

THE CHINA-JAPANESE WAR.

It is the purpose of this article to present as briefly as possible the causes, immediate and remote, which have led to this war, and to do this from Japan's standpoint, drawing the leading facts from official sources. This will be followed by a brief survey of the results of the war to date. No attempt is here made to palliate the sins of either party, and it is desired to avoid as much as possible taking sides in the issue now pending. But in the interests of all parties the truth should be known.

1.—For scores of years China has made it a part of her policy to use the petty States on her borders as buffers for her own protection against foreign powers. But in doing this she has made it a point to incur no inconvenient responsibilities in behalf of such States. Outside nations were to understand that such States were a part of her imperial domain; but on the other hand, China would not consent to shoulder the responsibility of their acts. To the little nations was assured whatever security might come from the shadow of her wing, but they must be responsible for their own acts, except when their character as buffers was threatened. In old times, this theory might hold, but with the progress of Occidental civilization it was bound to give way. Step by step China has been compelled to acknowledge the independence of these little States, not only toward the world, but of herself also. Tonquin, Amam, Siam and Burma have each in turn taught this lesson, and now Korea is traveling the same road. The "fiction of ultimate dependence and intermediate freedom" might do forty years ago, but cannot stand against the march of modern events. Japan met this inconsistency in the policy of the Middle Kingdom in 1873. In that year, the Korean authorities at Fusan offered a great insult to the Japanese official at that port. Count Soejima was then in China entrusted with a special mission on the part of Japan. Under direction of his Government, the Count asked the Chinese Government whether Korea was a dependency of China, adding that in such a case Japan would require some amends from China for this act of Korea; but China promptly repudiated all responsibility, thus abrogating all claims to suzerainty. In consequence of this the Japan Korea treaty of 1876 recognizes the complete independence of Korea.

2.—For thirty years, ever since Japan began to move in the line of modern progress, China has treated Japan as a petty State, weak and vacillating, a deserter from Oriental canons, imbibing new and useless ideas which should be spurned, and worthy in brief of nothing but contempt. That many Chinese and Japanese cordially dislike each other is a fact which foreigners in both countries have observed with no little concern. But Japan has patiently born the affronts of China, and her leading men, notably Count Soejima, Count Ito (now Prime Minister), Viscount Mutsu (now Minister of Foreign Affairs), and Count Ineyuo (now Minister to Korea), have endeavored to avoid a collision with China, using their influence to build up mutual, international and commercial interests. And these men, with many others who might be named, are themselves experts in Chinese classics.

3.—In 1876 Japan and Korea agreed upon a treaty, the first article of which declares that "Cheson being an independent State, enjoys the same rights as does Japan." Upon the back of this treaty, Japan has since dealt with Korea. It was Japan that opened Korea to the world.

4.—By the Chamulpe Convention of 1882, Japan made a stipulation with Korea that she, Japan, should have the right to station troops in Korea for the protection of Japanese subjects when such a course might seem necessary. This right on the part of Japan the Peninsular Kingdom never questioned.

5.—Korea concluded a treaty with the United States in 1882, with Great Britain in 1883, and with other powers later, in all of which the independence of Korea is implied. No claims of suzerainty on the part of China over Korea were then made. If China has secretly demanded and received tribute of Korea since 1876, it is in violation of treaty stipulations touching the independence of Korea. But this is a way China has of doing things. She by no means intended that Korea should exercise the independence which was thus recognized as Korea's treaty right. More distant powers were not particularly inconvenienced by China's deception and the burden of suffering therefrom fell upon Japan. China, always suspicious lest Japan might have designs upon Korea, ill concealed her disgust, and deception and duplicity have characterized all her actions. She placed a Chinese Resident in Seoul, and carried on a covert but persistent course of influencing Korea in her favor and against Japan. This Resident, Mr. Yuan, has occupied virtually the position of a sovereign and dictator, though of course not openly so. A faction known as the Nin family, from which family

comes the present Queen, has long held the balance of power in Korea, much to the dissatisfaction of many of the people. Through this faction, always pro-Chinese, Mr. Yuan has exercised his influence, or in other words China's influence. The tenure of power of this faction has depended upon its ability to conciliate the Middle Kingdom. To meet this draft upon her resources, and also satisfy her greedy and extortionate officials, Korea has been compelled to tax her laboring classes beyond the ability of human flesh and blood to endure.

