FORMOSA.

The Japanese War Against the Islanders Concluded.

The Mikado Determined to Maintain Peace with China.

Foreign Diplomacy Hostile to the Yokohama Policy.

GENERAL LEGENDRE'S MISSION AND ARREST

American Interests—The Simonoseki Indemnity.

Chinese Commissioners Received in the Japanese Camp.

Active Diplomacy a Relief to Field Life Monotony.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 4, 1874.

The steamship Great Republic arrived here today. She brings Yokohama dates to August 14.

Japanese Relations to China and Formosa.

The Japanese adhere to their determination not to be driven into war with China except in the last extremity. The whole tendency of their present negotiations is pacific, but so many influences are operating against them that they feel the necessity of fully preparing themselves. To this end large bodies of troops have been assembled in certain Southern ports, ready for instant departure in case of need, and several large steamers have been added to their transport fleet. The most important of these are the Pacific Mail Company's ship New York, purchased for $250,000, and the ships Acantha and Madras for $118,000 and $90,000 respectively. In regard to the New York it is possible that the claims for commissions, yet unsettled, and about to be adjudicated, will swell the amount paid by the Japanese to $280,000.

GENERAL LEGENDRE ARRESTED.

General Legendre, who sailed for China a fortnight ago to continue the peaceful negotiation commenced in Formosa, was arrested by United States officials on landing at Amoy. It is not yet known whether he will be temporarily or permanently detained. Astonishment at the news of his seizure is chiefly caused by the fact that the amicable character of his mission was known to everybody. It is looked upon as another proof of the determination of foreign representatives to obstruct the efforts of Japan to arrive at a fair understanding. No foreigner acting on behalf of China has been molested or interfered with in any way.

CAUTIOUS DIPLOMACY OF THE JAPANESE.

The Japanese government, fortunately foreseeing the possibility of obstacles in General Legendre's case, despatched other commissioners immediately after his departure, who could not be hindered in the fulfilment of their duties.

The first of these is Okubo, Minister of the Interior and a member of the highest board of the government. His assistant is Yoshsharas, an officer of the Treasury Department and the head of the Yokohama Custom House. They are to proceed directly to Pekin. Accompanying them is a French gentleman in the legal service of the Japanese.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ANXIOUS AND HOSTILE.

So eager are the foreign Ambassadors to deprive Japan of all kinds of foreign counsel in this emergency that the French Minister undertook to detain his employé. Having the law and a complete knowledge of the law on his side, he was able to convince M. Berthemy of the danger of the course he was pursuing.

NATIONAL HOPE OF THE JAPANESE.

The Japanese are still hopeful of tranquillizing the results of this last mission. The Mikado takes the keenest interest in the deliberations of the government on the Formosa question. On the 4th of August he personally visited the office of the Dialokwan, or the first Board of the government, and presided over the debates, an act almost without precedent in modern times.

THE SIMONOSEKI INDEMNITY.

On this subject a trustworthy correspondent writes as follows:—

The affair of the Simonoseki indemnity has taken a turn that could never have been anticipated by Americans. Mr. Bingham has received instructions from Washington to demand full payment, and the amount has been deposited to his credit. The grounds upon which the order from the State Department was based are not that the claim is just or that the United States government desires the money, but solely that as other governments concerned have received their share ours must also be paid according to the bond. The Japanese are greatly chagrined, not wholly on account of the unlooked for loss of money, but principally because they had been given to understand for the last two years that the balance of the payment would never be exacted. In this conviction they felt themselves in a better position to resist the aggressions of other nations. They now consider themselves free to believe that the assurances of forbearance and unwillingness to press an extortionate demand were nothing but empty declamations. It is understood that Mr. Bingham deeply regrets the decision of the State Department, which, nevertheless, he is bound to enforce. He has not, up to this moment, taken possession of the amount, hoping that another mail may bring some modification of his instructions.

AMERICANS ON THE QUI VIVE.

United States Consul General Van Buren has arrived and assumed the duties of his office.

General Meyers and Colonel Lyford, of the United States Army, specially commissioned by President Grant to bring presents of new and improved arms to the sovereign of Japan, are now at Jeddo. On the 10th inst. they were, with Minister Bingham, received by the Mikado. In the unlucky event of a war with China it is probable that these instruments of attack, among which were Gatling guns, would be made immediate use of. It does not appear, however, that Mr. Bingham has issued any orders forbidding their delivery to the Japanese authorities.

THE END OF THE WAR.

The Final Operations in the Field—Herald Special Report of the Peace Mission and Negotiations in Camp.

KAME YAMA CAMP,
LIANG KIAO, FORMOSA, June 20, 1874.

