

"The commander of the right wing was Captain Matsaki. One point of his division left Sose and within a half mile crossed the river knee deep, and after a like interval waded another stream, shoulder deep and soft at the bottom, twenty-five feet wide, over which there had been a fine bridge which the Chinese in retreating had half destroyed.

"Beyond the river the enemy had made camp, but had not felt secure, and the watchful sentries gave the alarm when the Japanese were yet some distance removed. A tall fellow gave the alarm by shouting. The Japanese soldiery would not be denied, but rushed eagerly into fighting distance and plied their rifles with skill and deadly effect.

"The old feud with China was remembered and every soldier of Japan fought as though he was alone to answer for the rebuke to the encroaching Chinese empire. The Japanese were few, but they were brave, and the vast horde of Chinese and coolies melted before the onslaught. Hardly one Chinese force made a fair resistance, and the petty commands of Japanese swept over the field, maiming and killing in the flush of victory.

"The Japanese then were going up to Asan. It was dark, the road was unknown to the assaulting party, ponds and marshes were around, into which the soldiers sank and somewhere drowned Captain Tokiyama and twenty of his, men meeting that fate like brave men and Japanese.

"Those who were not mired down or drowned hurried forward, carrying all before them, until a troop of Chinese cavalry was encountered. Captain Matsaki tried to force a way through the horse troops. He drew his sword and was in the lead when a bullet pierced him in the thigh. He did not loose heart, but using his sword as a probe he extracted the bullet and rushed on in the fighting. Another ball pierced his head. He cried out and fell dead at the hoof of the horse.

"His soldiers went on to avenge him, and spared neither men nor horses, but slaughtered all alike, until twenty Chinese soldiers had been stricken down. Fighting began at 3 a.m. and continued for thirty minutes before the cloud of Chinese dissipated before the soldiery of the mikado.

"When the command had been gathered after the skirmish it started on toward Asan and marched in peace until July 29th, when the advance of the left wing, commanded by General Oshima, went up against the right wing of the Chinese army, which was intrenched in the fort of Saikan. The Japanese fired on the fort and were answered briskly with small arms. Bullets came like floating stars, covering the skies and making the noise: 'shen, shen.' Both parties fought very hard. The Japanese right wing coming from the Anjo ferry attacked the first intrenchment of the left wing of the Chinese. Suddenly smoke covered all the earth. The crying and the whizzing of the bullets and the shouts of the eager soldiers, joined with the roar of musketry, were like the noise when the mountains and hills are rolled together and destroyed.

"The Japanese left wing began to use its field-piece and did not once fail

to hit the fort of the Chinese, who cried so much that their assailants knew great execution was being done. At the same time the Chinese fired a heavy cannon at the Japanese, but did not know how to shoot, and some shots were short while others passed beyond.

"The smoke again veiled the earth and the Japanese fixed bayonets and ran into the fort and began to pierce their enemies, who could not face such fierce foes, but fled. Saikan was well fortified, but the Japanese reduced the forts and turned the guns against the second line of intrenchments around Asan, which was twenty feet high. The Chinese fought hard to hold their ground, but were forced back toward Asan.

"In this way the Japanese troops, under General Oshima, proceeded and destroyed all the lines before them.

"The Japanese lost six officers killed and drowned and 32 soldiers killed and drowned. The Chinese loss was about 500 men. When Saikan was destroyed the Chinese ran away from Asan and left all their equipments and munitions of war. Eight cannon, sixty flags, provisions and ammunition like a big bill were captured in Asan. Everything was saved and sent to Jinsen. Five hundred bags of provisions were donated to the people of Asan. All else was burned. Some of the cannon were spiked, but all the small arms were saved.

"A triumphant arch was erected two miles from the south gate of Seoul and the Japanese army was reviewed there in the presence of a myriad of Koreans who prepared a feast of beef and wine for the soldiers. On August 13th a hundred Chinese soldiers, defeated at the battle of Chin Sen, while retreating stopped to loot the town of Chin Sen, Corea. Part of a Japanese army engineer corps, five in number, was working on the construction of a telegraph line, and when they saw the vandalism of the hundred Chinese, the engineers drew their swords and went right among the Chinese and fought so bravely that the Chinese soldiery scattered as gathered spiders scatter at the approach of danger. The Korean citizens were grateful to their Japanese protectors and gave the engineers the liberty of the town."

Such are some of the incidents of the war as they will go into Japanese history.

OUR COUNTRY'S DEFENSES.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—In his annual report, Brig. General Otis, commanding the department of the Columbia, has much to say about coast defenses and the rearrangement of posts. On the latter subject he says that neither Fort Sherman or Fort Spokane are properly located to meet the conditions of a regimental post, and after canvassing the merits and drawbacks of different localities he says that no point in that section offers the advantages of the city of Spokane, a railroad center. Gen. Otis calls attention to the fact that since 1866 the government has done very little looking to the protection of Puget Sound against foreign attack, notwithstanding the great development of the country and the increase of population. He recommends that the eleven points of defense selected by the fortifications

board last summer be acquired and placed under military control and that the forty-three reservations withdrawn in past years be turned over to the interior department for disposition. Fort Townsend is no longer of advantage and in its stead an infantry garrison should be established at Manolia Bluffs near Seattle, which would serve admirably for the protection of the country beyond the Cascades, where 100,000 people dwell, part of them restless, demonstrative and oftentimes turbulent on fancied provocation. Should this project fail of approval, Gen. Otis recommends the abandonment of Fort Townsend and transfer of its garrison to Vancouver barracks. The Three Tree Point military reservation of 640 acres could with propriety be turned over to the interior department for disposition.

Gen. Otis describes in some detail the movements and operation of his forces caused by the commonweal movement and the railroad strike and pays a high compliment to the zeal, efficiency and good judgment displayed by the officers and men engaged in this disagreeable and severe duty.

After telling what was done towards the rescue of the Canby party from the Clearwater country in Idaho, Gen. Otis says the experience showed almost nothing was known of the topography of the country and he has sent two parties under Lieutenants Leyden and Elliott to explore and map this rough section. The report speaks well of the discipline and character of the troops and suggests that Congress might offer a great incentive to good conduct and honest effort by promising employment in the civil service to soldiers who have served faithfully for say fifteen to twenty years. The necessity of drill halls and gymnasiums in view of the climatic conditions of the department is set out and in conclusion Gen. Otis says that for the first time in the history of the department of the Columbia there is nothing to report on the subject of Indians. They have created no disturbances, are peaceably inclined and taking up lands in severalty, and the government wardship is disappearing.

A Mrs. Snyder was arrested at Oakland, Cal., on Saturday night, on complaint of the secretary of the Humane society, on a charge of cruelty to children. The neighbors have been complaining about the mother for weeks. It is charged that she has been seen in the habit of throwing hot water on her nine-year-old daughter as a mode of punishment. It is also charged that she beat the girl with a picket.

On Saturday morning at De Beque, Colo., on going to their pens, Heber Young and John Fitzpatrick were astonished by discovering, the former thirty-five fine bred bucks, and the latter twenty head of ordinary sheep, slain. The throats of the sheep had been cut. Young states that he had just been offered \$20 a head for his bucks. News from the main herd of Young, which numbers some 3,000, is awaited with impatience. One report states that they have all been slaughtered, but this is not verified. Young's main herd is strongly guarded by a body of well armed men.