THE JOURNAL

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Russia's Storm and Stress.

The tumultuary condition of affairs in St. Petersburg, where the strike of a few thousand iron workers for better wages and better factory arrangements has developed into a mighty demand of the multitude for human rights and popular participation in the government, is likely to be met by stern repression which will deepen the unrest.

The petition of the people which was to have been presented to the czar Sunday, has been forbidden. It bears the impress of Father Gopon's leadership, and, altho suppressed, will have large circulation. The situation both at home and abroad for Russia is most unfortable, and even the masters of Russia's slippery diplomacy are at their wit's end.

Secretary Hay has secured sufficient adhesion to his recent note to the powers to check Russia in her decision to secure compensation for the loss of Port Arthur and the Kwang-tung province in southern Manchuria by seizing other Chinese territory. Our government, at the time Russia, acting under the program devised by that sly servant of the czar, Paul Lessar, who has been pulling secret wires at Peking for some years, was laying her hands on section after section of Manchurian territory, definitely announced our policy to the powers as a purpose to "seek a solution which may bring about permanent peace to China, preserve Chinese territorial administrative entity, protect all rights guaranteed to friendly powers by treaty and international law and safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese empire." When the war between Russia and Japan broke out, our department of state procured the assent of the powers, including the belligerents, to the proposition, of American origin, that the fighting should be confined to a distinctly marked war zone, and that the neutrality of Chinese territory should be respected. The position was reiterated that this country would oppose any attempt from any quarter to partition China. Our government anticipated possible Russian treachery, and Great Britain, Germany and France gave their adhesion to the American policy.

Secretary Hay is now credited with the further purpose, in view of possible negotiations for peace between Russia and Japan, of getting the powers to agree that there shall be no grab game for Chinese territory as was the case at the close of the China-Japan war ten years ago. It would only be in accordance with our policy of maintaining the territorial and administrative entity of China to secure the complete evacuation of the two southern provinces of Manchuria by the troops of both belligerents. Germany, however, with Shantung province and with Kiao-chau for her seaport, and with her eye on an extensive hinterland to be seized on the first opportunity, whether afforded by Russian aggression or other cause, has never been a strenuous opponent of Russian aggression in Manchuria; and the period of peace negotiations after this now hesitant war will probably be a trouble-breeding time, if not as acrimonious as the fight over the Turkish spoils after the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78 by the diplomats at Berlin.

Russia faces a critical situation. Yet it must be remembered she has 400,000 soldiers awaiting orders around Mukden, under Kuropatkin, and a numerically formidable fleet of warships waiting for something to turn up, loitering along the east coast of Africa. Why don't these costly implements of war start forward and snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and divert Russian attention from the situation at home, now increasingly tragical? Is there a halt in Russian aggression? Is the Colossus sick, or weary and needing rest?

Rhode Island has been re-elected by Senator Aldrich.

Penalties in Murder Cases.

Minnesota is one of a few states fixing capital punishment for murder in the first degree. It is true that some option is left to the presiding judge. If he concludes there are "exceptional circumstances," he may change the penalty to life imprisonment. The jury, however, has no control over that act, and in voting for a verdict of guilty, the jury is voting to hang the prisoner.

No doubt this requirement of the law is responsible for many disagreements in murder cases. The New Ulm case is not exactly in point, for the evidence there did not seem to warrant a verdict of guilty in any degree. However, suppose the circumstantial evidence in the Koch case had been stronger. Most jurors would hesitate a long while before voting to hang a man on circumstantial evidence. If allowed to fix the penalty at life imprisonment, they would look at the matter in a different light. While there is life there is hope, and if the prisoner should be innocent, time would tell.

The legislature would do well, it seems to The Journal, in amending the law to permit juries to select the penalty for prisoners convicted of murder. The jury is capable of deciding what penalty is merited by the crime, and the exercise of this option would often avert disagreements and the necessary retrials.

Senator Smoot does not remember whether there was a goat.

Favorable Business Outlook.

