

CHINA AND JAPAN.

CHANCES OF A WAR BETWEEN THE MONGOL NATIONS.

The Kingdom of Corea. Where the Trouble Originates—A Bone of Contention—Russia's Interest—Strength of China and Japan—How Europe is Concerned.

China and Japan are on the verge of war. The last war between these two countries took place in 1902. After a lapse of over 400 years, the two kingdoms have become embroiled over Corea, a kingdom on the east coast of Asia.

Corea is a peninsula stretching out from the continent of Asia in a south-easterly direction, between Japan and China proper, with the Yellow Sea on one side and the Sea of Japan on the other. The average width is 135 miles and the whole length is about 600 miles.

The climate is cold, and the summer rain is frequent. The mountain range running through it lengthwise is precipitous on the eastern side, but the gentle slope of the west side, well watered by rivers, is exceedingly fertile.

There are eight provinces, each with a Governor. The King's revenues, which are considerable, are obtained chiefly by the letting out of lands and from a tithe of all the produce. The King owns nearly all the landed property. The people are great sufferers through this system of land-grabbing and tax-farming. Grinding poverty holds them in a relentless grasp.

Chemulpo—where the hostile troops are glaring at one another, and where



The United States cruiser Baltimore and a British warship have landed marines to protect the American and English Legations—is the port for the capital, Seoul, a walled town of 250,000 inhabitants, about twenty-five miles inland, and joined to its seaport by a badly made road. The harbor of Chemulpo is picturesque, but the water is very shallow, and the trade of Corea is so small that only about once a month can the small steamer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (a Japanese company) be seen in the bay.

Corea has long been a bone of contention between China and Japan. China claims a suzerainty over the country, and long exacted tribute. The Coreans are of the Mongolian race, and greatly resemble the Japanese in type, but their habits and customs are closely related to the Chinese. The country has only preserved its independence through the jealousies of the Chinese, Japanese and Russians. The kingdom is run by Chinese and Japanese, both of whom exercise a military control. The King is a puppet in the hands of the court, which hates both Chinese and Japanese, and yields to either as circumstances require. Corea joins Siberia on the south, and this gives Russia an interest in the controversy that attracts the attention of all her European rivals. The Russians have long wanted an open Asiatic port to replace Vladivostok, which is ice-bound in winter time. Port Lazareff, or Gen-San, on the natives call it, about the middle of the east coast, would exactly suit them, but a Russian harbor there could hardly be accepted by Great Britain, considering that she gave up Port Hamilton on the condition of no Russian port being established in the Japanese Sea.

Civil war has gone on in Corea for three years. Ground down by official tyranny and extortion, the people rose in despair. "A National party"—the "Tong Hak"—took the lead and lately succeeded in securing a whole province. Then Japan appeared upon the scene, sending troops to suppress the insurrection on the plea of protecting her subjects. The Mikado's government next proposed to China to jointly reorganize the weak Korean administration after a more modern fashion, but China as suzerain of Corea would brook no interference with her rights and bluntly refused. Now, therefore, the question resolves itself into a trial of military forces between the rival empires.

The Japanese have repulsed an attack of Coreans at Chemulpo. Rumors prevail of active military preparations on the part of both China and Japan. It is evident that China has selected the situation to strengthen her hold in Corea. Li Hung Chang, the Rismark of China, is evidently not to be daunted by Japanese threats. Orders have been sent to each Chinese province calling for an enrollment of 20,000 men. It is evident that China would welcome a war with Japan on Korean territory. A war between China and Japan would prove very in-

teresting to western nations. The population of Japan is variously estimated at from 20,000,000 to 35,000,000; that of China from 350,000,000 to 400,000,000. The Japanese, however, are thoroughly modernized. They have been designated as the "Yankoes of the East." The Japanese army is 30,000 strong; that of China about 100,000. The navies of the two countries are about equal in number of vessels, but the Japanese have the most modern ships of war. There is some reason to think that Russia is fomenting the strife, and that a war would result in the partition of Corea by Russia and Japan unless European powers intervened. It is the probability of European intervention, in case of war, that gives the present trouble added interest. It is one of a score of possible questions that might get Russia and her European rivals by the ears.

Notes from Gotham. Trouble With Political Machines and Talks of Deals and Bargains.

