

LAST DAYS OF THE STANCH OLD SHIP SARATOGA

Flagship of Commodore Perry Opened up Japan to the Commerce of the World, and Now a Boston Firm Will Strip Her on the Junk Heap.

Boston.—Just at this time, when the first fleet ever assembled under one flag has started on its record-breaking voyage, it is interesting to record the passing of the last of the vessels that made up the squadron under command of Commodore Perry when he sailed into the Japanese harbor of Yedo in July, 1853.

"Queen of the fire vessels of the western barbarians," she was once called. Now she is to be demolished. Exit the Saratoga!

It is still a name to conjure with in far Japan. And in American history the stanch old sea fighter will be inseparably linked with Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry's epoch-making trip to what was then a land of mystery and of dreams. For that trip and the commercial treaty signed there opened up the Japanese empire to the commerce of the world.

Battered and full of years, the grand war hulk has been lying dismantled at Loague Island navy yard. Now she belongs to Thomas Butler & Co. of Boston. She will be taken to Philadelphia, where will be performed the last sad rites of this former pride of the American navy.

Only Seven Survivors.

There are those who will mourn her with a personal loss. Seven men yet live who made that memorable trip with Perry in the fifties. All but two

frigates and two sloops of war. For equipment, we mustered 61 guns and 977 officers and men—quite a respectable force for those times.

"Such a warlike apparition in the bay, small as it was, created a tremendous sensation. A Japanese writer said of our arrival: 'The popular commotion in Yedo was beyond description. The whole city was in an uproar. In all directions were seen mothers flying with children in their arms and men with mothers on their backs.'

"We were quite unconscious of all this confusion in a city of more than 1,200,000 souls. We had no idea we had frightened the empire so badly, as the capital was 40 or 50 miles away from our anchorage. As we proceeded up the harbor, boats fled away from us as though in mortal fear.

"By the time we were well anchored and shipshape the city officials took heart. Swarms of picturesque mandarins came off to challenge the strange arrivals and to draw around the fleet the customary cordon of guard boats. They even tried to make fast their boats to our ships.

"This began to look like being in custody. The American ambassador had not come to Japan to be put under sentences. He notified the mandarins that his vessels were not pirates and need not be watched. They pleaded Japanese law. He replied with American law. They still insisted. He notified them that if the boats were not instantly withdrawn he would open his batteries and sink them. That was entirely convincing. The guard boats stood not on the order of their going.

"The fire vessels of the western barbarians are coming to defile the holy country," said priest and soldier to one another.

Japs Gazed in Wonder.

The boatman at his sculls and the junk sailor at the tiller gazed in wonder at the painted ships of the western world. The former, standing knee deep in the oze of the rice fields, paused to marvel.

Had the barbarians harnessed vol-

gun came, with all ceremony, to treat with him, he was received by Lieut. Contee as the commodore's representative. The commodore himself could not be seen. In spite of all the wily oriental could do, the American ambassador remained aloof, and impressed the Japanese official mightily as a great man by his very exclusiveness.

When seeking trade, the Dutch had been willing to sink dignity and to treat with anyone. Therefore they were piggish, reasoned the Japanese. Surely these western "hairy barbarians" must be the same. When they found otherwise, messengers were kept running at breakneck speed between the Sho-gun's city and the seat of the mikado's government.

At last the bunio, who had been able to see only the "admiral's" subordinates, because he was not of sufficient importance to gaze upon the august features of the ambassador, announced that two daimios had been appointed to receive the mysterious papers so carefully guarded in caskets, which the "king of the power that had whipped Mexico" desired to send to the "Lord of Creation."

"Some three miles from our anchorage," says Dr. Sewall, "a little semicircular harbor makes in on the western side of the bay. At the head of it stood the village or hamlet of Kurama. That was the spot selected for the meeting of the western envoy and the imperial commissioners. And there the Japanese erected a temporary hall of audience.

"It was a memorable scene. The two frigates steamed slowly down and anchored off the harbor. How big, black and sullen they looked to the natives! Our little flotilla of 15 boats landed under cover of their guns.

"We were not quite 300 all told, but every one was in full uniform and armed to the teeth. The commodore had given orders to make as magnificent an appearance as we could, for the purpose of impressing a people who lay much stress on show. Yet our little body of men were few in number to confront 5,000 native troops drawn up on the beach to receive us.

Outshone the Japanese.

"Crowds of curious spectators lined the houses and grouped on the hills in the rear to witness our landing. Radiant uniforms, trappings and emblems were everywhere—but we compared favorably. Commodore Perry had, in fact, outshone the Japanese.

