the hall was packed. The chairman had prepared a speech for the occasion. It was short, but a miracle of oratory.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "this tremendous and enthused audience that has assembled this evening will have the extreme felicity of listening to an orator, whose voice has resounded with telling effect in the halls of the national legislature. He has often been honored by the people of his state with election to that great body, the House of Representatives, and so great and potent has been his labor for his countrymen, that, through the length and breadth of this broad land, his name has become a favorite household word."

Here the orator bent down a moment, and whispered to Tarsney, "What is your name, sir?" and receiving the reply, continued:

"I now have the most gratifying pleasure of introducing to you Congressman Tarsney."

THE DISPATCHES recently made brief mention, and the eastern papers have given more elaborate description, of a new religion which has been born in Brooklyn, with John the Baptist as a substitute for Christ. Temples are to be built all over the world, daily papers issued and pulpits attached. Women are said to flock to the new creed, which is to upset all others. At present the membership is confined largely to "freaks," but among the leaders are a few people of intelligence and considerable facility in expounding.

Eli Whitney, of New Haven, grandson of the famous inventor of the cotton gin, is said by an exchange to have invented a machine which may revolutionize cotton picking. From which it would appear that hereditary genius is no less likely than wooden legs to run in families.

A HOPEFUL sign of the times is that industrial papers are reporting twice as many resumptions as shut-downs. The revival seems to apply to all kinds of business, even silver-mining. The country is a long way distant from rule yet.

"THE DARK insurrection" cost the country, according to *Bradstreet's*, the snug sum of ninety-one million dollars. Isn't that paying a rather high price for what Benjamin Franklin would have called "cheap whistles?"

NAT GOODWIN'S latest epigram is terse and truthful: "America is the English actor's Mecca; England is the American actor's mausoleum."

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Tomorrow the Lincoln Lyceum Debating Club will have its exercises in Masonic Temple. The young gentlemen have arranged a good program. Some of the best talent in the city will take part in a vocal and instrumental concert. Go with them.

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As to Retrenchment.

SOME ECONOMIC SUGGESTIONS TO THE "CITY DADS."

We notice that the City Council is endeavoring to fulfil their "before election" promises of rigid economy in the running of the municipal affairs of the city, which is certainly appreciated by all good citizens, and all hope they may succeed in saving many dollars to the over-burdened taxpayers. We would suggest, however, that they should avoid dismissing too men on the police force and in the fire department. This might result in the reverse of economy.

It might please the taxpayers just as well to dispose of extra sessions of the council and devote less time to discussing personal character and more time to genuine public benefits. In their "efforts to stop the leakage at the spigot, we recommend that they see that the bung is securely plugged before they roll the barrel over."

These are times when all should use their utmost efforts in the practice of true retrenchment, both in public and in private affairs, and assisting in this very laudable purpose each individual may assist a community, and each community the commonwealth. So let each individual be careful to make every dollar expended be for some necessity and see that it is used when its purchasing power will be greatest, and all should try to prepare for the coming winter by providing themselves with necessary fuel, food and clothing while the opportunity exists, and before the increased demand increases price. This is especially true with regard to clothing. During the slack season we are offering some great bargains, and those who are fortunate enough to be able to anticipate their next winter's necessities by ordering a fall suit now, can save enough to go a long way towards a ton of coal or other needed necessaries.

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