

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
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CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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The Siege of Port Arthur.

Although long expected and in a measure discounted by the events of the past few months, the news of the fall of Port Arthur gives great pleasure to the friends of Japan and corresponding chagrin to the partisans of Russia. For however foregone a conclusion, this event will have a material effect upon the future conduct of the war. It will release a large and thoroughly seasoned army for participation in the northern land campaign, and it absolutely frees the Japanese navy from the task of blockading the harbor and enables it to proceed with offensive operations against the oncoming "Baltic sea" fleet of Russia. Furthermore, the culmination of the siege is a distinct triumph for Japan, and will have a greatly heartening effect upon that country's forces in the field.

With the first demonstration of a superior Japanese naval capacity in the opening stroke of the war, February 8, 1904, came the assurance that Port Arthur must be strengthened to the point of successful resistance from the land-side. Kuroki's masterly campaign in Korea and the throwing of a powerful Japanese army across the line between Port Arthur and the northern Russian base marked a second stage of the process. But probably hope remained strong with the Russians until the land fighting of May 20-27, when the Japanese captured Nanshan hill after one of the most costly and brilliant assaults of modern warfare, and drove General Stoessel back into the circle of forts comprising the real defenses of Port Arthur. There remained, to be sure, a faint expectation that General Stackelberg might break through the Japanese line and succor the beleaguered defenders. But the fighting of June 14-16, comprising the battles of Varangov and Telissu, where Stackelberg was driven back upon Kuropatkin's main army, cut off all chance of relieving the city.

The fighting relating to the siege of Port Arthur that followed these Russian reverses has been of a most desperate character. The fortifications, making the fullest use of the natural advantages of the country immediately about the city, had been built with skill and were defended with the utmost bravery and desperation. The Japanese proceeded along two lines tactically, advancing by grand assaults and mining alternately. They have achieved remarkable results in the latter effort, some of their sapping and tunneling being of the highest order. The magnificent intrepidity with which they have flung themselves forward at the word of command to storm steep heights and heavily armed forts has moved the wonder and admiration of the world.

But none the less has the world felt keenly the appreciation of the enormous sacrifice of Stoessel and his rapidly diminishing force. While deploring the prolongation of the siege, with its frightful sacrifice of life, the people of all races and lands have joined in a chorus of praise for the gallant Russians who have been defending their flag to the very end of their resources.

The climax came with the capture by Japan of the "Meteer" hill, or "high hill." The appalling cost of this maneuver was, in terms of the whole siege, justified by the results. From this vantage point the Japanese poured a blasting, destructive fire into the city, sinking the Russian ships one by one with the precision of target practice in time of peace. With this hill occupied by heavy Japanese guns the end was hastened. The latest operations have formed a rapid succession of advances, until on the eve of the surrender the Japanese positions were all dominated by Japanese guns and further resistance would be useless.

From beginning to end this remarkable siege, ranking with the longest in history and by reason of the greater destructiveness of modern guns, one of the most costly in proportion to the numbers engaged, has been a stupendous performance on the part of the Japanese, demonstrating most effectively their great ability as tacticians, as assailants, as engineers, as artists and as sailors. Whatever may be the military effect upon the Russian campaign, the capture of Port Arthur will stand as a complete proof to the world that Japan is a great military power.

States and the Nation.

From now on several very interesting state legislatures will divide attention with Congress. Senators are to be elected and many important local measures put into shape. The people of the States will be interested in the first official steps of men like Higgins of New York, Folk of Missouri, Denen of Illinois and Douglas of Massachusetts, all of whom are thought to be in line for something higher. Still Congress will by no means take a back seat. There is much more than mere routine for it to consider, and if it disposes well of the business in hand it will deserve and receive the applause of the country. Economy is the cry, and economy is a good and necessary thing, but not a nigardliness that would cripple public interests.

Mr. Tom Lawson has pretty nearly succeeded in driving the old-fashioned ten-cent Indian killer out of business as the hero of cheap literature.