"The Japanese regiments seemed to have been cut out of rainbows and sunsets. But if they were lively, their officers were not. For they sat in silent dignity on camp stools in front of the lines.

"Not until our force had disembarked and formed on the beach did the commodore show himself. No Japanese had seen him up to that time. He had remained to them a mysterious presence, who would only appear when the duly qualified ambassadors of the emperor came to treat with him—and they must be princes of the blood.

"As our lines formed, the commodore stepped into his barge. Instantly the fleet was enveloped in great clouds of smoke. The guns were thundering out a salute that echoed among the hills back of the village. In all the negotiations he had played the Japanese people's own game and had enveloped himself in mystery.

"This was not child's play. It was not an assumption of pomp inconsistent with republican simplicity. Commodore Perry was dealing with an oriental potentate according to oriental ideas; and results proved his sagacity. At this time Commodore Perry was 59 years old, a man of splendid physique and commanding presence. He was the right kind of man for America to send on such an errand to such a people.

"Within the hall sat the Japanese commissioners on chairs. The imperial commissioners were Princes Idzu and Iwami, and they were surrounded by their kneeling suite. The vacant seats opposite were taken by the commodore and his staff. He entered the pavilion escorted by two gorgeously comparisoned blacks, preceded by two richly uniformed pages bearing the precious caskets containing the official papers to the emperor.

Ceremony Not Long.

"The ceremony began. It was very brief. At a signal the two boys in blue brought forward in slow and impressive fashion the rosewood caskets containing the mysterious papers which

were to be conveyed to the court. They were to be thus conveyed in a richly acquired chest of scarlet provided for the purpose. The two gorgeous negroes, who had followed the boys, opened the boxes in silence, and in silence drew out the papers, done in red and gold most magnificently. They laid them on the scarlet cover.

"The imperial commissioners were much impressed. They had never seen black men before except in their stage plays, when actors used burnt cork. Therefore, they estimated that this 'admiral,' as they knew him, must be a man of supreme power. Prince Iwami handed to the interpreters a formal receipt for the documents.

"The commodore announced that he would return in the spring for his reply. After a further brief conversation the conference closed, having lasted not more than 20 minutes. It had been witnessed by not more than 50 or 60 persons of both the countries engaged. Yet that short meeting was to lead to the opening of Japan.

The actual landing took place on July 14, 1853, and is commemorated by a single shaft of granite rising 33 feet into the air, placed on the spot where Perry landed from his ships. This monument was erected in 1901.

The treaty was not concluded and signed until March of 1854, when Perry returned with a greatly increased fleet to get his answer. At first the Japanese held out "that no American women should be brought to Japan." Commodore Perry informed them that if such a clause were put in he would be afraid to return to America. Thereafter all was good. Komor, the clause was stricken out and the treaty of commerce was signed, throwing open the ports of Shimoda and Hakodate.



Commodore Perry's Record.

Many consider Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry to have been a greater naval man than his more famous brother, Commodore Oliver Perry. In fact, the two are often confused. Besides opening up Japan to American trade and to western civilization, he was the greatest naval educator of his time. His life may be briefly summed up as follows:

- 1.—While yet a lad he was a naval officer in the war of 1812.
 - 2.—He chose the location of the first free black settlement in Liberia.
 - 3.—He was the father of the steam navy.
 - 4.—He first demonstrated the efficiency of the ram as a weapon of offense in naval warfare.
 - 5.—He founded the naval apprentice ship system.
 - 6.—He was leader of the campaign to extirpate the foreign slave trade on the coast of Africa.
 - 7.—He commanded in 1847 the largest squadron which had ever assembled under the American flag. This was in the Gulf of Mexico.
 - 8.—He opened Japan to the world.
- The Perry family furnished more naval officers to the United States than any other American family, with one exception. The study commander of the Saratoga was survived by three daughters, one of whom became the wife of August Belmont, the multimillionaire of New York.

STEEL MEN DISCUSS TRADE

AT A CONFERENCE NOW IN PROGRESS IN NEW YORK.

Settlement of a Steel Rail Price Basis Regarded as of the Utmost Importance.

New York, Dec. 21.—Conference between the various heads of the departments of the United States steel corporation have been in progress here this week, and it is understood they were called to prepare the officials of the great corporation for the general conference to be held next week among the members of the general co-operative committee and the various subcommittees of the recently formed organization, representative of 90 per cent. of the steel and iron industries, which in the absence of an official christening is referred to as the steel association. It is understood that the matter of price revision, as well as trade conditions, have been discussed at this week's conference, and it need not be surprising if certain reductions are agreed upon next week. Manufacturers admit that changed conditions will result in readjustment of price and lower price announcements are expected on sheet bars and billets and tin plates.