Probably the present year will always be known in this city as the year of political upheaval. It is a time when the party boss has his hands full in trying to promote party harmony. Everybody knows about the late troubles of the local Democratic machine. The local Republican machine is also having its time of trial. It all arises out of factional differences, as is the case with most party troubles. As near as I can understand the matter, the local reform Republicans desire to unite with the local reform Democrats in nominating a reform Democrat for mayor. They believe this is the only way to defeat Tammany, and they are probably right. But Mr. Thomas C. Platt is not the kind of Republican to throw away a chance for a straight party victory at the mere behest of a few Union League reformers. The reform Republicans would like to oust Mr. Platt from all control of party affairs. The prospect does not seem bright for their success, however. Mr. Platt is a post graduate in the art of political finesse, and he has managed to hold the upper hand in his party councils.

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With the shorter bathing skirts comes an attempt to introduce the foreign custom of wearing bath circulars and from the water. These are made of silk, Turkish towelling, or even of flannel. They envelop the entire figure and are designed to be worn to the water's edge. There they are handed over to the care of maid or friends until after the dip, when they are redone.

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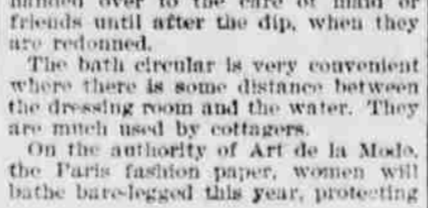
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Bathing Costumes.

their feet by canvas sandals. This, however, is a daring innovation, and, while it may apply to French women, it is safe to say that American women will bathe in stockings. Black is the favorite color for stockings, although there are always women who will tempt criticism by wearing red and other bright colors.

On the head the most stylish women will wear silk rubber caps of bright hues, red trimmed with a band of blue or vice versa, being the favorites. The rubber hats known by the name of the buttercup hat, will, no doubt, be the refuge of women of uncertain age. The straw hat tied under the chin is but little seen this summer.

There is a bathing corset worn by women inclined towards embonpoint. It is called a girdle, and is merely a band with shoulder straps. Under the arms are rubber bands which yield with every movement of the body. It preserves the outline of the figure without confining it.

With swimmers' fights are taking the place of pantalettes, because they afford the wearer unrestricted liberty of limb.

The Oil Rub or Bath.

Do you know that the ancient Greeks owed much of their physical beauty, suppleness of limb and strength of constitution to the use of oil as a lotion? Of late years the great value of the oil rub has been recognized by the medical fraternity and is used by them in the treatment of many diseases, with the most satisfactory results. By its use infants, if delicate, are strengthened and nourished; if they have bowel trouble, oil rubbed on the abdomen assists in remedying the disorder, relieves pain and soothes the child.

If oil is rubbed on the skin of persons in fever it prevents the surface becoming parched, also strengthens and nourishes the patient, as it is absorbed, so acts as food.

If a person has cold in the head oil rubbed on the nose and forehead loosens the cold, and freer breathing is the result. If the cold is on the lungs oil rubbed on the chest soon relieves the suffocating feeling, and the cough is less harsh. Oil rubbed on the sides, back and chest is one of the most helpful things that can be done for a consumptive. It loosens the cough and helps build up the tissues. Physicians say a consumptive's case is hopeful as long as he retains his flesh. This the oil aids in doing. Nothing equals in its efficacy an oil bath for a new-born babe, the oil being well rubbed over the flesh, then rubbed off with a soft cashmere cloth.

And, finally, the woman that wishes to keep her complexion fresh and skin free from wrinkles patiently rubs oil on her face. Almond oil is considered best for the face; coconut or olive oil for all other purposes. If these are not available, lard will answer. For the oil rub take a small portion and rub it thoroughly into the flesh.—Womankind.

The Reversible Pommel.

If you are about to invest in a side saddle by all means take one with a reversible pommel. There is a danger of becoming one-sided if a woman rides a good deal. The remedy, or rather the prevention, lies in the saddle which you can use either on the left or on the right side.

It was the Princess of Wales who first set the example in this direction; other English ladies followed the fashion. In New York Miss Anna Brackett was the first woman to use a reversible pommel; now nearly all the children in well-regulated families who ride are taught to ride in this way. Doctors advocate the idea, and fashion seconds it.—New York Sun.

Tomato Soup.

Tomato soup is a much relished American dish, and is prepared as follows: Steam, or rather, stew slowly a mess of turnips, carrots and onions, also a stalk of celery, with half a pound of lean ham and a little bit of fresh butter over a slow fire for an hour or so. Then add two quarts of diluted stock or of other liquor in which meat has been boiled, and also eight or ten ripe tomatoes. Stew the whole for an hour and a half, then pass through the sieve into a pan again; add a little pepper and salt, boil for ten minutes, and serve hot.

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