The Evening paper is the paper of Today, the morning paper is the paper of Yesterday.

# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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TOUTH AND LIBERTY.

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# ABOUT COREA.

## War Waged in Behalf of Western Civilization

## AND NEEDED REFORMS.

### The King Heartily Supporting the Japanese Army.

### THE DAY OF LIBERTY DAWNING.

Details of the Mongolian Belligerents —Chinese Outrages—War Funds —A Scale-Foot Army.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 5.—[S. F. Call correspondence per steamer Peru, sailed Yokohama August 24.] Since the last dispatch of news to American circumstances have occurred which throw much light on the long expected question as to which side in the war is favored by the King of Corea. The lower classes in that country have no opinions on political subjects. In the middle class have any, they are not allowed to express them. Even the aristocracy have learned the necessity of keeping silence, if their views are opposed to those of the governing body. The only voice allowed heard has been that of the ministry, a corrupt oligarchy composed of the Ming family and their adherents, who are completely under the control of China. It has been in their interest to represent that the sovereign was in hearty accord with them, and within the past few weeks their assurances to this effect have been generally accepted as true. The Queen, who is a blood relation of the Mings, is undoubtedly under the influence of China, and as she is understood to be greatly superior to her consort in intellectual vigor and force of character, her power to impress her views upon him has been vastly credited. That the Mings acted really in the King's name, and with his sanction, was not seriously questioned up to the time when the Chinese diplomatic agent in Seoul carried his plans and with the court was under surveillance. Then the Japanese envoy received a message from the King's father, suggesting that if an interview could be arranged in the Japanese lines he could be induced to recognize the justice and friendliness of Japan's intentions without much difficulty.

The King's father, although known as the Tai Won Kun, was at one period the regent of the country, but through the intrigue of the Mings he was deposed some ten years ago and condemned to a long captivity. After his liberation he was forbidden to appear in the court, but that he kept a watchful eye on the course of events is proved by the promptness of his utterances respecting the sovereign. The Japanese envoy at once treated him merely as the nation personally, while under conditions that should enable him to speak his mind without restraint. Being denied the privilege of the royal advisers, he then refused to present himself with an armed escort, and sent for a detachment from the Japanese forces outside the city. As the small guard passed by the palace on the way to the ex-regent's residence, it was fired upon by Corean soldiers in the service of the Mings. These shots settled the fate of the ministry. The native troops were dispersed with scarcely a struggle, and an hour later, the representative of Japan was in amicable conversation with the sovereign, who did not seem to be desirous that he had been under coercion even since the beginning of the interlude with China, and that he was far from resting the hostility toward Japan, which his government had publicly attributed to him. In token of his sincerity, he had already dismissed of his late counsel, and submitted to Tai Won Kun to assist him in forming a new administration. Before the day was over, a cabinet made up of trusted opponents of the Ming faction had been instated, with Tai Won Kun as prime minister, and a committee of seventeen appointed to reorganize the administrative system and revise the national laws, upon a model furnished by Japan. Such activity and energy had never before been witnessed since the inauguration of the Corean monarchy were last.

THE KING FRIENDLY TO JAPAN.

The extraordinary promptness of the king in assuming the position assigned and forward by the Japanese envoy might have led him open to the suspicion of seeking merely to outflank his new enemies and to avert their hostility by unconditional submission, but for the discovery of an action on his part, entirely inconsistent with any secret sentiment of hostility. As soon as the outgoing cabinet had left the palace and without waiting to consult its new counsel, he called together the commanders of the troops remaining at the capital and ordered them to loyally to join the Japanese army on the way to attack the Chinese at Asan. He was not instigated to do this by anybody. No one expected it of him and no one was more surprised that the Japanese representatives when he heard of it. To suppose that the king was actuated by motives of policy would be to credit him with a cogency which he certainly does not possess. The universal belief in his lack of spirit and cleverness seems to be well founded. His demonstration to capitulate rather by signifying his delight at being relieved from an extreme restraint and his determination to "get even" in some way with his men who had kept him for years in leading strings. But it effectually disposes of the old notion that he had nothing but hatred for Japan and would resist to the utmost every element of that energy in attempting to influence in the course of events. Since the day that he came in contact with the envoy on his shown every disposition to cooperate so far as he is able, with the movement of China's representatives. When the Japanese ship returned, therefore, to Seoul, bringing with them the captured arms and standards, he sent a deputy especially to welcome and congratulate them. He has appointed a commissioner to visit Japan and thank the emperor for the promise of protection and a stable government to his country and he has formally renounced the suzerainty of China and proclaimed his intention to assert his independence entirely in all future dealings with that nation. Unless Japan fails utterly in the war the vassalage of the past will never be renewed.

CIVILIZING COREA.

The political and social reforms which Japan demands are designed not only to prevent China from interfering hereafter, but also of giving the whole people of Corea an opportunity and the power to improve their condition and to prepare the country for the introduction of western civilization. Several of them have already been decreed and put in force. These are: The adoption of a new royal title, which, though still meaning king in English, shall carry with it no signification of subjection to a higher sovereign, as was previously the case; the establishment of a thorough diplomatic service, under which ministers shall have no rank above that of the eighth; the abolition of the system of selling office, without distinction of rank; restrictions upon public expenditure and personal emoluments; the reform of revenue and the increasing reduction in the number of national employes; absolute freedom of religion; abolition of slavery and all kindred institutions; the prohibition of cruel or excessive punishments and immediate abrogation of the law permitting punishment of the entire family of a criminal, to wit: three generations; authorization of widows to remarry; and of all persons to marry according to their choice, without parental compulsion. Other reforms are under consideration and every citizen is permitted to offer the consideration of the government with regard to reforms for the general welfare.

CHINA'S POLICY.

The policy of China in all wars has been to play a waiting game and to offer a certain amount of injury without resisting, in the hope of wearing the enemy. With this view, although her navy is much superior to that of Japan, she withdrew all her ships from the open sea, notwithstanding that on the first blow had been struck in the bay of Asan and received there a strongly fortified station, the Pei Yang fleet, and her power to impress her views upon him has been vastly credited. That the Mings acted really in the King's name, and with his sanction, was not seriously questioned up to the time when the Chinese diplomatic agent in Seoul carried his plans and with the court was under surveillance. Then the Japanese envoy received a message from the King's father, suggesting that if an interview could be arranged in the Japanese lines he could be induced to recognize the justice and friendliness of Japan's intentions without much difficulty.

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