One item of very favorable import stands out prominently in all business summaries of the week, the statement that collections are especially good in the northwest. Over the country, on the whole, there is a satisfactory state of trade, even tho it is noted that distributive lines are less active than might be desired, and the movement of merchandise from points of production to consumptive centers, is not in all cases lively enough to effect a quick clean-up. There is, however, no congestion, and no likelihood of overproduction. It is a between-seasons time in distributive trade, spring demand not yet fairly started and buyers going a little slow. This should shortly give way to buying activity, and stocks at manufacturing centers, now reported as showing some accumulation, should be drawn down.

Meanwhile it is interesting to note that of all sections the northwest is quicker to pay up, and that little difficulty is experienced in making collections. The south is not in such good condition, for declines in cotton have operated for conservatism and have created stringency in some districts, making it harder to effect prompt settlement of accounts.

The northwest is the favored section, and has more ready money, relatively, than any other. When once the spring trade opens here, there will be buying on a large scale, and opportunity for new northwestern jobbing records will be afforded.

The east is freer from labor troubles than for a long time, and the New England industrial situation is looking up.

Speculation is rampant in stocks, and the bank clearings in New York show increase this week of 50 per cent, largely due to financial transactions. Stocks have been rising for a long time, with temporary setbacks only, and the fever being on, there is no predicting how long it will run, or to what high levels prices may be carried before the inevitable reaction comes.

It has been a bad week for the bulls in wheat. Receipts at Minneapolis have been running altogether heavier than they had predicted, and this has been a powerful argument for decline. With this Argentine has begun to ship heavily. So far it is largely a guess as to Argentine, and whether or not she is to have a surplus equal to last year is not certain. This is the season, however, when Argentine begins to increase her movement to Europe. A year ago on Jan. 23, the first big figures came from Argentine, and from that time on, every week until March, she shipped heavily. When the report for last week, showing shipments of 1,176,000 bushels came to hand, the trade took it as indication of the beginning of another continued heavy movement, and it was under the influence of this and other weakening reports that Minneapolis May wheat sold down to $1.13 against the recent price of $1.19¼.

Which reminds us that Mrs. Chadwick has not "told her story" yet.

Newspapers in a Democracy.

John Morley, the distinguished English historian and biographer of Gladstone, who has just returned home after a long visit in the United States, has declared in a public speech his belief that "reading abundant newspapers was not an illegitimate, but an entirely wholesome process." Defining democracy as "government by public opinion," he reminded his hearers that public opinion in all classes was in constant need of stimulation and improvement. He cited daily newspapers as highly valuable agencies of such stimulation. In fact, he went further and declared that men living in the open air and under the broad skies of public activity could not understand nor find their way thru the meanings and tendencies of that activity without newspapers.

But the public, he said, was not getting all it should out of the newspapers because it read them cursorily, thoughtlessly. His recommendation was that newspaper classes be formed in which, each evening, someone take the events all over the world recorded that day and explain what they were all about. He believed libraries to be the best places for such classes, for there the librarian could take from the shelves groups of books bearing upon what chanced to be the chief topics of the week.

In a democracy, governed by public opinion, the necessity of acquiring exact information concerning things which are of importance to that democracy is, indeed, great. Every day there are events in every part of the United States, particularly in the national and state capitals, that are of importance to the public. The average citizen cannot make a personal investigation of the course of the government in any particular matter, altho his interest in it may be vital. He watches the newspapers, and from their reports of the actions of the men he has helped into public office, decides whether they are doing their full duty, or whether others should be chosen in their places to guard his and his neighbor's interests.

There are points even higher than these. If they are well-informed and are thinkers, the people shape national and state policy. The president and congressmen then become merely deputies for the expression in deed of the desire of the citizens. Even in the matter of foreign affairs the actions of the government, veiled with secrecy tho most of them may be, are controlled in large measure by the people. The state department has been known even to reverse itself because the country protested, as in the notorious "Queen Lil" case. This is, indeed, a land

Where whoso wisely wills and acts may dwell
As king and lawgiver.