Whatever doubt there may be as to the ability of the Japanese to construct a camp upon strict military principles, there is no question that in choosing positions of wholesome comfort and natural beauty they have keen discernment and judgment. The old camp in the Liang Kiao Valley, as I have mentioned, was selected solely on account of the supposed necessity of holding a defensive situation. As soon as it was discovered that no attack from the natives could possibly be apprehended—a conviction that the Japanese officers were the first to arrive at—all interest in this locality was abandoned. The work on the intrenchments was suspended, and the attention of all concerned was directed to the improvement of the new site, two miles south of the original landing place. Whatever merit there was in deciding upon this ground for permanent occupation belongs entirely to the Japanese. It was their choice, and I think that the vast superiority of the position justifies them in their determination to decide for themselves in such a matter. Just to the south of the village of Sialiao is a little hill of some 250 or 300 feet in height, called, from its shape, Ku San (Turtle Hill) by the Chinese, and Kame Yama by the Japanese. It is the same acclivity that was ascended by Japanese officers on the 7th of May for purposes of observation. Beyond it, still further south, is a plot of level ground some twenty acres in extent, a little elevated above the level of the sea, and, while protected by surrounding hills from the extremest violence of the weather, open at all times to breezes which seem absolutely cool in comparison with the dire intensities of the valley. Since the removal to the new quarters existence has been quite tolerable. The actual heat has been great as ever, and it has not been tempered by such heavy rains as those of the end of May, but there has been no hour of the day or night without a cheering and refreshing wind, and the dangers of camp fever may now be considered entirely at an end. I fancy that to those who have faith in the delights of positive tranquillity a prolonged career on this particular part of the Formosa coast would not be without its charms. The atmosphere is warm, but in this spot not debilitating, and the outlook is to some extent picturesque, combining varieties of land and ocean irregularity. The present occupants—I mean the Japanese—are of a race that never can disturb the rational mind by excesses of temper. Perfect courtesy is their universal rule. Animated nature is not otherwise superlatively engaging, though it possesses a few elements of interest. Our beasts are very few, and they are totally unattractive. They are chiefly varieties of the cattle (water buffaloes) of which I have before spoken. There are no horses—a few ponies, perhaps half a dozen, brought by the Japanese, serving only as exceptions to this rule. Horses have not always been unknown in Liang Kiao; but the last three or four importations of stock by the coast villagers having been captured and eaten by the savages, all native attempts to introduce the equine element have been abandoned. It was not as an article of diet—least of all barbarian diet—that the people of Sialiao sought to establish the breed. The men of the mountains express no desire to eat the Japanese ponies. They know perfectly well that these particular quadrupeds would not be easy of digestion. The dogs of the region are utterly inhuman; they will not be beguiled to us by any wiles we can hold forth. Birds, insects and reptiles alone remain. Of the first there are great numbers, though what they be and what their name I have no power to tell. They are only songsters, and, I suppose, would be utterly despicable to the sportsman. But they fill the air with the merriest kind of music each morning, and are in greater or less degree audible throughout the day. In the evenings their place is supplied by insects, whose volubility surpasses that of the chirping things in most countries that I have visited. It is not quite so agreeable as that which is heard in the forests of Japan, for the "semi" there are truly melodious; but it is full of a brisk vivacity. The insects are to some extent assisted by the reptiles, for there are chattering lizards that take peculiar joy in climbing on our roofs, perching in windows and intrenching themselves in all sorts of angles, whence they send forth brief, stammering and plaintive refrains, which might be accepted as well intended serenades if they were not protracted to hours beyond all endurance. Other insects visit us at times, not so harmless in reputation and far more objectionable in appearance—scorpions, snakes and eager, nipping centipedes. They are not, however, very profuse, and only the centipedes have appeared in numbers or size sufficient to warrant a moment's anxiety. We have sometimes encountered specimens of these eight inches long, and to find them of four inches has ceased to be a novelty. I shook one of that length out of my coat-pocket the other morning, as I was dressing. Strangely enough, we cannot get any positive information as to the habits of these creatures. The natives are all afraid of them, apparently, but will not say that their bites are positively dangerous. Apart from the birds and lizards, the sources of our enlivening sounds are not numerous. Venders of questionable native products have been banished from this camp, so their cries no longer agitate the air. There is one peculiar strain, perhaps the most frequent of all, which has a historical prototype. Cervantes speaks, in "Don Quixote," of the noise caused by "the ponderous wheels of an ox wagon, from whose harsh and continuous creaking, it is said, wolves and bears fly away in terror." The axles of ancient Spain were perhaps of a more obstinate and complaining character; but here their utterance is rather agreeable than otherwise. The ungreased wheels send out a cry like that of a distant rustic horn, and I have often known it to be mistaken for the low steam whistle of a ship far out in the harbor. And, last of all, we have the periodic calls of the trumpeters, which, although they come a dozen times a day, seem always strange and unusual in this wild district. They are the common calls of American and European usage, and are as often sounded amiss as correctly; but I have quite ceased to think of the errors of their delivery since I was witness to the pluck of the little buglers in their marches to the interior. These lads are almost all about fourteen or fifteen years old, and they went through the whole of the work of the early days of this month as if they were veterans. In addition to the instruments of their calling they carried all the paraphernalia of the regular soldier, and they kept their place in the line with as much persistence as the most experienced and most muscular of their companions.