General Kuropatkin may as well be prepared to display some more heroism in the capacity of scapegoat.

The District's Year.

The capital city's record for the year 1904, which is printed at length in another part of The Star today, clearly shows that material improvement has been made by the District along all lines. The year has witnessed no great local disasters and has been marked by a continuation of prosperity, with all indications pointing to a rise in the tide of well-being. In its relations with Congress and the general government the municipality has fared well, although it has had to contend, at times stubbornly, for funds for the proper maintenance of its necessary institutions and the provision of equipment. It is blessed, however, in that there is an unmistakable national sentiment in favor of the rapid development of the capital city on a scale befitting the country's wealth and power. The sentiment is finding expression steadily in the form of legislation and the sweeping away of old prejudices.

The record printed today shows the local history in interesting detail. One of the most instructive and suggestive items is that which gives a list of the conventions of national organizations held here during the year. Washington is maintaining its reputation for being the favorite meeting place of all kinds of associations of people, and if it were provided with an appropriate place for the assemblage of large numbers it is not to be questioned that it

would be the choice of virtually every organization of this character, so dominant is the desire of all Americans to visit the seat of government.

The new year opens auspiciously for the city. It will be the scene in March of a great event, the inauguration of a President who has received the largest popular majority ever given to any candidate for that office. So overwhelming a victory at the polls cannot fail to be marked by a tremendous gathering of the people. The citizens are hard at work in preparation, not only to provide a great throng of guests, but to provide adequately for the ceremonies themselves, on a fitting scale. It is confidently to be believed that the record for the new current year will contain no more satisfactory entry than that relating to the inauguration.

Of deaths, accidents and crimes the District has had its normal number. It has lost several of its most valuable citizens, and its corrective agencies have been kept busy dealing with the violators of the laws. Taken altogether the capital looks back upon a period of happiness and prosperity and forward to a continuation of the blessings of good health, good times and fair treatment by the powers of government.

Nogi and the Future.

Japan's greatest immediate gain from the fall of Port Arthur will be the release of General Nogi and his army for service in front of General Kuropatkin. And this will be an immense gain not measurable by numbers only. It is a seasoned army which has known nothing but victory. Its commander has proved himself to be a great fighter in a rough country and against the most scientifically constructed intrenchments. He has become familiar with the Russian mettle and methods and knows how best to deliver blows. His army obeys him like a machine. When he appears on the new line, therefore, with his regulars covered with glory, the effect on the whole Japanese forces should be electrical. He will be host in himself, and it will be safe to multiply his men by four.

General Kuropatkin's reinforcements, on the other hand, are not only fresh, but unwilling, levies. They have never seen war in any shape, and the Japanese soldier, although a little man physically, looms large on their horizon. They are in a country new to them, to help brace a line which has been repeatedly broken and reformed. However brave they may be, they are not in their present condition the men for desperate emergencies. They lack experience and the power of initiative. Their enemies are armed with weapons which wipe out in a second of time mere masses of resistance. General Stoessel and the remains of his brave army would be a power transferred to the new scene of operations but they are lost to Russia for the rest of this war. Their example is good, but the Russians have had the benefit of that for months without being fired by it to successful work against the foe.

What next? Will Russia keep the field, and try to make good its threat to wear Japan out with numbers and the longest of purse? Its numbers cannot be handled so far from base, and long as its purse may be the length of the Siberian railroad is greater. Russia's present military establishment eats up money like a steamboat eats up coal in a night race on the Mississippi. Money makes an army go, but there is an end to money. The developments of the next few weeks or months should be of a momentous character for all the world.

The New York Times' New Home.

