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INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY.

It is occasion for some surprise that a large number of the business people of Los Angeles did not earlier discover San Francisco's interest in fostering the strife regarding appropriations for the improvement of the harbors of Port Los Angeles (Santa Monica), and of Wilmington (San Pedro).

That this truth is now dawning upon all the people of Los Angeles is apparent, for the dispatches speak of a paper in circulation there that is receiving the signatures of business men which recites that it would be wise policy on the part of the people of the south to encourage the Federal Government to such work at Santa Monica as would enable it in time of need to fortify that point defensively, and to make it a harbor where Federal ships might find safety.

It is also set out that the unreasonable and heated opposition to improvement at Santa Monica has resulted, as the people were warned it would result, in the refusal to recommend substantial work at either harbor. It has simply resolved itself into the case of having something done at both points, or nothing at either. The interest of San Francisco is, of course, to have nothing done, hence its extreme solicitude at this time for Los Angeles to oppose any action looking to the improvements at Santa Monica, otherwise Port Los Angeles.

It is one of the oldest of strategems among military men to divide the opposing force if possible, to so operate as to bring on contention and confusion among the enemy, since this tends to lead to defeat. San Francisco is a unit against the improvement of any harbor south or north of her that will threaten her commercial supremacy and divide the traffic stream flowing across the continent, and give it new points of departure and incoming at tide-water.

Had any other community than that of progressive Los Angeles been so short-sighted as to have fallen into the purpose of San Francisco, we should feel justified in pronouncing it idiotic. But it happens that Los Angeles is not a unit in this matter of opposing its own best interests, and it, therefore, escapes the commendation that such inanity as opposing Federal expenditure in improving two tidal points near Los Angeles would warrant; and, besides, it is now developing that even those who at first took the radical and suicidal position which promises to result so disastrously, are now in the calm of returning reason reconsidering and looking at the situation from the standpoint of reason and self-interest.

A decision one way or the other today in Congress upon the Cuban resolutions will be better than delay. No matter in what form the sentiment of Congress goes out, it will be infinitely better than this long-drawn-out debate. We are not bettering conditions with Spain, nor are we helping the Cuban insurgent cause by continuing the debate. The people have very freely, through the press, public meetings, and in that indefinable way in which public sentiment makes itself felt, given out what their desire is. If Congress reflects this it will result in the recognition of the belligerency of the rebels in Cuba. The mouth of Spain will be closed against protest because she recognized the belligerency of the Southern Confederacy before a drop of blood had been shed. Whether we should go beyond the recognition suggested is probably a matter upon which the people

ple are much divided. It is the office of statesmanship to prevent even the popular voice from influencing the policy of the Government until it is expressed in calm and orderly manner, and when the expressed sentiment does not arise from calm deliberation and from sincere conviction of justice. It is certainly true that as to the recognition of Cuban independence the people of the United States have not reached a definite conclusion as to what would be just and upright in the premises. It has not had as yet that thought which should be given to the matter. It is the office of Congress to consider all those nice questions which such recognition would involve, and to hold in check mere sympathetic sentiment which is now so favorable to the rebels, and so condemnatory of the policy and merclessness of Spain.

The "St. James Gazette" thus interprets the American definition of the Monroe doctrine: "The sacred right of any State to maintain its own unity and to suppress its own rebels without foreign intervention was what the North valiantly poured out its blood and dollars for. But it seems that European Governments having subjects and territories in the neighborhood of the American continent have no rights. The Cubans, no doubt, have not been well governed, and suffer much from an administration which is often lax and not too honest. But if the United States arrogates the right to upset every Government not administered according to its ideals as understood in the rule of public affairs, Washington and New York will have a great deal to do, and they might begin by reforming Venezuela. The Monroe doctrine is of uncommon flexibility to adaptation, and it may say 'hands off' to all Europe and 'hands on' for the United States where the transmarine possessions of a European Power are concerned. This principle is applicable to Cuba, which is not part of the American continent, today. Why not to Fiji, Manila and New Zealand to-morrow?"

The error of the "Gazette" resides in its misstatement of the claim of this country. It is not held that we will ignore the rights of foreign nations having possessions in this hemisphere. But it is held that in the exercise of any jurisdictional territorial claim of right a European monarchical State shall not extend its system over any free State or territory of the Americas without the consent of that State, and in some cases not even by such consent, because we look upon the extension of monarchical systems in this hemisphere as dangerous to republican institutions and to the maintenance of which we are pledged.

We have been asked what would be the effect of the passage of resolutions by our Congress recognizing the belligerency of the Cuban rebels. That depends for answer upon the wording of the resolutions and the form of them legislatively. But in any form they would have the moral effect of notice to General Weyler that the war must be conducted in Cuba on the lines recognized by civilized people, and that refusal would be considered an unfriendly act; that if the warning is not heeded more decisive declaration would be likely to follow, possibly backed by action. If resolutions are adopted that would make it incumbent upon the Executive to communicate them to Spain, then the effect would be to open the American market to the rebels to buy and ship out munitions of war from American ports without interference on our part, precisely as Spain has the right to do now in her own behalf.