KILLING TIME IN CAMP—EVERY DAY DIVERSIONS AGAINST GLOOM.

Thus the calm routine of *far niente* might easily satisfy the inactive mind; but to volatile natures, like the Japanese, the prolonged stagnation and the prospect of its indefinite continuation must be immeasurably gloomy. The diversifying incidents are extremely few. Once a week or so a company comes in from a camp in the mountains on the opposite shore and another marches out to take its place. At rare intervals a steamer arrives, bringing newspapers from Japan, and all who understand English have then a momentary amusement in observing how most of these publications vie with one another in demonstrating their singular spite and their ignorance, which is not all singular, respecting this very Formosa expedition; which, painful as it may be to them, will proceed to the fulfilment of its well defined purpose regardless of their derision or their attempts at criticism—"criticism which," to use the words of one of their own number, has a clearer estimate than the others of the responsibilities of journalism, "simply consists in standing in the mud and throwing handfuls of it at Japan." What that well defined purpose is can hardly be too often repeated. It is to avenge the murder of a number of shipwrecked Japanese and to establish a sufficient security, in one way or another, against the recurrence of similar outrages. Time will show whether the countless imputations of different designs are true or false. These results will be secured; to others the Japanese are indifferent. As regards ideas of conquest, it was only the other night that I heard the commanding general, Saigo, say that the invading army he would best like to introduce here—and would introduce if circumstances should combine to prolong his stay—would be an army of school teachers to redeem the savages from at least a portion of their utter ignorance. As to the political control of the region, he plainly stated that he would rather see it placed in the hands of any one of the more powerful chiefs that could be trusted in a certain degree than otherwise disposed of. In that way, he thought, unless the Chinese should be finally roused to assuming a jurisdiction that might insure positive security to strangers, the best guarantee of safety could be obtained. Occasionally, again, in the way of diversion, we are gathered to hear the narratives of Japanese explorers who have been sent into various parts of the interior to gather information. This method of collecting knowledge has been for a long time in progress. It commenced months before the sailing of this expedition, and is still actively pursued. One of the first investigators was Major Fukusima, whose name has frequently been mentioned in this correspondence. He, however, travelled only in the Chinese districts, whereas the later observers go exclusively among the savages. They all report the same wild and barbarous condition in every tribe, from North to South. The tribes are alike in their ignorance of all but the rudest methods of cultivation, producing only rice, tobacco and potatoes, and not knowing how to avail themselves of luxuries that lie ready to their hand, like the sugar cane, and, in their defiance and hatred of the Chinese, whose authority they totally deny, and against whom they frequently array themselves in "head-hunting" excursions, the results of which are seen in prominent displays of skulls in their villages. Their usages are generally the same, though a few slight differences are recorded in the way of what they consider personal decoration. The styles of tattooing are not always similar, and in some localities the custom does not exist, and here and there a strange fancy is exhibited in the disappearance of the two front upper teeth from the mouths of the married women.

On still rarer occasions a little relaxtion is afforded by visits to or from the friendly "headmen" of the interior. They are still too shy to venture very freely among us, but they promulgate standing invitations to such hospitality as they can offer. For once in a way it is amusing, but questionably cooked pigs and chickens are not long alluring, and the society of even the mildest-mannered savage rapidly ceases to charm. There seems to be no doubt of the good feeling of most of the Southern tribes. A fortnight ago Saigo sent over some physicians to look after their general health, and this, I believe, has always proved the most effectual appeal to barbarian confidence all over the world. The chiefs are now almost oppressive in their protestations, and if the pigs of Formosa had the ordinary instinct of their species the approach of any Japanese officer of rank would put every sty in a panic. But the native feasts are certainly dull. The incidents are monotonous and the interchange of conversational ideas is not brilliant. The wing of friendship never moults a feather, so far as I know; but it does not fan with sufficient vigor to rouse the breeze of exhilaration. We are reduced to the feeblest expedients for sustaining mutual interest. Fancy making the experiment of chewing betelnut for absolute want of anything else to do. I tried it for half an hour or more without a result worth mentioning. The nut was carefully prepared according to the most approved custom—that is, wrapped in a leaf smeared with lime. The taste was hardly distinguishable from that of checkerberries, and unless it may be in the flow of red saliva which it promotes it is impossible to conceive where the charm of the practice can lie. After one trial there is certainly no temptation for a stranger to repeat the operation.

JAPANESE INDUSTRY.

The natural results of the excessive munificence of the Japanese on their first arrival are constantly manifesting themselves, and sometimes in vexatious ways. One of General Saigo's minor projects has been the establishment of a little experimental farm in this neighborhood for the cultivation—or the attempt at cultivation—of plants hitherto foreign to this soil. Under no circumstances that can well be conceived could the Japanese remain here long enough to reap any practical advantage from this scheme, though undoubtedly the inhabitants might have gained some benefit from the results, if they had cared or known how to avail themselves of them. But no sooner was his purpose made known than the proprietors of every desirable piece of ground for miles around became so inflated with the expectation of sudden wealth that the most preposterous terms for rent were demanded. For the temporary use of a few acres sums far outreaching their entire worth were asked and confidently looked for. I do not know whether the plan will proceed, but naturally suppose it will be abandoned. It was of no special importance, but would have had a certain interest for many, who will probably be deprived of what would have served as a pleasant occupation for a few months.