The New York Times was issued today for the first time from its new building, at the corner of Broadway and 42d street, and is entitled to the congratulations of all its contemporaries upon its enterprise and its exceptionally good taste. The new structure is one of the most notable buildings in New York, towering higher in point of actual altitude than any other. It is of an unusual design, with a broad tower superimposed upon the body of the building for the accommodation of the editorial departments of the newspaper. An admirable arrangement has resulted in the utilization of the Times' basement as one of the stations of the new subway, thus insuring the familiarity of the public and the use of the building. In its equipment it is described as one of the most perfect of American newspaper offices, as the building itself is planned particularly for the needs and uses of the chief occupants. In handsome special supplement issued yesterday with colored covers, is told the story of the new home of the Times from the engineering and mechanical point of view. It may be accepted as the sign of a well-deserved prosperity which The Star hopes will long continue.

The mikado's command to General Nogi that all possible honors be extended to General Stoessel, in recognition of the gallantry of his defense, his services to his own country and his humanity in recognizing the utility of further resistance, is an act of kindness that will be applauded by the whole world. It proves that the Japanese have nothing to learn from the western world in point of consideration for others, and that they are past masters in the art of making friends. This graceful acknowledgment of the gallantry of the foe in the hour of his surrender saves Stoessel from any possible degree of humiliation and appraises his services to Russia more eloquently than the most glowing of Russian eulogies.

It is pretty hard for Dr. Chadwick to refrain from making observations similar to those offered by Adam in locating the blame for the apple episode.

After considering what might have happened to the Baltic fleet, Russia feels at most as if it were coming out of the transaction a squadron ahead.

Senator Depeu's success is a happy assurance that courteous good humor is not a lost nor an unappreciated art.

If Alton B. Parker is at all superstitious he is hoping that that 1904 hoodoo went out of business yesterday.

The czar has had his life insured. King Peter of Serbia attended to that long ago.

Washington's Birthday and Inauguration Day are still to be celebrated.

Russia's Sea Moves.

One of the first questions prompted by the news that Port Arthur has fallen relates to the future movements of the vessels known as the Baltic sea fleet, now proceeding in two divisions toward some point of rendezvous in the Indian ocean, ostensibly on the way to the scene of the war. Was a moral, if not a practical, reason for the dispatch of these ships. They had been blunderingly and hesitatingly handled for months prior to their departure. When they sailed at last it was almost certain that Port Arthur could not hold out until their arrival, and even if it did resist successfully, the time that they seemed to be little doubt that the Russian ships, arriving in Chinese waters, would be defeated, captured or destroyed by the Japanese fleet. It was at that time certain that in any event the Russians could not reach the vicinity of the operations before the Japanese fleet would have been in a position to intercept them.

With Port Arthur in the hands of Japan, the Russian Asiatic fleet, save one or two ships now imprisoned at Vladivostok, is no longer in existence, and the Japanese assumed aggressive tactics in the Indian

ocean to harass and check if not to destroy the Russian squadrons. Orders to Rojenski to turn about and seek a home base would seem in the circumstances to be demanded. The prime object of the long-distance sortie no longer remains as an incentive. The only possibility of success on the sea in the far east lies in the chance of the assemblage of every available Russian warship, including those now cooped up in the Black sea, and the dispatch of the whole grand fleet in one body to meet the Japanese, who would then be numerically inferior.

But the Black sea fleet is not to be considered unless Russia is willing to precipitate a situation which, in view of the already strained relations with England resulting from the North sea incident, would unquestionably result in a serious breach of those powers and perhaps the embroiling of others. Short of a desperate determination to smash Japan at all hazards, regardless of ultimate consequences, Russia cannot today afford to consider this source of naval reinforcements.

The Japanese are now figuring on how far they can go in directing Asiatic affairs without creating a really serious "yellow peril" scare.

The paper trust probably hopes that this rumor of Attorney General Moody's retirement from the cabinet is quite correct.

The Russians are now expected to put on their fair-trimmed overcoats, pick up their traveling bags and go to Vladivostok.

Considering the discomforts he leaves behind, it ought to be a moderately happy new year for General Stoessel.

