

MARQUIS ITO.

A Chat With the Confidential Adviser of the Japanese Emperor About Matters of Interest in the Far East.

FRANK G. CARPENTER

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Tokio, January 3, 1906.—I had a long chat this afternoon with Marquis Ito, the confidential adviser of the Japanese emperor, and the statesman who, more than all others, directs the game of politics in the far east. For a generation and more Marquis Ito has been at the head of every great movement in Japan. He has held every great position in the gift of his government. He was premier at the time of the war with China, and it was his master mind which aided largely in the direction of that struggle to a successful issue and in the settlement of the terms of peace with Li Hung Chang. Before and since the Marquis Ito has been the chief power behind the throne, and it is he who today is largely directing the foreign policy of Japan. He is, in fact, the Gladstone and Bismarck of this part of the world, standing higher than Li Hung Chang has ever stood, and having the confidence not only of the leading men of Japan, but the implicit confidence of the emperor.

MARQUIS ITO AND THE MIKADO.
The relations of Marquis Ito and the emperor have been for many years of the closest possible nature. They began with the downfall of the shogun, when his majesty was dragged forth from the puppet-like seclusion of his palace in Kyoto and by the party to which Ito belonged placed on the throne at Tokio and made the real ruler of Japan. It was Ito who acted most as tutor and adviser to his majesty in his dealings with foreign nations, and in the reconstruction of his empire along the lines which have produced the new Japan and made the Japanese people the greatest of the Asiatic nations.

A ROMANTIC CAREER.
Marquis Ito was, in fact, the first of the great men of Japan to realize that his country could not remain shut out from the rest of the world and that it could not successfully fight the great nations of Europe without modern ships and without a knowledge of our science of war. The story has been told, but never as Marquis Ito himself could tell it. He got his first glimpse of the western civilization as a boy. Then, as now, he was an intense patriot, and he, like the other young nobles of the time, was opposed to having foreigners land in Japan. He was of the soldier class, and at one time belonged to a band of young men who ran away from their homes with the idea of clearing the foreign ships and men from the harbor of Yokohama. Their boyish expedition was discovered and stopped by the soldiers of the shogun. A little later on Ito saw the warships of the foreigners and noticed how well they were armed and man-

aged, and he concluded that the only way his country could ever successfully fight the Europeans would be by its people learning their methods. For this purpose he and Count Inouye decided to go to England and bring back the desired information.

The two boys proposed their plan to their military commander, the Prince of Chosui, who gave them \$8,000 for their expenses. It was contrary to law for them to leave Japan, but the prince instructed them to slip away and take ship for England, where they were to learn how the English made their guns and ammunition and to study the secrets of European naval supremacy. They attempted to do this, but by a mistake were shipped as common sailors. Their money was stolen and they had many adventures in working their way before the mast to England. There Ito saw with wonder the wealth and power of the western world and realized that Japan could never hope to withstand its combined strength. He and Inouye talked the matter over and decided to go back home and advise their people to adopt the new civilization. They did so, and as their first reward Inouye was nearly killed by a mob of fanatical patriots and Ito had for a time to keep in hiding. It was soon seen, however, that the boys were right. The statesmen of one party, with them, organized the new movement, and from that time on both have been in the front ranks of everything which has aided in making Japan the great country it is today.

MAY WRITE A BOOK.

As I chatted with Marquis Ito this afternoon, I referred to his wonderful career and asked him if he had kept a diary, and whether he would not some time write a book of reminiscence, saying that such a volume might pay him half a million dollars, as that of Gen. Grant did his family. The marquis laughed as he replied:

"Such sums from book-making are only possible in a rich country like the United States. Our people are comparatively poor and our authors as a rule make but little. A profit of \$10,000 from such a book would be considered enormous here. Besides, I have no written notes of my early life. I had a diary, but this was lost during the revolution. I should have to rely upon my memory for that period of my career. Besides, I am now too much occupied with the present to have time to write about the past. I may do something of the kind in the future, but not now."

As Marquis Ito said this we were sitting in the library of his Tokio house, situated on the hill, just above the American legation. A Japanese servant dressed in the costume of the country had just brought in some delicious tea, which was served in cups of the most delicate porcelain, and which we sipped as we talked. The marquis himself was dressed in European clothes, wearing a frock coat of black and dark pan-

talions. He has a strong face, bright black eyes and an energetic manner. He is now about sixty years of age, but is still in his intellectual and physical prime. He speaks English well, and our conversation was carried on in that tongue.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

One of the first questions I asked was as to the present situation of Japan as regards Russia. Said I: "Your excellency has doubtless noticed that the air here is full of war and the rumors of war. Both the Japanese papers and the foreign journals published in Japan are predicting that Japan will fight sooner or later. What do you think of these reports? Is there really any danger of a war between your people and the Russians?"

"No," replied the marquis. "The relations of the Russian and Japanese governments are friendly. The reports you refer to are unfounded. There is some feeling among the Japanese against the Russians, but this comes chiefly from the ignorant people. The better classes are for peace."

"How about the encroachments of the Russians on Manchuria and Korea. Is Japan satisfied to see the Leatung peninsula in the hands of the Russians?"