A Pleasing Startle and Excitement—The Chinese Naval Flag Sighted from the Shore.

KAME YAMA CAMP,
LIANG KIAO, FORMOSA, June 27, 1874.

Relief from the absolute monotony of which I spoke in my last letter has appeared in an unexpected and somewhat startling, though, on the whole, by no means disagreeable way. On the evening of the 20th inst. two Chinese ships-of-war sailed down from the north and anchored in the large bay, about two miles distant from the new camp—the sale and usual place of debarkation. A notification was presently sent on shore to the effect that they brought certain officials of really high rank, who had been commissioned by the government of Pekin especially to confer with the Japanese representative in Formosa, with a view to the adjustment of all questions concerning the present condition of affairs and establishing satisfactory arrangements for the future.

THE IMPERIALIST PEACE COMMISSION COUNCIL IN THE FIELD.

General Saigo answered that he should be happy to receive them on the following morning.

At an early hour the next day the Chinese officers landed with their suite and were met upon the beach by an escort of troops, whose appearance was unusually picturesque, from the fact that one-half of them—Satsuma men—were dressed for the occasion in the old national war costume, the other half being clad in their modern military garb. They proceeded at once to the village of Chasiang, about a mile north of the old camp, where they secured comfortable quarters for the term of their visit. Every consideration and respect was shown them by our soldiers, a circumstance that will not seem remarkable to those who are aware of the scrupulous punctilliousness of the Japanese, but which produced a deep effect upon the new comers. I have good authority for saying that they were somewhat apprehensive of a different style of reception, and Mr. Giguel, a French gentleman attached to the commission, did not hesitate to declare his surprise and admiration at the fine behavior of all concerned. He was good enough to intimate that if the conditions had been reversed he could not have answered for equal reticence and courtesy on the Chinese side, and to aver that he certainly should not count upon similar good taste and manners in case of a reception by soldiers—on and off duty—of any European nation. With as little delay as possible the visitors settled their affairs in Chaisang and proceeded to the old headquarters, where General Saigo was waiting to greet them.

