

and labors of the Savior and His early disciples.

I pray the Lord to bless each and all of the interests of Zion, at home and abroad; that the Elders in distant parts of the earth may be strengthened and refreshed as with wine, when they shall read, hear, and feel, the spirit of this conference, and they may be blessed of the Lord to find access to the honest in heart—the elect of God; that they may realize that the Lord has sent His angels before them, and given them dreams, and manifestations, to prepare them to know the Elders when they see them. I remember well when I first went to England. Wherever I went almost we were told by the people that they had seen us in their dreams, and knew us as soon as we arrived; knew our names as well. If the Lord goes with us in this way, and labors with us to bring to pass His purposes, there is a potency in it, there is a testimony in it, there is a witness to it that it is the work of the Lord. We ought to be glad and praise Him, if He will make us His instruments in bringing to pass His purposes and doing His holy will. The great demand for missionaries has not diminished; but it is increasing continually. I want to have the brethren and sisters realize that while they are sustaining the affairs of each other and assisting so many brethren go into the ministry, though seemingly your interests may be affected here, there is wherein you are sowing to reap an excellent and a precious harvest. When the Elders come back, with redoubled spirit and power in the Gospel, let them continue to labor in your wards and your associations, and keep that gift that is within them by the laying on of the hands, stirred up, that they may be active members, and grow and increase, and your wards will be benefited and strengthened thereby, your families will be refreshed, the work of the Lord will be increased, and Zion will be purified. Then the more of you that can go to the Temple, in fulfillment of the suggestions of President Snow, will carry home the rich fragrance of heaven, and you will increase in faith and humility, and rejoice greatly in the things of God continually. We want to get this more and more, that we may get nearer to the Lord, and sanctify ourselves before Him by the workings of the Spirit and the belief of the truth. I pray the Lord that He will send forth laborers until His Word has gone to the uttermost parts of the earth, and until the great work of the Lord is brought to pass here in our midst with the living and the dead. So, as Paul has said, shall all Israel be saved. The Lord help us to contribute, each and all of us, our mite in this great work, to help to bring to pass the will of God and establish righteousness in the earth, is my prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Albert Bacon, one of the pioneers of the state of Washington, was drowned in the headwaters of the Shaglit Saturday. He was an expert canoeist and had safely put one of three comrades across the river. Returning with the other two in his canoe, which was overloaded, he was capsized in a whirl. Bacon could have escaped easily, as he was within a few feet of the shore, but he swam back to the canoe and soon sank. His two companions were rescued.

Written for this Paper.

## THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MIKADO.

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IT IS the right hand of the Mikado!

I refer to Marquis Ito, the famous expremier of Japan, who by the time this letter is published will be traveling through this country on his way to London to represent his majesty at the diamond jubilee of the queen. Marquis Ito has for years been the closest of all men to the Japanese emperor. He has been a member of nearly every cabinet during the last quarter of a century, and he would be the premier of Japan today had he not asked to be allowed to retire for a rest after he had settled the terms of peace with China. Ito is one of the ablest statesmen of the world. For almost a generation he has been fighting diplomatic battles with the leading men of other governments. He has had many a tilt with Li Hung Chang and has, as a usual thing, come out ahead. It was he who to a large extent brought about the late war between Japan and China. I have been told that he did it because he thought the Japanese people needed their attention directed away from their home affairs. He wanted to put down the pernicious reformers who were asking impossible things of parliament, and he knew that the war would do it. He wanted also to humble China, and he succeeded. He was the closest adviser of the emperor during the war, and it was in connection with him that the conduct of the campaign was planned. At the close he thought he had earned a vacation, and he got it. He can, however, be premier again if he wants to and it is not improbable that at the close of his present mission he will again be at the head of the Japanese government.

I saw something of the Marquis Ito during my last visit to Japan. I met him by appointment one afternoon at his home in Tokio, and there had a long chat with him about matters of general interest. The marquis lives in the most fashionable part of Tokio. The palaces of Japanese princes and nobles surround his residence. Driving up the street upon which he lives you might easily suppose yourself to be in one of the suburbs of Paris. The houses are of foreign style. Ito's house is a big two-story brick with a porte cochere running out above the front door. The day that I called upon him there had been a great earthquake in Tokio. One of the buildings in the Imperial Palace grounds had been partially thrown down and Ito's house had been severely shaken. Madame Ito was so much frightened by the earthquake that she had gone to her home in the country to rest and recover, and the marquis was naturally anxious to leave Tokio to see her. This I learned afterward, but no sign of it appeared in his conversation. He chatted as though he had plenty of time and made me feel perfectly at home. Everything about the house saved more of

Europe than Japan. Ito is anxious that the Japanese should in almost every respect adopt our civilization. He believes that they will be more ready to do this if they wear European clothes, and for this reason he has all about him dressed in this way. The butler who opened the front door for me was an almond-eyed Japanese who wore a livery which might have passed without remark in any of the big houses of the four hundred in New York. His suit was of black with brass buttons. He took my card and showed me into an enormous parlor furnished in foreign style. I could hardly realize that I was in Japan as I looked about me, and when the Marquis Ito entered a few moments later it was only his features that showed me that he was a Japanese. He was dressed in a suit of black, cut after the style of a Broadway tailor, and his shoes were such as would not have been out of place upon the feet of any congressman in Washington. When he spoke it was in the best of English. He shook my hand, and we sat upon upholstered chairs and carried on our conversation in American fashion.

I found Marquis Ito by no means averse to speak of the troubles which were then brewing between Japan and China. He realized that war was about to occur, and told me that the situation was critical. He said that if the Japanese soldiers were attacked in Corea that they would certainly fight, and the way he put his answers made me think of Japan as of a boy with a chip on his shoulders ready to fight any other boy who knocked it off. Ito knew well the condition of China. Japanese travelers had investigated the situation. The rottenness in the Chinese army was known and left little doubt in its mind of the result. When my talk occurred war had not yet been declared. No one thought there would be any war, and I looked upon Ito's words as diplomatic rather than as a prophecy of a condition about to take place. I left Japan a day or two afterwards, and had hardly arrived at Vancouver when war was actually declared. After this was done no news was given out to the press about the plans of the government, and I was, in fact, the first newspaper correspondent who had an inkling of the war. During the struggle Ito was constantly with the emperor. It was he who brought him to the western part of Japan at the naval station Hiroshima, from where the war was directed, and where, you remember, Li Hung Chang came to make peace.

Marquis Ito is now going to London as a special ambassador from his emperor. I wonder if he will take time during his stay at the English capital to go down to the wharves on the Thames and recall his adventures when he landed there as a boy, now more than a generation ago. I have told the story, but it will bear repetition in view of Ito's presence here. Ito landed in London with just one silver dollar in his pocket. Count Inouye, another great man of Japan, then a boy, was with him. The two had come round the Cape of Good Hope in a sailing vessel. In some way or other they had lost what money they had had, and when they landed in London this silver dollar made up their total assets. The moment the ship arrived the rest of the sailors had left, the cook had gone and there was nothing to eat. The two young Japanese, knew no English, and they started out, hoping by