

The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

POLISH CHILD AND HIS ART GENIUS.

Boy Painter of Thirteen, Whose Pictures Are in the Salon, Coming Here

WILL EXHIBIT AT ST. LOUIS

Prodigy's Father a Famous Illustrator—The Son's Wonderful Picture of Tolstoi—His Personality.

Special Correspondence.

PARIS, May 1.—There soon will arrive in New York, en route for St. Louis and the Exposition, a painter of the age of 13, with an established European reputation already at the back of him. A strange boy, as may be imagined: an anomaly in every sense of the word: with nothing of the characteristics of his years,

and visitors began to question and to prophesy. For the boy was trying now with palette and with clay—dolls, horses and other animals—still feeling his presence as a model. Then he and his father came to Paris, the rest of the family remaining in Poland. Jan Styka had grown used to his son's companionship, grown used to his presence in his studio, and so brought him with him.

In Paris the reproach was made to Styka that the boy's education (save the mark) was being neglected, so the father, as he thought in duty bound, as much against his own will as his son's, sent him to the Jesuit Fathers in the Rue de Valenciennes. It is to be feared that in reliance and mathematics Tada was considered inattentive; but he brought back the gold medal for drawing.

Another development followed. One day the boy brought to his father a life-size canvas depicting his conception of Silenus, the husband Bacchante with the vine-leaves in his hair. It was impossible to dispute further; the boy at 11 years of age, had declared himself a born painter.

Yet even then the father was not quite sure. They were living in that great block of studios on the Place Pigalle which Pavis de Chavannes and so many others have rendered illustrious; Heller and Jerome were living next door, and Styka went to see them and ask them to judge the work. The reply was decisive: the Jesuit Fathers say Tada Styka no more; he came to live with his father—two comrades (it is his father's own expression) working together in their art.

Thenceforward they abided together, fellow artists sharing one studio, but



TADA STYKA AT WORK IN HIS STUDIO. His portrait of Tolstoi, on the right, was hung in the Paris salon of 1903. His portraits of his father—before which he is standing—and that of himself—on the floor—are now being exhibited in the Paris salon of 1904. The statue on the left is also by Tada.

lid, with the eyes that grasp the vision of truth and beauty, and the mobile mouth that speaks of limitless potentiality, "Tadum and solitari" they termed him at the Jesuits; but it was no such thing. No morbid limitation, only an absolute self-devotion.

He has had his pomping, of course, and recalls with pleasure his bicycling escapades with Jean de Reszke's son last summer at St. Jean de Luz. He rides a horse and enjoys it, and in the studio can be seen in a classic heroic pose, to make him strong, says his father, since health and strength are the handmaids of successful art. But the truth is, he exists only for his work, "Tadum and solitari" they termed him at the Jesuits; but it was no such thing. No morbid limitation, only an absolute self-devotion.

He and son live alone together in their studio on the Place Pigalle, Bohemian both. There is no show of authority on the father's side. Tada is "serious," and needs no guiding hand. So they work together, and for recreation seek to see the galleries, the Luxembourg or Louvre.

It is wonderfully interesting to see them paint simultaneously from the same model. He would like to win the Prix de Rome; but for that he must become a naturalized Frenchman, and then the dreadful military service (doubly dreadful to an artistic nature) which he must undergo in order to be admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts. Perhaps when they have once known America, the Stykas will learn to love it and make it their future home.

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MILITARY BUNGLING IN RUSSIAN ARMY.

Startling Instances of Incompetency Have Greatly Troubled The Czar.

COMPARISONS WITH JAPAN.

Men of Latter Country Plead to Get into the Army but Those of Russia Want to Keep Out.

Special Correspondence.

PETERSBURG, April 27.—It is an open secret here that the situation in the far east has inspired the czar, the imperial family and the members of the government with grave fears for the future of the Russian empire. Neither the czar nor his advisers expected that Japan would push matters to extremes, and the events since the rupture of diplomatic relations have developed, their first alarm into panic, pure and simple. There have been blunders, big and small, in all departments of the army and navy, and there have been manifestations of opposition to the war among the Russian people themselves which must fill the hearts of the powers—that be with dismay.