After a few brief and formal salutations, inseparable from Oriental etiquette, the Chinese deputation started upon the business of their mission. They had on their side an official of rank equivalent, I believe, to that of vice governor of a province, a second official holding the position, I was informed, of Taotai of Taiwan Fu—*i. e.*, Governor of Formosa, and Messrs. Giguel and De Sagensac, two French gentlemen long connected with the administration of the Fu Chao arsenal and high in the confidence of the Chinese government. On the Japanese side General Saigo was alone. The interview was interesting, though, of course, not decisive, being regarded only as preliminary to other negotiations. As an example of diplomatic intercourse in the East I shall record it in somewhat minute detail, although it ought, perhaps, be stated beforehand that diplomatic formality and routine were almost exclusively on the part of the Chinese, General Saigo treating the matters under discussion with a downright frankness and simplicity that led, on this and subsequent occasions, to curious episodes, the precise nature of which I do not feel at liberty to disclose. The conversation opened with the announcement that the principal Chinese delegate—Shem Pao Chen—whose rank is that of a full governor of a province, and who was formerly director of the arsenal at Fu Chao, sent his respects from Taiwan Fu—the Chinese capital of Formosa—to which place he had accompanied the Embassy, but where he was detained by illness. Not wishing to run the risks of prolonged delay he had authorized his associate to represent and act for him in the completest way. This associate then asked if a copy of the report of an interview held at Shanghae between Shem Pao Chen and Yanagiwara, the Japanese Ambassador to Peking, had been received. Being informed that it had not, he stated that such an interview had taken place, the two officials having met accidentally at Shanghae while Yanagiwara was on his way to the capital. He then proceeded to express his regret that a notification had not been sent to China in regard to the intention of the Japanese to visit Formosa (Taiwan) and punish the offending savages. If such warning had been given in time the Chinese government would have supplied a force to accompany the Japanese and assist in the operations, but the work having now been completed it was too late for China to attempt to participate. Saigo answered that word had certainly been sent to declare and explain the purposes of his government, and, furthermore, that Soyeshima, the Japanese Ambassador, had gone fully and explicitly into the whole subject at the time of his visit, one year ago. The Chinese Commissioner said it was quite true that a messenger had recently passed through China with letters from the Japanese authorities, but that the bad condition of the roads between Fuchao and Pekin had made it impossible for him to deliver his news in time. Saigo remarked that it was a mistake to suppose that the work was entirely done, and that he expected to be obliged to remain yet some time to execute all the instructions of his government and secure guarantees for the future safety of his countrymen, to which the Commissioner replied that he understood and respected that view of the affair, and did not dispute the General's right to entertain it. He entirely comprehended the purposes of the Japanese, and admitted the propriety of their fulfilment; but, inasmuch as the whole of Formosa, with all its inhabitants, savages and others, belonged to China, it also became the duty of the Chinese authorities to inquire as to who had been the assailants in the slaughter of the Liukiuans in 1871, and to discover, in a more general way, who among the population were well behaved and who were criminals. This was one of the most important parts of the service with which he was charged. The Taotai of Taiwan then observed that he had heard it was the intention of the Japanese to visit and attack the settlement of Pilam, on the eastern coast, and he wished to inquire if it was true. This question, for some reason, was not answered—possibly because the fact of Japan having no cause whatever of complaint against Pilam rendered it unworthy of a serious reply. The Commissioner next produced his own record of the interview before alluded to, between Shen and Yanagiwara, which Saigo read and found to contain, on the part of the Japanese Minister, a repetition of the frequently declared object of his government—namely, to destroy or sufficiently punish the Boutan murderers by means of an expedition which should furthermore take effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such outrages, and having made this last condition certain, should return to Japan. This document having been read the Commissioner said he would like to know what plan the General had decided upon, if any, for the prevention of future misdeeds. In response Saigo stated that he undoubtedly had a plan, which seemed to him suitable and sufficient, but he did not think it desirable to reveal it, especially as his operations were still in progress. The savage tribes were not yet completely brought to terms, and his troops were scattered in various parts of Southern Formosa, and it seemed to him altogether inexpedient to communicate the details of his plan. The Commissioner said that he had come to Formosa by the direction of his government to superintend the settlement of the affairs of the entire disturbed district, in co-operation with the Japanese commander, and asked if the latter had nothing to disclose with a view to mutually carrying out this design. Saigo answered that he also came under very distinct directions from his government, but that they related solely to the punishment of the savages and the security of safety for the future, and did not contemplate any co-operation with Chinese officials; that on his arrival he found that the Chinese speaking people of the region were in no way under the control of China, and that the savages were utterly wild and lawless, beyond the control of everybody, and requiring to be dealt with by a vigorous hand. This he had done by himself, and he had now no scheme of co-operation to propose, nor could he accept or submit to any. The Commissioner—counselled, I think, by the foreign gentleman beside him, though I must not be positive on this point—continued to press his proposal for conferences and combined action, but Saigo steadily declined, particularly as these suggestions were always accompanied by declarations that the legitimate sway of China extended over all Formosa and its people—a position which the Japanese general was not disposed to admit, conceiving that the question had already been debated and adjusted by Soyeshima in Pekin, and that under any circumstances it was not necessary for him to discuss it here. In fact, he remarked that if the Commissioner desired to continue any general discussions based upon that theory he thought it could be more appropriately done through the Japanese Ambassador to the Chinese Court; that it was more correctly a subject of negotiation between the two nations than between individual commissioners at a distant point. This terminated the official part of the meeting and the conference was soon broken up, arrangements being made for a second interview for the presentation of certain points which the Chinese held in reserve. This was fixed for the 24th inst. On the afternoon of the 22d General Saigo visited the Commissioner, at his temporary residence in Chasiang, a call of courtesy merely, and not for the consideration of public business.

The next day was occupied by the Chinese, so far as I can learn, in establishing communications with some of the independent coast villages in the neighborhood and in sending messengers with presents, &c., to the savage tribes in the interior, whom the exertions of the Japanese rendered accessible. But for these previous exertions it would have been impossible for the Chinese to carry through their interviews with any degree of safety. No feeling appears to be more keenly cherished by the mountaineers than their traditional hatred of all Chinese, and especially those coming from a distance, whose speech is entirely unintelligible to them. But now the visitors found little difficulty in reaching Sawail and other villages, in which the pacifically disposed "head men" reside. Of course they made no attempt to enter the territory of the Boutan or Kusukut tribes. What the nature of their communications may have been it is impossible to say. The Japanese authorities have made no effort to discover, and they were not of a nature to cause any alteration in the behavior of the savages towards our troops, either those encamped among them or near headquarters.

THE NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDED.