"The Japanese people felt that they should have had that as a result of their war with China, but it was not to be. The Russians have acquired the right to run their railroad down to the Yellow sea. The right was acquired in a way that we could not well object to, and if the ports there are kept open the concession may not be a bad thing for the world. It gives the Russians a hold on Manchuria, and I suppose that province will eventually become Russian. As to Korea, that is a different matter. It has been agreed that it shall maintain its independence, and so far I see no reason why it will not continue to do so."

"Is Japan doing much in Corea?" I asked.
"Yes, quite a good deal in a commercial way," replied Marquis Ito. "The chief trade of Corea is with Japan. Our merchants are establishing houses there, and you will find Japanese settlements in all the ports and chief cities. We are shipping a great deal of our cotton goods to Corea, and the Koreans export a large amount of rice and other things to Japan."

CHINA AS THE SICK MAN OF ASIA.

"How about the relations of Japan and China, your excellency? The possibility of an alliance defensive and offensive is frequently spoken of, is it not?"

"Yes, it has been suggested by outsiders, but I can assure you no such thing is in contemplation among the Japanese. What would be the sense of a well man forming an alliance with a sick man for defense? It would be very foolish on the part of the well man. Would it not? That is the situation of Japan and China, and I need not say

that Japan has the place of the well man."

"Such an alliance," said I, "would be like a man in perfect health voluntarily handcuffing himself to a corpse." The marquis laughed, and I could see that he thought that my statement expressed his idea of the situation, although he did not directly reply.

"How about the Chinese government, your excellency," I asked. "Do you think it can last?"
"I don't see how it can continue to exist long in its present state. It is not fitted to the times and the new conditions which are about to take place in China. It is a government which does not govern. It has but little control of the people and it would seem to me that it must give way to the spirit of the times."

CHINA AND THE POWERS.

"If so, your excellency," said I, "what will take its place? What is to be the future of China?"

"I cannot answer that," was Marquis Ito's reply. "I should myself like very much to know. You have seen what has been proposed and partially accomplished. I refer to the division of the Chinese empire as far as trade relations and fields of commerce are concerned, among the great powers. Russia wants the north, Germany aspires to a slice a little further down. France hopes to control the trade of the extreme south and England would like to claim as hers the great valley of the Yangtze-Kiang."

"But where does the United States come in?" I asked.

"That remains to be seen," was the reply of the great Japanese statesman. "She should, I think, claim, as we do, that the whole country should be open to all the world for trade, commerce and manufacturing. China is an enormous field, with vast coal deposits and valuable minerals. It has rich resources which are undeveloped and it has a population which as it grows richer through the opening up of the country, will be one of the greatest consuming populations of the globe. There is to be the outlet for your and our manufactures. It seems to me that the present crisis is an important one for the United States, and that your people should give the future of China serious consideration. Personally I should like to see the United States do all that is possible to bring about the consummation of the open door policy for China."

JAPAN GIVES UNCLE SAM "THE GLAD HAND."

"How does Japan regard the coming of the United States into Pacific waters?" I asked.

"We are indeed glad to welcome the United States as one of the permanent residents of our part of the world," replied Marquis Ito emphatically. "We very well realize that the taking of the Philippines by your country was not the result of a war of conquest. We know you had no idea of acquiring territory here when you declared war up-

on Spain. You are not an aggressive people and the Philippines came to you only as one of the results of the war. We deem it a matter of good fortune for us that the islands are yours."

WHAT MARQUIS ITO THINKS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

"Do you think the Philippine Islands will be a valuable possession for the United States?"

"Yes, I do," said Marquis Ito. "I have never visited the Philippines, but I have had opportunities to learn much about them. They are rich islands and have great resources. They will be of value to you indirectly also in attracting the attention of your people to this trade, and will give you a base from where you will probably get your share of it. It seems to me that the United States cannot afford to let go of the islands, and that from now on your people must take your place among the great working and developing powers of the world. You have so far tried to live within yourselves, but this war has forced you into your natural position among the greatest of the world's powers, and it seems to me you cannot but accept the situation. I believe the time will soon come, if it is not already here, when you will need this Asiatic market. You are growing so fast in wealth and population. You have enormous supplies of raw materials most favorably situated for manufacturing and your skill in manufacturing and commerce is such that you must have a world market. A large part of that market in the future will be found here on this side of the globe."

THE JAPANESE IN THE CHINESE MARKETS.

"I suppose Japan expects to have its share of the market of China?"

"Yes, of course," replied Marquis Ito. "We hope to do our share of the work and trade of this side of the world. We are, however, but a small country, and in number we are comparatively few. We have now a population of about forty-three millions. We need more capital, and our people are now thinking that they could make profitable combinations with your people in manufacturing here for the Chinese. We are on the ground. We understand the field and the natives of the different countries, and by such combinations we could both do better than either could alone."

DID THE CHINA WAR BENEFIT JAPAN.

"What is the present situation in Japan as affected by your war with China? Was the war a benefit to the Japanese?"