In steel circles the final settlement of a steel rail price basis is regarded as of the utmost importance to the trade. It is settled that the present price of \$28 per ton has reference to a discard of 9 per cent off the top of the ingot, and that an additional charge of 29c for each 1 per cent of further discard will be charged. Though steel orders for 1908 may not come in such volume as they did for 1907 delivery, there is no question but that the settlement of the question of price will bring in many orders.

The resumption of the Monessen plant of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co. at Sharon, is believed to have reference to proposed activity on the part of the American Can Co., which recently closed a five-year and \$5,000,000 contract with the California Fruit Packers' association. It is believed the closing of this contract has resulted in the placing of a large order for tin plates by the can company, but it is not believed that the big order has been given without a concession in price. So that it is assumed that a reduction in tin plate prices, although not yet officially announced, is already in effect.

STITCHES PUT IN HIS HEART

And Now Doctors Save Johnson From Pneumonia's Grasp.

New York, Dec. 21.—After surviving an operation in which four stitches were put in his heart, William Johnson developed plural pneumonia at Roosevelt hospital, but again is convalescing. Johnson was taken to the hospital suffering from an injury which was at once diagnosed as a stab wound in the heart. An incision was made in his side, three of his ribs cut through, forming a trap door, with the cartilage attaching the ribs to the breast bone acting as a hinge. The trap was lowered and it was found that the diagnosis was correct and that there was a half-inch slit in the pericardium. This was carefully sewed and the trap door was replaced. The next morning Johnson complained of pains in his lungs, and pneumonia rapidly developed. The doctors fought for the man's life, and although at one time death seemed certain, it is now announced that Johnson is on the road to recovery.

Many Injured When Trains Collided.

Calera, Ala., Dec. 21.—Four persons were seriously injured and a number of passengers cut and lacerated in a collision between a southbound passenger train and a northbound freight train one mile south of Calera, on the Louisville & Nashville railroad. The injured: Engineer J. D. Hayes, of freight train, may die; J. D. Long, a tramp, may die; Engineer Dave Watts, Mall Clerk Shea. None of the passengers was seriously hurt.

Smashup in Alabama.

Washington, Dec. 21.—That there was collision between the crews of the two trains wrecked at Terra Cotta, D. C., last December, to throw the blame for the calamity upon the telegraph operator at Silver Springs was charged by Assistant District Attorney Given and Proctor, during the trial of Engineer Hildebrand and others. Engineer Vermillion, of the wrecked local, had admitted as much they said.

Black Hand Letter.

Uniontown, Pa., Dec. 21.—Dominick Karota, a driver for a brewing company, was shot and killed here, presumably by Black Hand members. Several days ago Karota received a letter signed "Black Hand," threatening his life if \$500 should not be paid the society, but paid no attention to it.

Will Be Submitted To a Vote.

Philadelphia, Dec. 21.—The Rapid Transit Co., anticipating a strike of employes has ordered cots to be delivered at car barns. The question of calling strike will be submitted to a vote.

Indicted For Blackmail.

New York, Dec. 21.—Herman Voecks, whose arrest on a charge of blackmail in connection with the stories told by young girls about Raymond Hitchcock was caused by that actor some time ago, was indicted. Voecks was held in \$2,500 bail.

Immigration Lags.

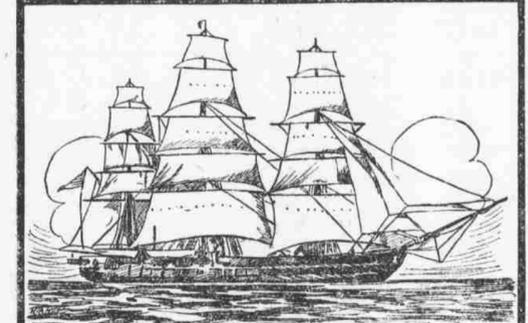
Flume, Hungary, Dec. 21.—The remarkable falling off in flow of emigration from this port to United States is illustrated by empty steerages on the Cunard steamers that left Flume during the past week for American ports.

Murdered His Divorced Wife.

St. Louis City, Ia., Dec. 21.—Following his divorced wife from Colorado to Marietta, T. E. Lock, a distance of 1,000 miles, T. E. Lock, a prominent farmer, murdered her and then killed himself, because she refused to give up her newly acquired husband.

Eighty-Cent Gas Defeated.