The violently unpatriotic attitude of considerable sections of the Russian nation has been the severest blow to the czar, who has been plunged into despair by the discovery that so many of his subjects detest him and his government. No sooner had he been declared than there was a rush of young men liable to compulsory military service at the front to escape from the country than this evaded their obligations to the fatherland.

The czar felt this all the more keenly because it offered such a striking contrast to the patriotism shown in Japan, in one case where a young Japanese soldier was exempted from active service at the front on the ground that he was the sole support of his widowed mother, the mother committed suicide in order that her boy might be free to take the field against the nation's enemy, and with her last breath handed him the dagger with which she had stabbed herself to the heart, commanding him to plunge it into as many Russian bodies as possible. Wealthy Japanese who were not required to perform active military service sacrificed brilliant professional and commercial careers to enlist as common soldiers, and young boys who were not allowed to go to the front on account of physical unfitness committed suicide because they were ashamed to be thus debarré from risking their lives for the sake of the fatherland.

DODGING MILITARY SERVICE.

Many instances of the extraordinary patriotism of the Japanese became known here and caused intelligent Russians, from the czar downward, to reflect on the reasons of the marked difference between Japan and Russia in this respect. The young Russians who desired to evade military service practiced all sorts of cunning devices to achieve their object. After the outbreak of war, the Russian authorities refused all applications from Russian men for passes permitting them to leave the country, so that fugitives from military service had to cross the frontier under various disguises and with false passports.

Large numbers who had not the means to follow these methods attempted to walk across the boundaries to Prussia and Austria under the cover of darkness, trusting to luck to evade the vigilance of the Russian frontier guards. German newspapers issued in the eastern provinces of Prussia and Austria have published accounts of many encounters between fugitives and Russian frontier guards, and in most cases the Russian troops shot down those who were trying to reach German or Austrian territory. In one instance, a large party of fugitives from military service were on the point of crossing the Russo-German frontier near Wilhelmshrubek, together with their wives and families, when the Russian guards perceived them. Being too much in the rear to overtake them, the guards fired indiscriminately into the group. Ten men, twelve women and six children were killed. The remainder surrendered to escape the same fate.

Much trouble has been caused by the refusal of the adherents of many religious sects in different parts of Russia to perform the military service which the law of Russia requires of

them. These sectarians accept the doctrine of non-resistance as interpreted by Tolstoi, and they will not bear arms even though they should be shot for high treason. The Russian authorities imprison them, know them, and punish them in a variety of other ways, but the Finns who number many thousands, remain true to their convictions and are lost to the Russian army. Other Tolstoists, who have not sufficient courage to defy the military authorities in their own way, don uniforms and go to the front, but they are a source of danger to their own side, because they deliberately shoot in such a manner that their bullets cannot possibly kill or wound any one of the hostile army. Thus they satisfy their own consciences without facing the unpleasant consequences of openly defying the authorities.

FINNS DRIVEN TO THE FRONT.

While Russians themselves have been acting in this way, it is not surprising that Finns show still more reluctance to go to the far east to fight Russian battles. Finnish regiments stationed at Viborg and Sveaborg received orders to proceed to Manchuria, whereupon the men protested with great vigor, declaring that nothing would induce them to go. Threats of punishment were of no avail, and finally Russian regiments had to be brought from other garrison towns to displace the Finns to the railway stations by force. The Finnish troops were deprived of their arms and conveyed through the streets under strong escort, while several military brass bands played Russian marches in order to drown the noise of the Finns' protests shouted at the top of their voices against the treatment meted out to them. On arrival at the stations the Finns had literally to be thrown into the cars by main force and riotous scenes naturally ensued.