Governor Peabody is beginning to suspect that Denver politicians are almost as wicked as those of New York city.

The new leaf turned over at Port Arthur reveals another highly important page in the world's history.

SHOOTING STARS.

A Difficulty.

"So Port Arthur has fallen," said one Russian courier.

"Yes," answered the other. "The hardship for us is in the necessity of simulating surprise at the information."

Under Suspicion.

"What do you think of that college professor who says he never kissed a girl?" "Possibly," said Miss Cayenne, "it is the simple confession of an unwedded soul; and then again it may be a very shy way of advertising for bids."

Port Arthur.

"Tis done at last and done right well. The fight was long but fair. The Russians say Port Arthur fell. 'Twas pushed, the Japs declare."

A Postponement Inevitable.

"If your husband beats you, mebbe you kin hab him sent to de whippin'-pos'," said Mrs. Potomac Jackson. "If my husband ever beats me," said Mrs. Tolliver Grapevine, "dey kin send him to de whippin'-pos' if dey wants to. But dey'll have to wait till he gets out'n de hospital."

Achievements Summarized.

"It's funny," said an officer on the Baltic fleet, "that we don't receive any Marconigrams of congratulation from St. Petersburg." "Congratulations? What for?" "Why, we not only gave a fishing boat considerably the worst of it, but we went clear through the war without losing a ship."

Happy New Year.

"Wish you happy New Year," "De sun cum out to say; "Wish you happy New Year," "De sparrow chirps so gay. "Of winter is a prowlin' "An' a scowlin' near at hand, "But he couldn't spoil de custom "Dat's established in de land. "Wish you happy New Year," "In spite of ice an' snow; "In spite of disappointments "An' of every kind of woe, "De sun it come a-smilin', "Till it put de frost to shame. "If it kin foghet its troubles, "Reckon I kin do de same."

Cotton in the Future.

From the Nashville Banner. The planters, discouraged by low prices one year, will plant less cotton the next year, and high prices encourage the planting of a larger acreage for the next crop. The best means of exercising some control over the market system is the utilization of a large acreage for the next crop. The best means of exercising some control over the market system is the utilization of a large acreage for the next crop. The best means of exercising some control over the market system is the utilization of a large acreage for the next crop.

Let There Be a Big Time.

From the Banooka World. It is a mistaken idea that a great display at the inauguration of a President of the United States savors too much of imperial pomp and ceremony. It is inconsistent with our republican simplicity. The presidency of the United States is the highest office in the world, and the induction of any man into that office is a notable event. It does not savor of imperialism that such an occasion should be accompanied by a great display. Such display is a tribute to the office that great crowds attend the ceremony. It is a tribute to the exalted office and a pledge to the devotion of the welfare of the country over which the officer entering upon the duties of the office is to preside as its chief executive.

Watchers of the Coast.

From the New York Sun. A pension system should be established by law for the benefit of officers and men of the United States life saving service injured or incapacitated in the discharge of their duties. The recent wreck along the Atlantic seaboard have called public attention all over the country to the courage, daring and self-sacrifice of the life savers. Their work is just as truly heroic as that of the soldier or sailor who serves his country in the battle field or in a sea fight. The percentage of danger to the individual is greater.

All Sinners Not Senators.

From the Chicago Record-Herald. Let the world kindly take notice that a working majority of the members of the United States Senate are not under indictment for land frauds or for being connected with get-rich-quick schemes and are not being tried for belonging to churches that are unconstitutional. The Senate may have ceased, but there are still members who have not as yet succeeded in getting into it.

A Reception to Swine.

From the Brimmon (Mo.) Booster. Arthur Oyler was receiving hogs here Wednesday.

It Approves!

From the Kansas City Times. The Russian press approves of the czar's escape. If it didn't it wouldn't have a second chance.

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Another standard has been established by the Reeves Chocolates and Bon Bons. Materially better than any you've been able to get before.

Our popular price, 47c. lb.

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