6.—In 1882 and 1884 two thousand and one troubles arose in Korea. These oppressed laboring classes, ground into the dust by the heel of official oppression, rose up against the Government, and Chinese soldiers were promptly dispatched to suppress them. In both instances the victorious party, regarding Japan as head and front of progressive tendencies, attacked and destroyed the Japanese Legation in Seoul, and compelled the Japanese to leave the city. On the first occasion (1884) when the two empires had troops stationed in Korea, the Japanese, a mere handful of men, found themselves assailed by twenty times their number of Chinese braves, and the Japanese Representative, with his suite and all the inmates of his Legation, had to fly from a burning building and force their way from Seoul through a mob instigated and abetted by the soldiers of the Middle Kingdom. Japan's forbearance at these crises received the commendation of thoughtful people everywhere. But in the consequent negotiations she secured treaty rights which struck a fatal blow at China's coveted suzerainty; for in 1882 she was allowed to station troops in Korea; and in 1885 she concluded a treaty with China, the Tientsin Treaty, by which each power pledged itself not to send troops to Korea without first notifying the other, the two empires being thus placed upon an equal military footing with regard to the little kingdom. It was equivalent to placing Korea under the joint protection of China and Japan. In the disturbances of 1884, the late Kim Ok Kyun played a prominent part, of which we will speak more hereafter.

7.—Japan could not forget the ill treatment which her subjects in Korea received in 1884, at the hands of both Koreans and Chinese, the former urged on by the latter. Japan has been able to obtain no redress. Innumerable have been the instances and very annoying in which Japan has suffered in this way during the past 10 years, no single case assuming such proportions as to warrant a peaceful nation like Japan, and especially under the present Cabinet, in exceeding the limits of diplomatic force to settle it. But delay and postponement have defeated again and again the ends of justice.

8.—Of the victims of extortion and oppression who arose in Korea in 1884 to overthrow the dominant faction, Kim Ok Kyun was one of the leaders. His party, overcome by the force of Chinese arms, Kim and a few of his associates escaped to Japan where he has since been sheltered by the Japanese Government, being considered as a political refugee. His family and relatives had all been put to death in Korea, and he must have met the same cruel fate had he returned. Many Japanese believe that Kim was a true patriot, who represented an oppressed class, and for the liberation of whom he was willing to risk all. In March last, as the result of a plot made by Korean political enemies in Japan, Kim was enticed to Shanghai, where he was cruelly murdered, on March 27th, in a Japanese Hotel by a fellow countryman commissioned by political enemies in Korea to do the deed China honored the assassin by taking him in triumph on one of her ships of war back to Korea, and on the same ship carried the body of his victim. The assassin was honored at home, while Kim's body was mutilated, disgraced, exposed to public view, and finally cut in pieces and distributed among the eight provinces. Japan saw the point and felt the insult keenly, but said nothing. Enemies of the Min faction in Korea were deeply stirred by this event.

9.—Korea, like China, is a country in which misgovernment and extortion have flourished luxuriantly for centuries, but under the recent Min administration a change for the worse has taken place. The former three years official tenure of office was reduced to one; hence the official had to get all his plunder in one-third the time. The long suffering people revolted against these burdens, and last spring began what is known as the Togaku To revolt in the south, which soon assumed serious proportions. The Min politicians, in concert with Mr. Yuan, thereupon requested the Chinese Government to send troops to suppress the insurrection. China responded with unwarranted celerity, and after the departure of her 2,500 troops, he it noted, gave notice to the Japanese Government. Japan then notified China that she would do the same, and landed several thousand troops at once. China's object was to suppress the Togaku To revolt, to make sure her own control, and to re-establish in administrative power the party that was working the ruin of Korea. Japan's object was to protect her na-

tional, and to secure such a position as would enable her to insist upon a radically curative treatment of Korea's malady. The frequent recurrence of such troubles were not only dangerous to Korea but threatened the peace of Japan herself. At all hazards, the independence of Korea must not be sanctioned.

10.—The next step in the affair was a proposition by Japan that the umpires should unite, first in suppressing the insurrection, and then in the reform of Korea, as this was a matter of great importance to them both. But China refused everything, and demanded that Japan should withdraw her troops from Korea. Japan frankly stated her inability to do this unless valid assurances could be given that the internal affairs of Korea should be so reformed as to remove the danger to herself and to her neighbors. The British Minister at Peking now tendered his good offices to help settle the difficulty, but China refused to negotiate before the Japanese troops were withdrawn, and her manner toward Japan now became insolent. The Cabinet at Tokyo finding it impossible to secure the aid of China in the task to be accomplished resolved to undertake it alone. China prepared and sent more troops to Korea. Japan waited in vain 26 days for China to recover her sober senses. Japan then informed her, July 17th, that the sending of any more troops to Korea would be considered as a belligerent act.