New York, Dec. 21.—The report of Referee Masten to the effect that the 80-cent gas law passed by the last legislature is unfair to the companies was sustained by Judge Hough in the United States district court.



The U. S. S. Saratoga.

of these seven survivors have risen high in the naval service and now hold the rank of rear admiral. The seven are: Rear Admiral Edward C. Robie, Rear Admiral John H. Poshur, Rear Admiral Oscar F. Stanton, Rear Admiral George Balch, Rear Admiral Edwin Fithian, Dr. John S. Sewall and William Spelden, who went out to Japan as purser's clerk, and has been connected with the New York customs house for years.

Dr. Sewall is the Rev. John S. Sewall, D. D., of Bangor, Me. He is an emeritus professor of Bangor's theological seminary, and is enjoying a rest from his labors after 36 years of faithful service.

"When I finished my college course at Bowdoin I was in debt," said Dr. Sewall, in reminiscent vein. "I saw a chance to satisfy my desire for the sea and pay off my debts at the same time, so I shipped for a cruise on the Saratoga. She was then fitting out to go to the far east to relieve the ship St. Mary's, which had been on that station several years.

"We were out there two years before Commodore Perry arrived. William S. Walker of Boston was the captain of the Saratoga. Rear Admiral Stanton was then only a midshipman on board. In the same mess with me during a part of the voyage.

Arrival of the Fleet.

"The fleet arrived off the coast of Japan on the eighth day of July, 1853. The lookouts at the masthead echoed through the fleets the rousing call, 'Land ho!' We rushed on deck. There it was at last. A dark cloud on the northern horizon, still shrouded in mystery, still inspiring the imagination with an indefinable awe, just as it had years ago in our studies at school. Our squadron comprised two steam

EXPLORED THE BLEAK NORTH.

French Countess Traveled Far in In-hospitable Country.

Countess Meherenc de St. Pierre, of St. Briene, province of Brittany, in France, has just returned from a lonely three months trip that took her 1,600 miles beyond civilization in the far northern districts of British America. She went forth accompanied by only two Indian guides and penetrated to the sixtieth parallel, riding astride, tramping, paddling in light canoes, floating down treacherous, rock-picketed rapids in clumsy native barges, and for one period of two weeks seeing no human being except her two Indian servants.

"The Indians in that region are very superstitious, very ungrateful, very independent, but very honest. I invited a chief to have luncheon with me. He refused. To eat in company with a woman would degrade him; he would lose caste with his tribe. In another part of the country I had some Indians and their squaws along on an

Conducive to a Beautiful Union.

With a young pair in any degree harmoniously fashioned by nature, nothing can conduce to a more beautiful union than eagerness of the maiden to learn and of the youth to teach. Out of it there arises a relationship as fundamental as it is agreeable.—Goethe.

CHECKS FOR LARGE SUMS.

One Drawn on the Bank of England Holds World's Record.

The check for a million which Mr. Pierpont Morgan is said to have sent to Mr. Cortelyou is in keeping with the western tradition of big things, but it does not entirely "whip creation."

The world's record check was the one paid over the Bank of England counter to the Japanese minister for the sum of £11,008,875, being the first installment of the Chinese indemnity after the war of a dozen years ago. An ordinary check with the usual penny stamp carried this huge sum. The next installment of the indemnity was paid by means of a check for £8,225,000 10s. When the De Beers Consolidated Mines bought the property of the Kimberley Central company the transaction was settled by a check for £5,338,850. Mr. Pierpont Morgan has not even beaten his own record. He once wrote out a check for £4,820,000, and six years ago, in connection with the

Chinese Fond of Birds.

Crows are regarded with much favor in China. They are taught cunning tricks and show a great deal of intelligence. Pigeons have bamboo whistles fastened to their feathers, so they make mysterious noises as they fly. Cats are taught to live in bird houses to protect the birds from rats.

Done at Hana gawa this thirty first day of March in the Year of our Lord Jesus Christ. One thousand eight hundred and fifty four, and of Koyu, the seventh year, third month and third day.

W. C. Perry

Last Clause of the First Japanese Treaty.

NEW YEAR REVERIES



Dramatis Personae—

A City Bachelor. Dan Cupid.

James, the Butler.

Scene—The living room of a wealthy bachelor's apartments.

Time—New Year's Eve.

THE Bachelor—How bright the fire. How cheery the crackling logs. Outside the Dying Year battles with the raging storm.

"What has the Old Year brought to me that I should mourn its passing?"