Remarkable revelations of corruption and mismanagement have been made in regard to the far east, and the military for the use of the army at the front. The war office ordered 1,000 sacks of wheat from a Russian grain dealer at Hessa, and the unfortunate Finns to go to the railway stations by force. The Finnish troops were deprived of their arms and conveyed through the streets under strong escort, while several military brass bands played Russian marches in order to drown the noise of the Finns' protests shouted at the top of their voices against the treatment meted out to them. On arrival at the stations the Finns had literally to be thrown into the cars by main force and riotous scenes naturally ensued.

ROBBED BY HALF-STARVED TROOPS.

Along the route of the Transiberian railway, which carries all the reinforcements to the scene of hostilities, the arrangements for feeding the outgoing troops have completely broken down in places where the unfortunate soldiers are often reduced to the verge of starvation during the long journey of several weeks. As a result of the short rations received the men arrive in Manchuria in a physical condition unfavorable to successful operations in trying circumstances. At the towns where the transport trains traveling eastward stop, the soldiers rush out of the cars and plunder the shops and stores. It is impossible to check these excesses, and after a few futile attempts, they contented themselves with telegraphing a warning in advance that all shops should be closed and barricaded before the arrival of any transport train. In cases where this was done, the soldiers, disappointed in their hopes of getting into the towns, rushed in wild disorder to the surrounding villages and plundered the cottages of the peasants to satisfy their ravenous hunger. At Sasovka, in the Province of Tambov, a horde of 2,200 half-starved soldiers left a transport train, invaded the town and plundered all the provisions on sale at the stalls in the marketplace. The peasants whose produce was thus stolen resisted the onslaught of the troops and a fierce fight took place, in the course of which several were killed and many wounded. In many other towns in European Russia the soldiers go about the streets begging before they start for the front. If occurrences of this kind are possible at the European end of the Transiberian railway it may be imagined in what a terrible plight the troops in Manchuria may be now or will be later on in the campaign.

FIERED THE GENERAL.

Over and above these defects come the serious blunders made in purely military matters. It has been found that officers at the front are absolutely unfit to perform the duties of their positions, and Gen. Kuropatkin's first act on arriving at his headquarters in Manchuria was to send home two colonels, Tschisch and Monajeff by name, both of whom were in command of infantry regiments and both of whom were quite incapable of holding responsible military posts. At the first bombardment of Vladivostok by the Japanese fleet the Russian official dispatches mentioned the begging before they start for the front. If occurrences of this kind are possible at the European end of the Transiberian railway it may be imagined in what a terrible plight the troops in Manchuria may be now or will be later on in the campaign.

RICH AMERICAN TO LIVE IN ENGLAND.

M. P. Grace Says United States Will See Little of Him Hereafter.

DUE TO HIS BROTHER'S DEATH.

Lady Barrymore to Entertain American Friends During King Edward's Approaching Visit to Ireland.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, May 3.—Michael P. Grace, on his return from New York to Battle Abbey, his historic English home, seemed to be greatly affected by the death of his brother, ex-Mayor Grace. He told his friends that the United States would not see much of him in future, as now one of his strongest ties with it had been severed. The people about the Abbey are pleased with this decision, for since the

SOLDIER OF THE MIKADO DOING SENTRY DUTY.



Here is depicted a realistic scene in the eastern war, a Japanese sentry on duty at Ping-Yang, a Korean coast city near the mouth of the Yalu river. The Japanese continued to stay with him, in anticipation of a world as has often been demonstrated.

unusual task. All along the line the rails are too light for the burdens which they have to bear, and many derailments have taken place. The accidents have been comparatively harmless owing to the slow speed at which the trains travel, but serious delays have been caused. Most of the transport trains going eastward are taking six or seven weeks to reach Manchuria instead of the scheduled time of three weeks. Admiral Alexeff, the viceroy of the far east, has expressed his extreme dissatisfaction at the defective working of the Manchurian end of the Transiberian, and some of the principal railway officials at Mukden and Tschitschikoff have been dismissed for gross negligence. The Official Gazette here records these dismissals and added that Alexeff had threatened other railway men with dire penalties if there were not a marked improvement in the punctual transportation of troops and military supplies.