The increase of its circulation means more than a betterment of a newspaper's financial condition; more than that, its value as an advertising medium has improved. It means that the people are not unmindful of the public welfare; that they are seeking information and endeavoring to make of themselves better citizens. But no matter how conscientiously a newspaper may labor with its full duty in mind, the results never can be entirely satisfactory so long as subscribers read important news thoughtlessly. As an auxiliary to the work of the newspapers, a school such as Mr. Morley suggests would be of incalculable value. And nobody would appreciate it more than the newspaper-makers themselves. Nothing inspires an orator to his best effort so much as an intelligent audience; nor a newspaper-maker so much as an intelligent reader.

Russia seems to be in the position of a glass-house florist in a hail storm.

The Journal Junior.

This is the tenth anniversary of The Journal Junior as a department of The Journal and the eighth anniversary of the elevation of this unique and very successful juvenile department into the form and dignity of a paper conducted by and for the children of the public schools. It has therefore seemed appropriate to mark the occasion by a special edition today of double the regular size.

We have evidence that all kinds of people interested in all kinds of things read this juvenile paper, and we expect that two classes in particular—parents and teachers—will be especially interested in the current number. Hundreds of expressions of high appreciation of the plan and character of The Journal Junior have been received from both the classes named. A very few of those received, unsolicited, we have taken the liberty to make use of for the purpose of explaining and emphasizing an important service to the rising generation which this juvenile department has already rendered, and is now performing more successfully than ever before.

In view of the criticism often made of the efficiency of the public schools, particularly in the teaching of English, it is interesting to note the testimony of the editor of The Journal Junior on this point; and certainly no one is in a position to speak from larger experience and knowledge of the subject. With an average of 2,000 manuscripts a week received in the office of The Journal Junior from public schools all over the northwest, it can hardly be said that the means of forming a fair judgment are not at hand.

Then there is the work itself in this issue—the work of the "Juniors" of today representing no more than a fair average, and of the young people who contributed in former years, but who are now either in the colleges and universities or in business or at the head of homes of their own.

The Journal Junior is a success; it has arrived. On this tenth anniversary it spreads before the public the work of the pupils of the public schools of the northwest with a genuine pride in the product and not a little satisfaction in the recognition accorded by distinguished educators of the part which it has played in influencing the character of the work done.

A year ago Public Examiner Johnson had to summon John Barry by subpena to get his testimony as to certain things found in the auditor's office. Mr. Barry had done the work, but refused to make a report. Now he wants to do the expert work for another legislative investigating committee. Just imagine him detailed on an examination of the public examiner—a sight for gods and men.

The Anti-Soot Movement.

There was an important conference on the smoke nuisance at the mayor's office yesterday, which resulted in some action being taken along practical lines. A number of practical men were present who testify that in their experience with heating and power plants it was more largely a question of capacity than of patent devices. The conference took this view of the question so far as to recommend to the counsel the passage of an ordinance appointing a smoke inspector who shall be a practical furnaceman and engineer. It was thought that such a man going about among the different plants would be able to make suggestions of changes that would largely reduce the smoke nuisance in the business district and practically abate it in the residence district.

Of course, having the power to enforce the law, his suggestions would be met by the owners at least in a spirit of compromise. Another and more important improvement, for the future, was offered in the suggestion that the building inspector be given power to inspect and regulate the building of steam and heating plants in the new buildings. It seems to be conceded that a great deal of the smoke nuisance is due to the fact that many industries have insufficient plants for the work required of them. They are worked under forced draft and the coal gases are blown up the chimney before ignition. This causes the smoke nuisance as well as a great loss of heat.

The temper of the conference was that while nothing radical or drastic shall be done, the city must have a settled policy of ridding itself of the smoke nuisance. This view of the question is unquestionably the correct one.

The Kansas City Journal brings interesting details of the senatorial situation in Missouri. It states that federal officeholders and other partizans of Niedringhaus were not content with defeating Kerens. They must rub it in. They grew arrogant and insolent, and Mr. Neidringhaus himself was quoted as saying that he would "drive the Irish pup into the Mississippi river." This was a little more than human nature could stand. The result was that the ire and indignation of Kerens and his friends were aroused. Mr. Kerens returned to Jefferson City, and there was some caucusing which has resulted in the failure of Niedringhaus to receive a majority of the votes cast. This is a good warning against "rubbing it in."