"Loves in plenty. But were they loves or were they passing fantasies—bright spots of blue peeping through the stormy sky. 'Tis many a sorry trick Dan Cupid has played me during the past twelve months. Could I but have him here I'd review him for his benefit."

"Ah, the bell rings! What friend or foe has braved the elements and come to disturb my reveries of a New Year's Eve?"

(Enter Butler.)

The Bachelor—A wee, small gentleman to see me, James, you say. But just a sweet-faced child. His card—Dan Cupid—Yes, I know him, and you may show him up. But, James, you're not a judge of character. He's not a child, he's old as time, and as full of devilish pranks as that neighbor's brat of whom you so complain.

(James departs and returns ushering in Dan Cupid.)

Dan Cupid—Ha, ha, dear sir, 'tis not love's night. Business is dull, and so I come to beg a chat with you and may, perchance, revive you for the shortcomings of the year that is passing.

The Bachelor—Reville me, you imp of Satan! Why, 'twas but a moment before your ring that I wished for you that I might review for your benefit the times you've played me false. Now sit you down and let's turn back the pages of the passing year and see the record. It surely will show you up in your true colors.

(Gets a volume from the shelf.)

"We'll start with January, and with Eleanor. Dan, you rogue, you wounded me for fair with her. I should not have cared had time and eternity been made up of Januarys could I but have had Eleanor to sit beside me before the crackling fire throughout them all. I pleaded well my case, but she would have none of it, and then I learned that you had played me false. Through February, March and April I nursed the wound

caused by your treacherous dart, and it was not until the flowers of May began to bloom that it would heal. But three short months and yet they seemed like years, like centuries, to me."

Dan Cupid—Good sir, the fault was yours, not mine. Across that page can you not read the promises you made the budding year? How did you keep them? Not at all. Had you but been the angel you started out to be, fair Eleanor would have had no grounds for the curt refusal she meted out to you.

The Bachelor—Ah, well, Dan, I was but human—that is, to err. She married, yes, and I suppose believed she had captured the one real matrimonial prize. But yesterday 'twas good to read the courts had cast asunder the bonds that bound, and set her free to wound another heart.

Dan Cupid—But you shall credit me with other opportunities that I made for you—opportunities more in keeping with your deserts.

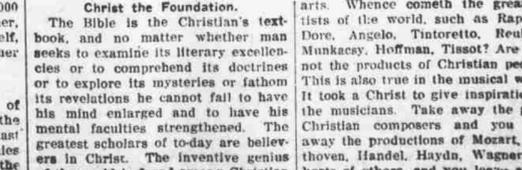
The Bachelor—Yes, Dan, there was Jessica, of the yachting party. The wound she left was not long in healing, but was painful at first. Then, later, there was Isabel. How I adored her. Your aim was sure, and the bow was strong that sent that shaft into my heart. Never can I forget the tender words with which I wooed her at the seashore, nor the pulsations of my heart when she answered "Yes." But, Dan, you rascal, you know her. But once since those summer days have I seen her. She served me coffee and rolls in a quick lunch room in November. I did not ask her where I might redeem the ring.

"Yes, Dan, there were others. But why review them? And I'll forgive you, you imp. I'll lay not up against you a single pang—or dollar—they have cost me—on one condition—that you shall not, for this next year, point your darts in my direction. Do you agree? Then we'll burn the book, and think no more of it." (Casts it into the fire.)

"And now, then, Dan, the year is dying. A toast to it and its fond memories; to your escapades and my escapades; to the fair girls who caused the heart throbs of a season; to the broken promises that saved me troubles; to the Old Year. And another, Dan, to the year just 'borning,' to the anticipations which it brings. The bells are ringing; the Old Year is dead; the New Year lives, and now, good night, but please remember that you have promised not to aim your darts in my direction."

(Exit Dan Cupid and Curtain.)

Wright A. Patterson.



Christ the Foundation.

The Bible is the Christian's text-book, and no matter whether man seeks to examine its literary excellencies or to comprehend its doctrines or to explore its mysteries or fathom its revelations he cannot fail to have his mind enlarged and to have his mental faculties strengthened. The greatest scholars of to-day are believers in Christ. The inventive genius of the world is found among Christian people. This is also true in the fine

arts. Whence cometh the great artists of the world, such as Raphael, Dore, Angelo, Tintoretto, Rubens, Munkacsy, Hoffman, Tissot? Are they not the products of Christian people? This is also true in the musical world. It took a Christ to give inspiration to the musicians. Take away the great Christian composers and you take away the productions of Mozart, Beethoven, Handel, Haydn, Wagner and hosts of others, and you leave a crying wilderness.