The last and most important conference between the Japanese General and the Commissioner began on the afternoon of the 24th and was continued through the 25th. The results arrived at will probably lead to a speedy termination of the active operations of the Japanese. They certainly will do so if the Chinese adhere in good faith to the conditions which they expressed themselves ready and empowered to fulfil. It is hardly desirable to follow minutely the course of a conversation which extended over so many hours and in which many points were introduced at times which proved to be irrelevant to the final settlement. Each party conducted his side of the discussion in the way that best suited his individual or national characteristic. The Chinese official was circumspect, deliberate, wary and highly polished in tone and expression. General Saigo was frank and straightforward, and, though always courteous in manner of speech, was, I presume, far too abrupt in his declarations of positive conviction to suit the circuitous smoothness of Chinese statecraft. A single instance will show the vast difference in the method of treating the questions at issue adopted by the two men. The topic of the future control of the savages was under consideration. China's representative declared the readiness of his government to give pledges that they would maintain a sufficient force to keep perfect order in future. The General replied to the effect that he did not doubt that pledges would be given, but was by no means assured that they would be sustained with fidelity. On being asked why he intimated that the whole course of the Chinese, in the Formosa business, had been one of duplicity, that they perfectly well knew the Japanese causes of complaint two years ago, and now pretended ignorance of them, up to a late period; that they disclaimed jurisdiction over the savage territory until within a few weeks and now announce that they had always assumed it: that it had been open to them at any time since 1871 to punish the Boutans, by themselves, for the Japanese subjects, while they now affected great regret at not having been invited to accompany the expedition for chastising them, and that, all things considered, he did not believe they would keep the savages in subjection even if they promised to. Whereupon Shem Pao Chen flew into a rage, not with the General, but with the interpreter, whom he accused of falsely translating what Saigo had said, avowing that it was impossible that the Japanese General could have used such language, and directing him to report to his master exactly the rebuke he had received. But it is not at all in Saigo's nature to accept a proposal for this sort of evasion, so he stated that his interpreter was not at all responsible, and repeated his conviction, but added, when the Commissioner gave indications of irrepressible wrath, that if this particular subject was disagreeable it could be abandoned for a while and resumed at another time. Episodes like this were certainly not frequent, but their occasional occurrence served to show that the Japanese officer would not agree to any terms of settlement that should not strictly bind the Chinese to the complete fulfilment of all their obligations.

This detail is anticipatory. From the beginning, the sole desire of the Commissioner Shem seemed to be to establish the right of his government to jurisdiction over the whole of the soil of Formosa. Equally from the beginning, the Japanese General pointed out how repeatedly that claim had been waived. At the same time he did not hesitate to assure the Chinese official that the Japanese had no purpose of attempting to wrest from China even an imaginary possession. His design was, as it had always been, to inflict a necessary punishment, and establish a state of security for the future. Gradually the idea was brought forward, on the other side, that the difficulty might be arranged by China assuming the task of preserving peace throughout the disturbed region hereafter. Then arose the amusing little break in the discussion which I have described above. In course of time the suggestion arose and gained favor that the Chinese might give substantial guarantees of the integrity of their intentions. This grew out of an intimation on the part of the Japanese that if all this region had really been under China's control, then Japan had been doing the work that China ought to have done, but had neglected, at an expenditure which should properly have fallen upon the other party. Although merely an incidental observation, not intended as especially pertinent, this was, I think, somewhat eagerly seized upon. Suppose that the Pekin government would undertake to reimburse the Japanese for every item of their outlay—would that meet any of the questions in dispute? It seemed to be agreed on all sides that this would at least stand as strong evidence of good faith. And so, after many divergencies and variations of slight import, it was ultimately agreed, on the evening of the 25th, that the hostile operations of the Japanese should be suspended, pending a reference of terms of settlement, for ratification, to the respective governments. These terms are substantially as follows:—

The Chinese authorities to reimburse the Japanese for the whole cost of their expedition.

The Chinese to guarantee such occupation of the savage territory of Formosa as shall prevent the recurrence of onslaughts upon strangers.

These conditions effected, the Japanese forces to be withdrawn.

The Chinese Commissioner expressed not the slightest doubt of the willingness of his government to subscribe to this agreement, and allowed it to be understood that he was acting with full authority in making it, and that the reference to Pekin was solely a matter of formality. It appears much more than probable, then, that the occupation of Southern Formosa will terminate within a few months, and that the action of the Japanese here is virtually ended. If this be so the original aim of the promoters of the expedition will have been accomplished in a far more satisfactory way than was, or could have been, at first anticipated. The lesson given to the savage marauders has been effective and lasting. The fact has been thoroughly demonstrated that injuries to any of the subjects of Japan, at least in Asiatic waters, will not pass unredressed. The region which has for years been a terror to all Eastern navigators will hereafter, through the action of Japan, be free from peril—*i. e.*, supposing China to hold to her compact, and all will have been done—which is a comforting practical consideration—without any exhausting drain upon a national treasury which at the present time certainly needs restoration rather than depletion.

THE CELESTIALS SAY ADIEU AND RETIRE.

On the 26th the Chinese party took leave. Their ships had taken unwilling leave before them, having been driven northward, from Liang Kiao Bay, by a violent storm, on the 25th. They were, consequently, obliged to march by land to Takao, forty miles distant. They embarked, not without difficulty, at Taotai, or Taiwan Fu, and we learned with regret that several of the sailors of their men-of-war were drowned in the first attempts at landing.

An Official American Message—Diplomacy and National Interests of the United States.

KAME YAMA CAMP,
LIANG KIAO, FORMOSA, July 5, 1874.