General J. L. Bristow has gone down to detect the Panama canal commission.

A Bachelor's Anxiety.

Every once in a while a bachelor bobs up with a question of the highest privilege, "Is the married man perfectly happy?" There is one in New York now who is offering a thousand-dollar bill to any married man who will come forward and depose that he has never known a moment of discontent with his lot.

This is an unfair proposition and the bachelor knows it. It is the years that make up life and not the moments, and it is the average of experience that decides for happiness or unhappiness, not the night the furnace quits at 12 o'clock or the afternoon that you forgot to meet your wife at the matinee. There is not a married man who will not be asked by his wife to get this bunch of dollars for her by deposing and swearing and there is not a married man who will not depose or swear. This bachelor will soon be penniless if he does not draw down his offer, and have to marry a nice woman to recoup his fortunes.

There are two or three questions suggested by this bachelor defi. First and foremost we should like to know why the laws of our country are so lax that a bachelor has a thousand dollars to use in undermining the substrata of society? Why does not the government take it away from him on the ground that it is against public policy for him to use it in that way? As well give a man a license to carry a torch among fireproof buildings as to let loose a bachelor with a thousand-dollar bill and such a question.

Secondly, it is proper to inquire why is this bachelor so curious? Why should it be worth a thousand dollars to him to learn whether married men are happy or not? "Let the galled jade wince, his withers are unwrung." Isn't every bachelor satisfied with his lot, and isn't every bachelor sure that the married man is in the consomme? Really, when a man offers such an unheard-of (to a married man) sum for information, it looks as if he was shaky.

The British parliament is about to be dissolved and T. R. is just getting ready to soak the American congress.

Smoot's Testimony.

Senator Reed Smoot is not a fool. After having heard a number of prophets and prophetesses testify, and after having noted that the air of the committee room needed changing immediately thereafter, he was able, when his turn came, to put up a brand of evidence that was safer, saner and of a more sweet odor. After reading his remarks the public will see in Smoot a brother to the man who confessed he was a Christian, but had not worked at it for two years. Smoot confesses he has been a Mormon, but he does not seem to have taken much interest in it nor acquired much knowledge about the church. He took the endowment oaths, but cannot recollect anything about them. He was an apostle, but never heard that Smith et al. had contracted polygamous marriages after 1890, until they testified to it. He had heard of religious classes being held, but didn't know that they were held in school buildings.

On the cross-examination begun by Mr. Taylor, Senator Smoot was not so happy, and he was distinctly uncomfortable when Senator Burrows questioned him. The senator asked him if he understood President Smith was disobeying the law, and Mr. Smoot replied: "I do not so understand it." His memory refreshed on Smith's own testimony that he had had eleven children by five different wives since 1890, Smoot again answered evasively: "I could not say that he has lived with these wives." Confronted with Smith's own admission that he had, Smoot answered reluctantly: "It was a violation of the law."

This kind of testimony shows disingenuousness on the part of the defendant. Of course, he knew what Smith's testimony was. He apparently wants to disassociate himself from the foul practices of his church, just far enough to be eligible to the senate, and not ineligible to the favor of the hierarchy. Evidently he realizes that the bold and disgusting testimony of Smith was a grand mistake, but he is too much under the thumb of the First Presidency to denounce the man who gave it.

Polygamous Mormons, tho they may be numerically in a minority, are the rulers of Utah, and disloyalty exudes from every pore of the polygamist. Whether Smoot can be legally shut out of the senate because of his Mormon connections is a constitutional question, but there can be very little reason to doubt that he is there as the tool and errand boy of the polygamists, whatever his personal attitude on that question.

Mr. Mork's capitol bill, introduced yesterday, is free from one of the serious objections advanced against the Horton bill. It does not create a sinecure. The trouble with the Mork bill is that it places the burden of the building's management on a commission of state officers, all of them busy men with diverse duties. There is no reason why the attorney general, for instance, should wrestle with the problem of buying soap for the capitol.