The King of Italy has been compelled by need of sound advice to send for ex-Premier Crispi to give counsel upon affairs of State. If this story by wire is true, Di Rudini by self-respect will be forced to tender his resignation as Premier. The King could have shown him no greater discourtesy. However, it appears that Di Rudini's policy is in ill-favor with both people and King, and that the latter is changing his views relative to the Abyssinian policy. He finds that his people are bitterly opposed to the Ministry plan, and even in Italy the voice of the people has a powerful influence with the crown. The age has gone when Kings can ignore the sentiment of the people over whom they rule.

It is to be hoped that the committee to which was referred the free market proposition will be able to make a report this evening at the meeting of the Trustees. The spring is upon us, and fresh products will be soon coming in. With the utmost activity possible the market cannot more than be made ready in time. Indeed, it ought to be now open, as there is not only a demand for it, but a pressing one. No opposition has developed to the scheme, and if any should, it cannot stand against the obvious justice and beneficence of the proposition. Let the free market idea be pushed on. There should be no more delay in opening it than is absolutely unavoidable.

"No doubt the managers of the Salvation Army are a sincere lot, but why is it that the young women of the organization that are selected to sell the "War Cry" in the barrooms of New York are usually the extremely pretty members," asks the New York "Standard." Because the Salvationists are as worldly wise as they are religiously sincere, judged by their works.

If Ballington Booth is half the man his emphatic declarations indicate, the return of the Salvation Army seceders to the family fold is one of the impossibilities now. Well, there is room enough for both bands to work, and still the devil will be in command of a numerous force.

An interior contemporary says: "Any young man who will begin life right will succeed, and nothing but death can prevent his success." Not always. Many a young man has begun right who failed. Besides beginning he must continue right.

Mrs. Ballington Booth has devised a more attractive-looking bonnet for the "new" Salvation Army. Thanks, Mrs. Booth. You could not fail to improve upon the old "poke," no matter what you design.

JAPANESE SCENERY.

In the Mountains and Valleys of Our Antipodes.

Life and Manners Compared With Those of Europe—Methods Opposite Our Own.

One must not come to Japan and fall to make an excursion inland of a hundred miles from Yokohama, with Nikko as the objective point.

From the moment you leave the crowded station of the city on the sea until you look upon the little village that nestles at the foot of the most picturesque mountains of Japan one scene of beauty and interest after another comes into view.

Although you may have an interesting novel on your lap very few of its pages are read, for now the steep steps to a Shinto shrine attracts your attention; now a great Buddhist temple appears in a neighboring grove; now a gaudy funeral procession passes by; now your train is dashing along the outskirts of a straw-built Japanese village; now a group of rustic men and women, wearing loose upper garments and coarse blue tights, in the midst of their farm work, gaze at the moving coaches with wide-open eyes and mouths; now you are passing through a bamboo grove; now you are attracted by a group of women and girls attending to the silk worms or spinning the silk and winding the thread; now you are watching the crude process of grinding the grain between great flat rocks, or beating the straw with rods; and thus, although your train has made only twenty miles an hour, the trip seems too short when the conductor unlocks your coachdoor and cries out "Nikko!"

SACRED SHRINES AND LEGENDS. Nikko is especially noted for its temples, which for their architecture, size and costliness are as remarkable as any in Japan. Millions of dollars have been spent in these buildings, and the curious ornamental work, the hideously grotesque idols in bronze, the elaborate wood-carvings of vines, flowers, birds and beasts display the talent as well as the superstition of the people.

The front of one building is ornamented by the figures of three monkeys; one with his hands over his eyes, that he may see nothing bad; another covering his mouth, that he say nothing that is wrong, and the third holding his ears, that he may hear nothing that may offend his monarchy. At the entrances of these temples are great brass gongs, and above them hang metallic hammers with ropes attached.

When petitions are to be offered most unceremoniously are made to awake and attract the attention of the Deity! No amount of chatter, however, is supposed to arrest the attention of the god until the worshiper casts into the open box within the door his contribution of money.

There is an interesting legend, reminding us of a certain classic fable, that is associated with the carvings on these temples. The story goes that this wonderful work was done by a left-handed dwarf, and while he was ornamenting the temples he fell in love with a beautiful girl of Nikko, who spurned his addresses on account of his deformity of person. She was unyielding, despite the evidences of his genius and his tender pleadings; and, at last, nearly heart-broken, he returned to his native city, Tokyo, where he carved an image of his loved one, which was so perfect that the gods endowed it with life, and the artist lived with it as his wife all during his life in the enjoyment of the greatest happiness.