On the afternoon of the 1st inst. a little Chinese gunboat came into the harbor, from which presently landed a messenger, who announced himself as a deputy marshal of the United States Consul at Amoy. He brought private letters from that officer to Messrs. Cassel and Wasson, the former of whom also received communications from Commander Kautz, of the Monocacy, written, as I understand, in accordance with instructions from Admiral Pennock. These despatches were all of an admonitory character, and their purpose was to warn the gentlemen to whom they were addressed against participating in any hostile action against the Chinese government. There were two reasons why notifications of this kind were superfluous. In the first place, no hostility toward China has at any time been contemplated, and in the second the services for which Messrs. Cassel and Wasson were especially engaged have never been called into requisition, so that, since the third or fourth day after landing, they have simply occupied the position of interested spectators. In the few events in which they have taken part their action has been accidental and subsidiary, and entirely apart from the duties which at the outset it was supposed they would be called upon to perform. The Chinese authorities, however, chose to attach to their presence a fictitious importance, and by their urgent representations persuaded the civil and military authorities to address them as above indicated. I believe that they considered it sufficient to send in response a brief statement of the actual condition of affairs, denying any intention of assisting in warlike operations and promising to withdraw in the improbable event of a collision. The following circular document was also delivered by the deputy marshal. As only three Americans were connected, directly or indirectly, with the expedition, the expense of putting it in print seemed rather a useless extravagance; but undoubtedly the Consul could not be aware of the exact number, and thought it best to err, if at all, on the side of profusion:—

NOTIFICATION.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
AMOY AND THE DEPENDENCIES THEREOF,
June 16, 1874.

All citizens of the United States are hereby notified and warned to at once withdraw from the Japanese armed expedition now operating in the island of Formosa, and hereafter to avoid any connection with that enterprise, under penalty of arrest and trial for violation of the laws of neutrality.

J. J. HENDERSON, United States Consul.

By instruction from Hon. S. WELLS WILLIAMS, United States Chargé d'Affaires, Pekin.

The obvious misapprehensions under which the instructions ordaining this notification must have been issued stand at once as its excuse and as justification for the indifference with which it was received. The messenger had little news to bring beyond what seemed a somewhat exaggerated account of the excitement in Amoy, which, he said, amounted to a positive panic among the merchants, some of whom had wound up their affairs and made ready for flight in anticipation of an attack by the Japanese.

"STAND AT EASE!"

Since the return of Commissioner Shem to China, for further consultation with his government, all active movement hereabout have been discontinued. General Saigo keeps positive faith with his recent visitors, and has suspended his arrangements for the establishment of new camps in various positions. At the same time meetings for the continuance of discussion, which were commenced before the Chinese visitors arrived, are still held between the chiefs of the Boutan and Kusukut villages and certain Japanese officers. These savages do not hesitate to acknowledge themselves beaten and broken, and their habitual attitude is one of humility. They are assured that, for the present at least, no further rigor will be exercised toward them, and the "head men" are invited to come to the camp on the same terms as those of the well-disposed rulers further south. But they have not yet shown sufficient confidence for this. The friendly savages say that the Boutans are ashamed to come in contact with them after their defeat and dispersal.

A Violent Storm in The Formosa Channel—A Herald Commissioner Tests the Feeling of the Chinese on the War Movement.

AMOY, July 11, 1874.