The Japanese grip on Korea is being strengthened by the rapid railroad building and by settlements of Japanese that are springing up everywhere. The same tactics are being pursued in Manchuria. Even if Japan does not hold the country permanently, it will be pretty well Japanned, so to speak, and continue to attract settlers. The final result would appear to be obvious.

Junkets of the kind described in the local columns today are an abomination and a reproach to the legislature. It is to be hoped that members will not let down the bars this year as they have in the past. If the privileges on such occasions are to be handed out to Tom, Dick and Harry the junkets might as well be abolished entirely.

A real estate dealer advertises for an "elderly gentleman to take charge of an office, without salary. Must wait for the development of the business, and pay part of the office expenses." Here is an opening for some "elderly gentleman" to get enormously rich.

Wise newspapers have recently been moralizing over the alleged election of Roosevelt on Jan. 20. Do not be deceived by unreliable reports. The sure-enough election will be pulled off Feb. 8, eastern time. No, you need not register.

And Mr. Cockran paid postage on 100,000 copies of his speeches in the last campaign. No wonder he wanted to "go to the bottom" in the postoffice investigation. Maybe he expected to find some returned copies there.

The war department has very sensibly refused to establish expensive forts along the Great Lakes. Before Canada could besiege Duluth the Fifteenth Minnesota would have Medicine Hat annexed.

New York is following in our steps. District Attorney Jerome has closed the gambling hells in that city without waiting for "the aggrieved parties to make a complaint."

Henry Cabot Lodge says it is either government control of railroad rates or a tremendous pressure for government ownership. Certainly the world do move.

The government has suspended the St. Petersburg papers. How would you like to live where you couldn't find out what the trouble was?

We are now warned against germs in the napkins and table linen. It is about time for some authority to find microbes on the canary.

It is now claimed that Dr. Koch is in the meshes of a local baseball feud. He is entitled to a change of venue.

After removing the stuffing we find that there was barely a quorum present in Colorado.

NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

THE UNEASY CHAIR

The Love Affair of a Daughter of French Nobility, in the Icarian Settlement on the Mississippi; a Story of the Commune and the Ante-Bellum "Underground Railroad."—Love where there was an attempt, at least, at "equality in rank and property, the sanctity of the family; religious freedom, and in the goods and labor"; where there was "to each according to his needs, from each according to his powers"—that is about half the story of Katherine Holland Brown's **Diane.** The other half has to do with an "Underground Railroad" conductor, a young officer of the United States army who gave up his commission to help slaves evade the fugitive slave law.

DIANE,
Heroine of Katharine Holland Brown's Book.

Diane was the ward of Etienne Cabet, the father of the commune, "the city of dreams." She was "the final exquisite blossom of her race," a charming, brave and true-hearted girl. Robert Channing was a red-blooded, courageous young man worthy of such a girl at Diane. These two from far-parted homes, are brought together on the Mississippi in the days when the storm of civil war was gathering. The interest in the story centers in Diane's loyalty to Cabet, whose authority in the commune was falling away and in her love for Channing, also in Channing's break with his friends, who were southerners, in order that he might aid fugitive slaves. Among these friends was Rose Faulkner, a fine character from every point of view. A friend of both Diane and Channing was Petit Clef, a crippled French lad of the commune, who "counted the thoughts of those who loved him as another might count his gold."

KATHARINE HOLLAND BROWN,
Author of Diane."

We have seen somewhere the statement that this is the first book by the author. It might well be the third or the sixth book—of a conscientious author at that. The plot is such as life is constantly offering to those who will see, the characters are clearly drawn and such as one would find it both profitable and entertaining to know in real life, and the incidents illuminate both character and plot. The author's workmanship is equal, for the most part, to her material and her task. There are flashes here and there that promise much, such as the following:

"From time immemorial, Philosophy has built her adamantine fortress, only to find it undermined by Hope."

By way of description there is this of the river in the light of gathering night and an approaching storm:

"The river flashed white as a ribbon of molten lead; the purpling western sky flickering with points of fire."