"In some respects it was, and in some respects not," replied Marquis Ito. "As far as stimulating new enterprises was concerned it gave everything a push. We have more factories and are doing more business than we have ever done. The times are fairly good, and our people are making money. The war very materially helped the standing of Japan among the great powers of the world, and I think it has on the whole been a good thing for Japan."

"Why do you say on the whole, your excellency? Are there any respects in which it was not a good thing?"

"Yes," said Marquis Ito. "But even in these things it may eventually turn out for good. We have considerable trouble to make the people see and do the right thing. I mean in parliament. We are a young nation in western methods, and nations grow slowly. They are, like men, sometimes apt to do indiscreet and rash things in their youth. We are largely controlled by public opinion, and this changes with the times, and in some cases it seems to me not always for the best."

THE NEW JAPAN AND THE TREATIES.

"But, your excellency," said I, "you

have been with the new Japan from its beginning, can you look back and not be satisfied with your wonderful progress?"

"I am satisfied with many things, and there are many which I think might be bettered. Our people have not yet learned to govern themselves, at least we have not by any means yet reached the perfection of government. I doubt not we shall improve by experience, but I should like to see the march of improvement more rapid than it is."

"How about the new treaties which went into effect last year? Do they really give Americans better opportunities to travel and do business in Japan than they had before?"

"Yes, indeed," was Marquis Ito's reply. "Our whole empire is now open to foreign trade and residence. Foreigners can travel everywhere without passports. They can establish factories and other industries, and as far as business is concerned they have all the opportunities possessed by our own people. They are subject to Japanese laws and have in every respect almost the same rights and privileges possessed by the Japanese. They cannot acquire property in fee simple, but they can secure it on long leases, which accomplish practically the same ends. I hope and trust the new treaties will bring the United States and Japan into closer commercial relations. Your people have always been friendly to us and we hope that in both business and in all respects our relations will be more and more close as time goes on."

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"How do you regard our war with the Philippines, Marquis Ito?" I asked.

"I think it is a great mistake on the part of the Philippines to fight with the United States," was the reply. "I saw their inclination to make war even before the peace treaty was signed and the country was formally given over to you by Spain. I felt then that I should like to do all in my power to have prevented the war and shown Aguinaldo and his party that they were working diametrically against their own interests. They should realize that the occupation of the Philippines by the United States is the best thing that could have happened to the islands and to themselves as individuals. If this money which you are now spending in fighting could have been used in developing the resources of the islands it would have bettered the condition of all the people. I have no doubt, however, but that you will soon be able to put down the insurrection and that the Philippines will see that your occupation of the country is the best thing that could have happened to it."

A MESSAGE FROM MARQUIS ITO TO UNCLE SAM.

At this point the private secretary of the marquis brought in two glasses of wine, and I drank with the great Japanese statesman to the cordial friendship of Japan and the United States. As I did so I asked his excellency if he would not through me send a message to the people of the United States. Marquis Ito thought a moment, and then replied:

"You may say for me to your people that Japan has the friendliest feeling toward her good and great friend, the United States. We have been associated together for years in the family of nations, and have never had a quarrel nor a disagreement. The United States has always shown herself to be Japan's friend, and the Japanese appreciate that fact, and wish to reciprocate for it in every way we can. You may say that we are therefore especially glad that you have become one of the countries of the western Pacific, and we sincerely hope that you may find here a profitable field of commerce and investment."

"As far as I am personally concerned," Marquis Ito went on, with considerable feeling, "I wish to express my kind regard for the people and government of the United States. They have been especially good to me, and I owe

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them much. I spent a number of months in your country years ago, studying your financial system in your treasury department at Washington. This was when Gen. Grant was President, when Hamilton Fish was secretary of state and George S. Boutwell secretary of the treasury. All were very kind to me, and gave me every assistance possible. It was through those studies that I was able to formulate the financial system which Japan now has, and also to acquire much other knowledge which has been of benefit to me, and, I hope, of value to my country. Yes, you may truly say that I am, and shall always be, a friend of the United States."

A WORD ABOUT THE MARCHION.

After these words the Marquis Ito cordially shook my hand as he said good-bye. At my request he wrote his autograph on the photograph which he handed to me, giving me at the same time a photograph of Madame Ito, the marchioness. Both are excellent likenesses, having been made by a Japanese photographer only a few days ago. The marchioness, so Marquis Ito tells me, is in delicate health. She spends the most of her time at Marquis Ito's villa by the seashore, which is about two hours by rail from Tokio, his excellency going there every Saturday, in order that he may spend Sunday with her. The marchioness dresses in European clothes, as do many of the noble ladies of Japan. Marquis Ito, in reply to my question as to whether his wife was interested in politics, said:

"No, she has not progressed so far as that yet. Our women are not yet clamoring for political rights, though they may do so by and by."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

An Editor's Life Saved by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

During the early part of October, 1891, I contracted a bad cold which settled on my lungs and was neglected until I feared that consumption had appeared in an incipient state. I was constantly coughing and trying to expel something which I could not. I became alarmed, and after giving the local doctor a trial bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the result was immediate improvement, and after I had used three bottles my lungs were restored to their healthy state.—B. S. Edwards, Publisher of the Review, Wyant, Ill.

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