11.—During this period of waiting, Japan had been working with Korea. When China refused to co-operate, Japan directed Mr. Otori Koisuke, her Minister at the Korean Court, to treat directly with the Korean Government on the subject of reforms. These reforms were simple, and show upon the face of them that their object was the betterment of Korea, namely, (1) Recognition of personal responsibility of officials. (2) A separate department for foreign relations; (3) The reorganization of the Judiciary; (4) The improvement of internal communications; (5) The adoption of a system of strict scrutiny into matters of revenue and expenditure; (6) The improvement of the educational system; (7) The selection of students of promise for study abroad. Avowing her determination to help Korea, to remove the danger to her own interests through the constant troubles arising in Korea, and to assist in the civilization of the Orient, Japan began her work of reform; always, however, maintaining toward Korea an attitude of friendliness and courtesy, and always disclaiming any aggressive designs. The Korean Government at first appeared wholly willing to undertake the reforms above proposed. A commission was appointed to carry them out, and the commissioners expressed themselves satisfied with the much needed movement. Mr. Otori then asked for their consent in writing. Now they showed a total change of front. The scheming of the Chinese Resident, who for nine years had played the part of an uncrowned king was clearly evident. To day the Korean Government would promise everything; to-morrow they would make the withdrawal of Japanese troops an essential preliminary. High officials known to favor reform were degraded. Mr. Otori on July 19th sent an ultimatum to the Korean Government, to which the Min politicians after some delay replied in an insulting manner. Mr. Otori then asked for a personal interview with the King, who by this time seems to have comprehended the situation, and had resolved to entrust the administration of the State to his father, the Tai Won-kun, whom, on account of Chinese intrigue through the Min family, he had not seen for 10 years. Expecting trouble from this family in such an event, the King requested Mr. Otori to end Japanese troops and escort the Tai Won-kun to the palace. On the way the Japanese escort was fired into by Korean soldiers instigated by the Min family; the first blood of the present dispute was shed; the Japanese captured without loss or injury all the arms of the Koreans, and sent them flying to their sheds. The work of reform had really begun. Japanese troops had been posted in positions to completely con-

trol the Capital, and in sufficient force to quell any disturbance that might arise. The Chinese Resident now finding Seoul a slightly uncomfortable place for him was suddenly "recalled." From the first he had refused a friendly consultation with Mr. Otori unless the Japanese troops were first removed.

12.—An event occurred July 25th which removed the whole question beyond the field of diplomacy. China, in total disregard of the warning given by Japan, July 17th, had hired transports and sent more troops to Korea. Chinese men-of-war conveyed these transports. Early in the morning of July 25th, some Japanese men-of-war ordered to guard the coast near Chamulpe to prevent the landing of Chinese troops were surprised by the appearance of two Chinese men-of-war from Chamulpe. The latter resisted the Japanese flag with a white flag above it, were seen to be clearing for action, as had been the custom of Chinese ships of late when meeting the Japanese, and then fired upon the Japanese ships, of which there were three. The Japanese returned the fire, so shattered one of their ships that it had to be abandoned, and allowed the other to escape badly riddled with shot and shell. The transport, an English ship, the Kowshing, chartered for this special purpose and under command of an English Captain Galsworthy, now came up led by her convoy, the Tsao-Chiang, which also, hoisted a white flag above the Japanese ensign. But this ruse being now understood, the Japanese fired across her bows, and summoned her as well as the transport to heave to. The Tsao-Chiang surrendered. Captain Galsworthy would have followed the Japanese men-of-war as commanded, but the 1,200 Chinese troops aboard declined to permit this, and threatened the Captain with instant death if he did so. He signalled to the Japanese Naniwa his inability to act. The Japanese asked the foreigners on board, of whom there were several to leave the ship. This the Chinese refused to permit. Four hours were spent in parley with them. Capt. Galsworthy then called his officers on board, and when the Naniwa opened fire on the Kowshing they jumped overboard. The Chinese fired at them as they were swimming for the shore, wounding one, and also at their own countrymen who jumped into the water. The Naniwa's boats saved some of the foreigners, but the Kowshing with her mutinous troops was sunk. On the same day soon after, namely August 1st, as the world now knows, the two Emperors each issued a declaration of war. As to the spirit and justice expressed in these documents the world must judge.

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Senator Jones Springs to the Financial Rescue.