When the book-lover is offered a well-told story about attractive people, associated with institutions of unique interest in a time of historic importance, what more can he ask?

Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. $1.50.

An Idea for Quick-Fire Novelists.—The information that General Lew Wallace worked on "Ben Hur" for seven years should give hope to the plodding novelist, not satisfied with anything but the best, and should give pause to him—or her—satisfied with anything that will sell. General Wallace had never seen Palestine when he wrote his great story, a fact which it is difficult to understand when one recalls the scenes he paints. But one sees how he made up for the fact that he had not seen Palestine in a measure from the following statement by the general:

"I doubt if any novel has ever had more careful studies for its background and life than those made for "Ben Hur." I knew that the novel would be criticized by men who had devoted their lives to Biblical lore, and I studied Palestine thru maps and books. I read everything in the way of travel, scientific investigation, and geography. I had scores of maps and worked with them about me. My best guide was a relief map of Palestine made in Germany. This was hung on my wall, and by means of it I took my characters thru the passes of the mountains and up and down the hills, measuring their daily travel by the scale of miles. I also made studies of the bird and animal life of the time and place."

Where to Get Just the Thought You Want When You Want It.—Thoughts for the Occasion is the title of a series of books being issued for those who want light—mental light—of a particular kind at particular times, and sometimes in between. Two of the series are in our hands. **Makers of the American Republic** is made up of a series of lectures on the Virginia colonists, the Pilgrim fathers, the Hollanders, the Huguenots and similar subjects. The information and quotations these lectures contain are such as are of value to the public speaker and the student. **Fraternal and Benevolent Societies** will be found of value by those who are interested in the numerous organizations which have come to exert such a wide influence in America. The book is a mine of information for such persons.

E. B. Treat & Co., New York. $2 each.

A Book for the Kitchen Library.—The house that has not a kitchen library these days is not completely furnished. A kitchen library is made up of cookbooks, and we venture to say that no equal number of books about a well-regulated house can bring so much real satisfaction to a household as a collection of such books. We venture to say, too, that **French Home Cooking,** with the emphasis on the "Home," by Berthe Julienne Low, should have a front position in such a library. We said emphasis on the "Home," because the compiler, or better, author, of this book lays stress on the fact that the recipes contained therein are not gathered from hotels or restaurants. There are besides recipes, hints for the economical conduct of the kitchen, another very valuable recommendation for the work.

McClure, Phillips & Co., New York.

"FAUST" IN JAPANESE

Tokio Cable.

A new version of "Faust" has been given here, and is now making the tour of the principal cities of Japan.

The author, a Japanese playwright, closely stuck to the personality of Faust and Marguerite in his new play, but the Japanese Mephistopheles is represented as an occidental devil, a modern European, who by his perversity has succeeded in betraying the fair daughter of the Rising Sun.

At last Marguerite is absolved by her judges with the caution, which forms the moral of the play, never more to have deals with occidental devils, and is married to a triumphant warrior just returning from the war in Manchuria.

LAWSON'S MISSION.

Washington Post.

Tom Lawson is at least educating the public to appreciate the difference between the price and the value of stocks.

JUST A SMILE

You can drive the clouds away
With a smile,
Just a smile;
Turn the darkness into day
With a smile,
Just a smile!
Oh, there's nothing when a man
Feels the weight of sorrow's yoke,
In this whole wide world that can
All distress and grief revoke,
As a smile,
Just a smile.

—Sunset Magazine.

A PROPER GIRL

A proper young maiden named Martha
Said: "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther."
But her beau in some haste
Put his arm round her waist,
And she blushed as she murmured: "Why, Artha."

With the Long Bow.

—"Eye nature's walks, shoot folly as it flies."

Mr. Zweipigglesteinstopper works in the steel mills at Joliet, Ill. The other day he had a saw edge on and appeared before the local judge in the category of "plain drunk." The court asked him his name and the stenographer, who tried to keep up with Mr. Z.'s explosion when he gave it, broke into a sudden series of crazy hen's tracks and flying dots that struck sparks from the notepaper.

