

WILL DIE FIGHTING.

The Emperor of China Issues a Remarkable Decree.

Blames Incompetent Generals for Defeats by Japanese.

Li Hung Chang Ordered to Deliver Up Four Generals.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 17.—Additional Japanese advices brought by the Emperor of Japan are that, although the Japanese Government is guarded as never in all its utterances, it cannot entirely conceal the fact that the prospect of speedy settlement is not as clear as it seemed to be three weeks ago.

The Imperial edict denouncing the officers lately in command at Port Arthur has been published. The Emperor claims that, in spite of the efforts of the traitors, he believed that the few officers left in command were not as good as the Japanese, and that he is resolved that the guilty shall no longer escape.

Li Hung Chang is again rebuked for endeavoring to shield the Tai Kung, who "fled from Port Arthur as soon as the enemy had taken its first position."

The Emperor's minister, Li Kung, is sent to the Board of Punishments to expiate his wickedness.

By this sweeping decree none of the Generals or Admirals escape. The decree states that any who are responsible for the fall of Port Arthur, or whose death must be their penalty.

The translation of this most extraordinary edict of any issued by the Emperor during the war has been obtained.

When we first took charge of the affairs of the Empire, it was our intention to introduce many reforms.

Little did we expect that our Generals were incompetent, and in many cases untrustworthy, and that soldiers were subordinate and ill-supplied with the arms adequate and for which large sums of money were appropriated by us to apply them, and it is for these reasons that the Japanese have gained victory after victory and place after place, which causes us the greatest concern, and makes our ancestors restless.

"When that time comes, may you reverently escort the Emperor Dowager westward and elect a worthy man to be your Emperor, look after the sacred altars of our ancestors, revive thought and wipe out their terrible disgrace."

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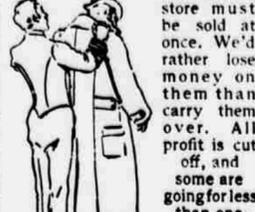
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