A Washington dispatch of January 13th says that on the 15th inst. the Jones scheme will be presented. Its principal features are these: The Secretary of the treasury will be authorized to issue \$500,000,000 of bonds, interest and principal payable in gold at not exceeding two and one half or three per cent., the bonds to run thirty years, but redeemable at the option of the government after twenty years. The proceeds of these bonds are to be used for the current expenses of the treasury and the redemption of the greenbacks and treasury notes issued under the Sherman act.

National banks will be permitted to issue notes to the par value of the bonds they have deposited to secure their circulation, and an inducement will be offered the banks to increase their circulation by reducing the tax on circulation from one per cent. to one quarter of one per cent. The unlimited coinage of silver is provided for in a section which will read practically as follows: The Secretary of the treasury is authorized and directed to receive at any mint, from any citizen of the United States, silver bullion, the product of the mines of the United States, of standard weight, &c., and coin the same into standard silver dollars and the seigniorage for the said coinage shall be the difference between the coinage value and the bullion value in London on the day of deposit, and the secretary of the

treasury shall deliver to the owner of said bullion the silver dollars so coined, and the amount received from the seigniorage of said coinage shall be covered into the treasury.

Mr. Jones, accompanied by Mr. Camden, of West Virginia, called on the President to get his indorsement, if possible, Mr. Cleveland was freely told that no measure could be passed that did not in a very material way recognize silver. The President, it is said, declined to give his approval in advance to any bill until he could be assured that such a bill would pass.

It is stated, however, that the proposed bill was discussed in detail, and that the two Senators left the White House thoroughly familiar with the ideas of the President and able to assure the members of the Senate that such measure, if enacted by Congress, would be approved by the president.

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Of course without regard to calling in this life all classes are more or less annoyed and worried. They are worried either from the exactions of law or the want of such exactions. And even newspaper men have been known to have things to worry and annoy them; but how to pay the income-tax about to be levied and collected is not the most grievous annoyance they have in contemplation. Excepting, of course, where the editor has got the dyspepsia, when imaginary things sometimes trouble as much as realities, the newspaper fraternity are peculiarly exempt from the income-tax annoyance.

The magistrates of Brussels, Belgium, have ordered that all the gambling houses in that city be closed.

IVORY SOAP - IT FLOATS - BEST FOR SHIRTS. THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO., CHICAGO.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE

DELAWARE, LACKAWANNA & WESTERN RAILROAD. BLOOMSBURG DIVISION.

Table with columns STATIONS, EAST, WEST. Lists stations from Northumberland to Scranton with arrival and departure times.

For further information apply to Ticket Agents: M. P. PREVOST, J. R. WOOD, Gen'l. Manager, Gen. Pass. Agt.

Connections at Rupert with Philadelphia & Reading Railroad for Tannan, Tamaqua, Catonsville, Sunbury, Pottsville, etc. At Northumberland with P. & E. D. V. P. R. R. for Harrisburg, Lock Haven, Amport, Warren, Corry and Erie.

Pennsylvania Railroad.

Time Table in effect Nov. 25, '94

Table with columns Station, Div, A. M., P. M., P. M., P. M. Lists various stations and their corresponding train times.

Daily, except Sunday. Daily, Flag Station.

Table with columns Station, Div, A. M., P. M., P. M., P. M. Lists stations from Harrisburg to Philadelphia with train times.

READING RAILROAD SYSTEM

In effect Nov. 15, 1894. TRAINS LEAVE BLOOMSBURG

For New York, Philadelphia, Reading, Pottsville, Tamaqua, weekdays 11:30 a. m. For Williamsport, weekdays, 7:30 a. m., 3:15 p. m. For Danville and Milton, weekdays, 7:30 a. m., 1:15 p. m., 6:00 p. m.

TRAINS FOR BLOOMSBURG Leave New York via Philadelphia 8:00 a. m. and via Easton 9:10 a. m. Leave Reading 11:50 a. m. Leave Pottsville 12:30 p. m. Leave Tamaqua 1:30 p. m. Leave Williamsport weekdays 10:10 a. m., 4:30 p. m.

Leave Catonsville weekdays, 7:00, 8:30 a. m., 1:30, 3:15, 6:23. ATLANTIC CITY DIVISION.

Leave Philadelphia, Chestnut Street wharf and South Street wharf for Atlantic City WEEK-DAYS—Express, 6:00, a. m., 2:40, 4:00, 5:00 p. m. Accommodation, 8:30 a. m., 8:45 p. m. SUNDAY—Express, 9:00, 10:00 p. m. Accommodation, 8:00 a. m. and 4:30 p. m.

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