John W. Gates, the $1.50 wheat bull, is reported to have taken lessons in "The Art of Letting Go a Tailholt."

It is said the people are taking a great interest in this matter of control of the railroads. What business is it of theirs?

J. Pierpont Morgan has just annexed China by getting a good half-Nelson on that country's backbone railroad. Russia and Japan might as well go off behind the Great Chinese wall and lie down.

Some six or eight months ago this column said:

"Let the election be held and the issue determined on afterwards."

This was practically what was done. The issue of "railroad rebates" is now practically determined on.

If you are real avaricious and desire to make about four hundred and twenty-seven dollars' profit, it is a good idea to sell your new house and live in a drifting-about, furniture-packing, storage-house, flat-and-summer-resort state of mind for several years. The damage to the furniture and the excess rent you pay before the next home is built amount to about one thousand two hundred twenty-seven dollars and forty cents. Stay put.

The suppressed emotion of the Japanese over the war has brought to the surface a strange tale connected with Takachiho, the holy mountain in the province of Hyuga. The mountain is high and the forest is deep. A famous Shinto shrine, Kirishima Tonja, is hidden on Mount Kirishima, in the shadow of Takachiho. Here it was, on the night of Feb. 8 last, the hour the Japanese navy started towards Port Arthur, that Seibei Ikeda, a Japanese gentleman, observed strange lights sweeping down from the Tekachiho upon Kirishima. The time was near midnight. The fires were in strange round circles and there were more than ten thousand, making a long chain more than three miles in length. Seibei hurried to the village and woke up the neighbors and they also saw the strange fireballs. And the same report came from the village on the other side of the mountain. It was said that once before, in the war with China, were those lights seen. The mountain is now a point for sacred pilgrimages.

Dr. T. F. Bond, a London expert, says that low temperatures or drafts do not cause colds, but that eating improperly or too much is the cause. People, he says, who are caught by colds are the ones who are continually accumulating in the tissues and excreting organs material which, when stored beyond a certain point, has to be blown off in a "cold" or a "bilious attack," or in a pronounced fit of gout. If this is the case, it would seem foolish to "treat a cold" and not to treat its real cause, which is gluttony, a mental error. People overeat because a dinner "tastes good" and are proud of their fine appetites. Others take a "stimulant" to increase this same appetite. No wonder we have to "blow off" in some kind of disease or other. When are we going to get a little good sense on these things?

A long time has elapsed since any one of the American battleships has tried to climb up on the continent. These shore-leave sailors who want to spend ten months of the year at Newport, R. I., are finding out that it is safer to let the old seadogs steer the craft when land is in sight.

A few years ago one Admiral Crowninshield, who for years navigated a desk in the navy department at Washington, was seized with a strong and uncontrollable desire to sniff the salt air. He took treatment for it, but it was useless. Finally the department gave him his head and let him take the North Atlantic squadron out for exercise in European waters. Admiral Crowninshield was as full of enthusiasm as a boy in his first set of small pants, but he was cautious enough at first to let the sad seadogs who stood at his elbow, steer the ships thru the brine for him. The craft seemed to go so easily that the admiral took charge one day and shouted his orders hoarsely from the bridge the way the old sailors used to do.

A series of disasters followed that were not paralleled in sea annals until Commodore Fred Olds, singing, "Yo, heave ho," attempted to navigate the waters of Minnetonka in his gasolene launch, the "Stormy Petrel." The flagship run by Admiral Crowinshield rammed the kingdom of Norway and failing to sink it, was left on the rocks of some harbor or other, while the cables were kept hot for three days explaining to Washington how the hawser had jammed in the starboard binnacle and fouled the steering apparatus. The department never quite saw thru it, but Crowninshield was recalled and the navy was pulled off of Norway by six or eight tugs at high tide and anchored in dry dock, where the sea dentists plugged the cavities in the ship with gold filling.

Since that time the office-desk fighters have been kept chained to the wastebaskets at the navy department building at Washington and the navy has managed to keep afloat without trying to reach the continental divide overland. This policy has saved the nation considerable money.

—A. J. R.

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