

DOES CHINA WANT PEACE?

An English Opinion on the Oriental Situation.

A great deal of nonsense appears in print just now with reference to the action pursued by Japan in the war in which she is engaged with China. We are growing quite accustomed to the vapors of a certain section of the British press on this subject, and we doubt whether anybody is seriously influenced by the oracular fashion in which they lay down the law concerning all matters international. The latest phase of this oracular style of writing calls for notice and rebuke on the part of those who claim to have any interest in Eastern affairs. It appears that Japan has given fresh umbrage to these critics because she has seen fit to decline the informal and almost comical offers of peace which have been held out by China. We can quite understand that those good but misguided people who are in the habit of bringing a very contracted vision to bear on international questions, would accept peace at any price, without troubling themselves whether the terms arrived at by such means could be honorable and lasting. There is a kind of peace which is infinitely worse than war, and if we understand the Japanese aright they have thoroughly grasped this truth and intend to avoid being a party to such miserable overtures. We cannot help thinking that the critics who devote so much time to passing judgment on the action of Japan are fretting themselves quite unnecessarily about what Japan will do in the near future. The peace-at-any-price party would like one or more of the European Powers to patch up the matter for Japan and arrange the whole business for China. We fancy we see the Japanese knocking down to this kind of treatment! For the present we imagine that Japan wants nothing so much as to be left alone. The country which has organized the present war with such a complete mastery of details as to be the subject of general admiration on the part of all unbiased authorities in Europe is, we imagine, quite capable of concluding an honorable and satisfactory peace. If the European Powers are to take part in closing the war they will act in concert with Japan, and not as dictators.

During the month a contribution has been made to the literature on this subject which is well worthy the consideration of all who follow the war closely. Our readers will no doubt remember the name of Colonel Maurice, an officer held in great esteem by the chiefs of the British Army and by the Intelligence Department. It is no exaggeration to say that his remarks on the progress of the war from time to time have received more attention from experts than any other which have appeared in print. During last month Colonel Maurice delivered a lecture before the Duke of Connaught and the Aldershot Military Society, in which he paid a high tribute of praise to the Japanese for the complete and skilful manner in which they had organized their operations in China. He even went so far as to compare the organization with that of Germany, and suggested that somewhere or other in Japan there must be an organizer whom it is no derogation to Count Von Moltke to compare even with that great general, who so planned the invasion of France that he never lost a battle, or failed to carry out any operation on which he had set his heart. Such high praise as this, coming from so distinguished a soldier as Colonel Maurice, will no doubt be very gratifying to the Japanese, and will enable them to treat the disparagement to which they are subjected by lesser lights with indifference. They certainly can afford to do so after the high testimony paid to their military organization by one of the leading experts in this country. We need scarcely add that Colonel Maurice is being taken to task by a certain section of the press because he has spoken the truth. It is pointed out that statements of this nature bearing the imprimatur of such an expert will tend to prolong the war, and to render it more difficult to obtain peace from Japan. Can anything be more ridiculous than such a suggestion? What do these gentlemen who write so glibly on Japan and her motives think of the people whose future conduct they venture to prophesy? It is really too absurd. One might think from such statements that Japan was still in leading-strings, and was looking to the European Powers to say aye or nay whenever any new departure was to be undertaken by the empire. When Japan is properly approached by China, we have no doubt that peace will be arranged, and this should be quite possible without the intervention of European Powers.—The Foreign and Colonial Importer.

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BY AUTHORITY.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, by a Proclamation made January 7, 1895, the right of the Writ of Habeas Corpus was suspended and Martial Law was declared to exist throughout the Island of Oahu.

It is now further ordered that the right of the Writ of Habeas Corpus is hereby restored, and that Martial Law is hereby terminated in the said Island of Oahu on and after the 18th day of March, 1895.

SANFORD B. DOLE,
President of the Republic of Hawaii and Commander-in-Chief.

By the President:
FRANCIS M. HATCH,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, REPUBLIC OF HAWAII,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
HONOLULU, Island of Oahu, H. I.,
March 18, 1895.

GENERAL ORDER No. 23.

The Commander-in-Chief, on behalf of the Government, desires to express his appreciation of the meritorious services of the officers and men of the National Guard of Hawaii, the regular police, the special police, the Citizens' Guard, and others rendered in the field and on guard in Honolulu incident to the work of suppressing the late formidable insurrection against the authority and existence of the Republic of Hawaii.

The courage and cheerful readiness to incur any danger, exposure and hardship shown by every branch of the National forces has been beyond praise.

Every class and condition of society has been honorably represented among the defenders of the Republic. Native Hawaiians and Hawaiians of foreign descent, Americans, Englishmen, Germans and Portuguese and others have fought side by side in the field and stood guard together under circumstances which have demanded heroism, and fortitude and the quality of self-sacrifice. Laboring-men, mechanics, clerks, business and professional men have been comrades on equal footing.

No act of cowardice to the enemy or cowardice has been recorded.

The Government is to be congratulated upon the harmony which has prevailed among all branches of its forces, which has been a paramount element of its military strength.

The work of the Military Commission has been important and arduous, and has been conducted in a spirit of devotion to duty, of fairness and firmness, which has won general respect and confidence.

The opening of hostilities found the commissariat unprepared for the large demands upon it caused by the sudden calling out of a large armed force. In this emergency a number of patriotic women came to the assistance of the Government and by generous contributions of food to the men in the field and on guard in Honolulu added greatly to the comfort and efficiency of the national forces. For this important service the Commander-in-Chief desires to express the thanks of the Government.

While casualties among the defenders of the Government have fortunately been few, the country has been called upon to mourn the untimely death of the Hon. Charles L. Carter, who, bravely exposing himself at the beginning of hostilities, was fatally wounded, whereby a life full of promise in public affairs was lost to the country. Special recognition is also due to Lieut. Holi Thornton and D. W. Lokana of the police force, and Herman F. Ludwig, Lieutenant of Co. F, N. G. H., who were severely wounded while heroically contending with the armed enemies of the Government and will carry honorable scars to the end of their lives.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief,
JNO. H. SOPER,
Adjutant-General, N. G. H.

VACATION NOTICE.

The Public Schools will close on FRIDAY, April 13th, for the Easter Vacation, and reopen on MONDAY, April 22d.

By order of the Board of Education,
J. F. SCOTT,
Secretary.
Honolulu, March 18, 1895.
12° 31-12 11

WATER NOTICE.

Holders of water privileges, or those paying water rates, are hereby notified that the hours for irrigation purposes are from 7 to 8 o'clock A. M. and 5 to 6 o'clock P. M.

ANDREW BROWN,
Superintendent of Water Works.

Approved:
J. A. KING,
Minister of the Interior.
Honolulu, March 12, 1895. 12° 4-11

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