I have at last had a practical experience of the irresistible violence of the Formosa channel storms at this season of the year. On the afternoon of the 6th inst. I came on board the steamship Takasagu Maru to prepare for a final departure from the Japanese camp in Formosa, which promises hereafter to be a scene of diplomatic tranquility, and which, "war thoughts" having "left their places vacant," will offer little in the way of general attraction. Toward evening a heavy westerly wind set in, which rendered landing next to impossible. On the following morning an attempt was made to send a steam launch on shore, but the little craft soon became unmanageable and was obliged to anchor half way between the ship and the beach. A little after noon the Takasagu's anchors were found to be dragging, and the vessel driving upon the low rocks that fringe the insecure harbor. The cables were slipped, and the steamer started away as speedily as might be in the direction of the Pescadores Islands, one of which contains an excellent harbor. But as the night advanced the gale increased to such an extent that it was thought imprudent to search for this refuge, and the course was shaped for Amoy, at which port we arrived in due season, after a great deal of discomfort, but, I presume, no particular danger. The Takasagu was formerly the Peninsular and Oriental steamship Delta, an old but serviceable vessel, which the Japanese might be glad to possess if they wanted any of the sort at all. But they do not. She was purchased under pressure of circumstances not wholly unconnected with the United States Legation at Jeddo. It was one of the compulsory bargains which the stoppage of the steamship New York, at Nagasaki, last April, rendered inevitable. This involuntary visit to Amoy has afforded the opportunity of examining the real state of feeling among the inhabitants, and of inquiring as to the causes that may have led to the Consul's action in issuing the notification mentioned in a previous letter. In regard to the former it appears that the reports of a partial panic among the lower classes, if not among some of the higher, were not without foundation. I am by no means sure that it is not to an extent shared by the local authorities. At any rate, no official attempt appears to have been made toward arresting it. Not a few of the populace have really gone into the interior, and it is said to be perfectly true that numbers of merchants have suspended their traffic in anticipation of the necessity for sudden flight. A single incident will serve to show the current of popular feeling. One of the servants attached to the United States Consulate petitioned Mr. Henderson, a few days ago, to be allowed, so confident was he of the impending invasion, to bring his aged father and mother under the protection of the United States, and lodge them for a time in one of the outbuildings of the establishment. He was assured that there was no occasion for his alarm, but could not be convinced. In Taiwan Fu, the principal city of Formosa, the trepidation is said to be even greater, and junk loads of fugitives are coming over each week. It all this be as it is represented—and much of it undoubtedly is—the unusual preparations of the Chinese are probably the real cause. So much bustle and confusion and so much pretence of military concentration have not been known in this part of China for generations. With regard to the action of the United States officials I am strongly inclined to the belief that it is, on the part of those in this immediate neighborhood, purely formal, and, in one sense, merely nominal. I see no reason to change the opinion expressed in an earlier letter from this place respecting Mr. Henderson's views upon the subject of the chastisement of the savages by the Japanese. And I cannot help reminding myself—although I certainly am not directly reminded by any person—that the notification before quoted was issued "by instruction from the Chargé d'Affaires at Pekin." The Consul's attention was first called to the matter by a communication from the Viceroy of Fukien, the mere transmission of which shows how deeply the official mind of China is impressed by current events, inasmuch as direct epistolary intercourse between a Viceroy and a foreign consul is almost, if not entirely, without precedent. The little Japanese enterprise has broken down Chinese traditions in more than one respect. As an example of the style of this new order of correspondence I am permitted to present a translation of the Viceroy's letter, all of which is here appended with the exception of a few opening lines of courteous greeting:—

Now we have investigated this Formosa business, as well as the statements of the Taotai of Formosa and the captain of the Yangwu, to the effect that this expedition to the savages of Formosa has been planned by the former Consul at Amoy, Legendre; also that one Cassel and many others were assisting. We have also examined and found that Formosa has long belonged to China, and the savages are certainly under Chinese jurisdiction, and other nations have nothing to do with them. On this occasion Japan has sent soldiers to punish the savages without previous consultation with the Foreign Office, and the Japanese Commander-in-Chief, Hiang, without awaiting a communication from us, on his own motion, took soldiers and formed a camp at Liang Kiao, in entire violation both of international law and the treaty between China and Japan. We twice sent communications to Hiang, the Japanese Commander-in-Chief, requiring him to take back his soldiers, and twice sent communications to the Board of Trade to be forwarded to your honorable self, to be examined and acted upon—all of which are on file. We have received your despatch, in which you show your desire to carry out treaty obligations, and, in settling matters, to preserve peace and friendship, as well as your purpose to perform your duties, for all which we desire to express our hearty thanks. We have appointed Chian, second in the Board of Trade and formerly acting Prefect of Fuchao, to go to Amoy, and also have sent a communication to Li, Admiral at Amoy, telling him to await the coming of Chian, and then with him have a conference with the United States Consul, and concert some plan of action. And in accordance with the provisions of article I of the treaty of the first year of Hien Fung (1858), that the two countries shall mutually assist in preserving friendly relations, we ask your honorable self to request the Japanese Commander-in-Chief, Hiang, to take his soldiers back to Japan. And if in the vessels that have gone to Formosa there are American citizens aiding the Japanese we ask you to punish those that are acting improperly, whether on land or sea, in accordance with the eleventh article of the treaty and the laws of your country. From the time when your honorable self arrived in China you have always managed affairs in strict accordance with right, so that the streets are full of praises of yourself by rulers and people, and ourselves are truly thankful. Now that there are affairs in Formosa, over which you are Consul, you can show your friendly feelings by acting in accordance with the treaty and by taking measures in connection with Admiral Li and Prefect Chian. Thus can you show friendly feeling. We have sent a communication to Admiral Li, and also one to Prefect Chian, ordering him to go to Amoy and arrange the whole affair with you, for which purpose we give them full powers. And we request you to act with these two not only as officials but as friends. Hoping thus, with best regards, &c., &c., &c.

FIRST RESULTS AND GENERAL INFERENCES.

In the interview which followed all these subjects were discussed with greater freedom than would naturally have been possible in a series of letters. The Chinese appeared to be firmly of the opinion that if the Americans were withdrawn from the expedition the whole affair would fall through of itself. They could not have entertained a greater delusion. With a view to their removal they were extremely anxious that Mr. Henderson should himself visit Formosa, armed with all his authority, which he saw no sufficient reason for doing. Their anxiety for the despatch of the warning documents was not satisfied by the assurance that copies had already gone by way of Takao. They desired to have additional notifications specially addressed to supply the means of carrying this [illegible] was the occasion [illegible] which at first seemed so [illegible] of a United States [illegible] an official errand in [illegible] of-war. The Chinese gentlem