MOUNTAINS AND MONKEYS. Early in the morning we engaged jinrikashas, and, with two men to each vehicle, we passed out of the village on a narrow road, with a dashing mountain stream on one side and the precipitous heights on the other. For eight miles we ascended the steep and circuitous path, stopping now and then to refresh ourselves at a teahouse or to admire the mountain panorama.

We paused for quite a while before a cataract, whose waters fell nearly a thousand feet from the bluff to the echoing chasm beneath, and watched the great volume of water until it was tossed into a cloudy spray in its great leap. At one time, as we looked out from a bench before a teahouse, we could see three great heights of mountain peaks, rising one above the other, and down the valley gorges before us three plunging streams foamed over the great bowlders of rock, turning in their excited rage into pale, quivering waterfalls as they threw themselves recklessly against the sides of the mountains into the valley below!

Suddenly one of my jinrikasha men exclaimed in English that was more euphonious than classic, "Moonkee," and there before us were six or seven of these comical little creatures as self-satisfied as any other Japanese could possibly be. Whenever I look a monkey in the face I think of the words of a certain American professor, who, while lecturing on evolution, seeing that the class was inattentive to his words, exclaimed: "Gentlemen, while I am discussing the monkey I desire you to look me right straight in the face!"

ONE OF JAPAN'S FIVE WONDERS. The object of our mountain trip was a visit to the celebrated Chuzen-ji, which is one of the five wonders of Japan.

Before reaching the mountain top our path for a mile or two lay through snow several inches in depth, and as we made a sharp turn there lay before us the rippling face of this beautiful sheet of water, thousands of feet above the village we had left some hours before.

No words, no brush can describe or paint this transparent body of water, lifted so near and reflecting so perfectly the deep blue sky, and there seems to be no satisfactory explanation of this strange phenomenon in nature—a lake filling the empty cone of the mountain.

In Virginia and in North Carolina we find something of the kind, but they are not so elevated and picturesque as the Chuzen-ji.

CURIOUS CONTRASTS. I noticed on this trip, more than while I was nearer the coast, how completely the Japanese are our antipodes in many respects, and how opposite are many of their methods and manners.

The few horses they have are stabled with their heads to the passageway and their tails where we place their heads, and they are shod with close-braided rice straw in the place of iron shoes. We noticed that the carpenters draw the plane toward them instead of pushing it from them, and the tailor sews from him, not toward his fingers, but with his toes.

Smoke from our fireplaces escapes through the chimneys outside of the house, smoke ascends from their bra-

siers inside of the room, finding its way out at the doors and windows.

As the tourist travels through inland Japan he is impressed by the thick settlement of the country. The rural districts are full of people; nearly every woman has a baby lashed to her back, and the numerical increase seems far greater than the increase of available wealth.

INSTRUCTIVE STATISTICS. The Government statistics show that while only between twelve and thirteen millions of acres are under cultivation, over forty millions of natives live on these islands, and a still stranger fact, there are 30,000,000 pounds of tea, 5,000,000 pounds of raw silk and 40,000,000 pounds of rice exported every year.

At the beginning of the year the population of Japan was as follows: Number of families, 7,883,369; individuals, 41,810,202; males, 21,121,398; females, 20,688,804. As compared with the previous year the figures show an increase of 24,872 families and 424,695 individuals. There were 1,208,918 births and 840,741 deaths during the year. The number of marriages was 351,146, that of divorces being 112,302.

Considering the size and wealth of Japan and the available farm land, these statistics present an interesting problem to the student as to the future of this in many respects unique people. From the north we have, by means of train, boat and jinrikasha, reached the southernmost point of the most southerly island of the empire, and we are now writing in the saloon of the steamer Malacca, looking out upon the harbor of Nagasaki, one of the most important ports in the East.

Noticing the number of persons wearing eyeglasses in Nagasaki, I made mention of this fact to a resident of the place, who dryly replied: "Oh, yes; we put green eyeglasses on goats and then feed them with shaving grass!" They think that they are eating grass!

As the full moon rises over the crests of the mountains that form the background to the city, shooting its silver arrows through the narrow straits, and as the rising tide lifts our levitation of the deep, we sail past the lofty island of Pappenburg, the Tarpelan rock of the East, from whose heights Christians are said to have been hurled during the seventeenth century, and turn our bow toward the Celestial Empire.—H. Allen Tupper, Jr., in letter from Yokohama to the Baltimore Sun.

"One of the Best." (From the Red Bluff News.)

The Sacramento "Record-Union" will be issued daily hereafter. This will bring the "Record-Union" up to date and give Sacramento what it has never had—a good Sunday morning newspaper. We congratulate the "Record-Union" upon its step forward. We have always regarded it as one of the best papers in the State.

Holmes, photographer, 1308 Tenth.

Nothing HATS. But :::

Spring Styles in Gentlemen's Stiff and Felt Hats have been received. The best value and the latest styles. It is a little early to talk Straw Hats. Still we have some beauties at \$1 each.

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