To crown everything, too many cooks are spoiling the broth here in St. Petersburg. The war office is nominally in charge of the army, and the committee appointed to advise the czar on the war has another share in the management of affairs. The Grand Duke Vladimir, commander-in-chief of the troops in the east, is nominally in charge of the war, and it is understood that they will have 50 or 60 of smart Americans staying there. The majority of the party will attend the two fashionable race meetings which will be in progress in the neighborhood of Dublin during the royal visit. Lord and Lady Barrymore will be at the Marquis of Ormonde's place in Kilkenny during the king's visit there, but it is doubtful if they will be invited to Lennox Castle by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. Lord Barrymore has never been much in favor of either the duke or the duchess, although the latter has a great admiration for many of the American women who are connected with the English peerage, and it is understood that she is on pretty familiar terms with Lady Barrymore. Her ladyship has never been particularly struck with the glamour of English society, and has no taste for pushing herself forward.

Lispenard Stewart of New York is doing London at present. He was the guest of W. Waldorf Astor at the Carlton club a few days ago. He has been spending a few days at Mr. Astor's place at Cliveden, and the two have been much together about town.

Mrs. Lewis de Zerega is staying with her daughter, Mrs. Charles Pelham Clinton, at the house which she and her husband recently acquired in Northamptonshire. Mrs. Zerega means to return to London, where she will spend a great portion of the season. The family will stay at one of the big hotels at the Pelham Clintons have given up their town house.

ABOUT MASCULINE FASHION.

One of King Edward's greatest functions is, of course, that of arbiter of masculine fashions. Being of portly figure he does not appear to advantage in tight-fitting garments, and hence his predilection for loose-fitting overcoats which are more than ever worn this season, although with men of slender



TADA STYKA, AS A SCULPTOR. All the Works Shown in this Photograph (Statuary, Paintings, etc.) are His.

gifted with a talent marvelously mature. His name is Tada (Thaddeus) Styka.

The little prodigy's father is Jan Styka, a painter known world over as the illustrator of Sienkiewicz's "Quo Vadis." He is an Austrian subject, born at Lemberg (Poland) and left an orphan at an early age, was soon studying art, and earning his living at it meanwhile, in Vienna and Rome. He returned home in 1899, and there painted his magnificent composition of "Polonia"—his Motherland personified by a tortured woman, around her the great ones among her children protesting in the face of heaven. This excited such admiration that a public subscription was set on foot to purchase it, and it now hangs in the place of honor in the Town Hall of Styka's native city of Lemberg. Any reproduction of the painting is forbidden in Russia. A friend of the artist at Warsaw was discovered with a print of it in his possession and is still in prison, perhaps in Siberia, for this offense.

PAINTED THE CRUCIFIXION.

Jan Styka next accepted a commission from Paderewski to paint the Crucifixion, and spent the entire year of 1904 in the Holy Land; the result was his "Golgotha, the Place of Skulls," which was first shown in Paderewski's palace at Warsaw, but is now on its way to St. Louis. He was also the painter of that huge panorama of "Nero's Circus" which was one of the features of the Paris Exposition of 1900. The work, however, which has established his international reputation must be held to be the pictures of "Quo Vadis." In a series of 15 gigantic canvases he has portrayed the principal scenes of that famous book, with an accuracy, a detail and an emotional effect that none but a genius could attain to.

It was during the progress of these "Quo Vadis" pictures that his son, little Tada, manifested his talent and interest by convincing his father of it, sternest and most exacting critic of them all. M. Styka has five sons; the other four played with their toys or indulged in rough-and-tumble; but Tada, the eldest, remained in his father's studio, looking with wondering, reflective eyes at the work going on around him. Then he would pick up a pencil lying near, and without a word begin to sketch the objects that caught his notice. Still life, or parts of his father's paintings, but principally the domestic cat lying sleeping upon a cushion.

FATHER AND SON.

The father at first paid no heed, busy in his own work, and thinking nothing of these boyish fancies; but his friends



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