

JAPANESE ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR.

A Heavy Bombardment by a Fleet of Warships Reported to Be in Progress.

INVESTED BY 20,000 TROOPS.

Believed to Be Now in Possession of the City—Second Army Completed Landing at Pitawo—Fifty Thousand Japs Now on Peninsula.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. CHICAGO, May 14.—A special from the "Daily News" says: "When the 'Daily News' dispatch boat Fawan arrived at Port Arthur early this morning a heavy bombardment was in progress. As the channel was thickly mined by the Russians and the Japanese Admiral Kataoka had issued strict orders that non-combatant boats were to be excluded, it was impossible to get within the roadway, hence an accurate report of the proceedings is impossible.

It is understood that the landing of the second army was completed yesterday at Pitawo. There are now fifty thousand Japanese troops on the peninsula.

CHINA AGAIN DECLARES ITS DETERMINATION

To Observe the Strictest Neutrality Between Japan and Russia—Baseless Rumors Denied.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Minister Conger reports by cable to the State Department from Peking that the Chinese government has reiterated its determination to observe the strictest neutrality and has asserted its ability to do so.

In view of the leading part taken by the United States government in securing the international pledge of the neutralization of China, the State Department has felt deep concern in the reports of agitation among the Chinese military forces near the seat of war and the danger of their breaking neutrality, thus releasing the powers from the engagement into which they entered.

Recruiting Officers. ST. PAUL, MINN., May 14.—Evidence tending to show that the Chinese government is recruiting officers for what is known as the Chinese imperial reform army, in the United States, developed here today in the newspaper.

Confidence shaken. PARIS, May 14.—French confidence in Russian progress is much shaken as a result of the recent developments concerning the weakness of General Kurapatkin's land forces.

Twinklings. —Part:—"His friends speak of him as a man of parts." "Well, they should know. He has quartered himself on them for years." —Puck.

—"Your husband has water on the brain," announced the doctor. "Dear me!" she said. "I hope it has been boiled." —May Lippincott's Magazine.

—Mrs. Smithkins —Distressed again? I was wondering how you could eat that rich pudding. Mr. S.—It wasn't distressing me then; that's how.—Boston Transcript.

—"They are criticizing you for not expressing an opinion." "Perhaps," answered the silent candidate; "but not as much as they would criticize the opinions if I expressed any."—Washington Star.

—An Imputation.—"Both my grandparents," said Bragg, "were noted for their country manners and sterling rectitude. They were really remarkable gentlemen." "Yes," replied Peppery. "By the way, did you ever read that Italian scientist's book on 'Degenorates'?"—Philadelphia Press.

Easier than a Halo.—"Being continually held up as a horrible example is about as monotonous as the music of an automatic piano," says a Marshall cynic, "but it is a much less strain on your nervous system than trying to balance a halo on the back of your head."—Kansas City Journal.

—Ting Exception.—"But how," said one of the younger members of the Woman's Club, "can flirting be said to develop the intellect?" "It doesn't," was the reply of the older member, "except that it may be said to be a kind of preliminary training for the time when he has to exercise his inventive faculties in thinking up excuses for coming home late."—Chicago Tribune.

STATEMENT FROM MR. W. R. HEARST.

Says He Will Support Nominee of the St. Louis Convention Whoever It May Be.

HAS NO IDEA OF BOLTING.

Ridiculous Story Sent Out from Albany That He, Mr. Bryan and Others Were Planning the Formation of a New Party.

By Telegram to the Morning Star.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—William Randolph Hearst will support the nominee of the St. Louis Democratic Convention.

He has no idea of bolting. He has no intention of forming a new party. He has no intention of supporting any other party.

At Vladivostok. ST. PETERSBURG, May 14, 4:15 P. M. The admiralty denies the rumor of an engagement of Rear Admiral Jensen's squadron.

Japanese Movements. ST. PETERSBURG, May 14.—The general staff has received a dispatch dated May 13th, from Major General Karakewich, as follows:

A Japanese detachment of about 1,000 infantry and two squadrons of cavalry advanced May 12th towards Polandien, where it did slight damage to the railway line.

Beauty and the Beast. There was as much truth as boasting in the statement of John Wilkes, the famous London alderman.

Mark Twain and Whistler. Mark Twain thus described his first meeting with James MacNeill Whistler:

A Tragedy at Pittsburg. Young Man Shot and Seriously Wounded a Woman and Then Shot Himself—Fatale—Sense of Affair.

Facial's Early Observation. Facials, who wrote a remarkable treatise on the laws of nature, was constantly observing the familiar occurrences about him even as a boy.

Brazilian Coffee. Brazilians are great coffee drinkers. Numerous cups are drunk each day by the average man and woman.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Cures Grip in Two Days. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. On every box, 25c.

BUNKOED JACOB

No one knew how it happened that John Prune lodged on Shem Zook's place when he wandered into the neighborhood.

Prune reached out in the shadow and grasped the singletree. Zerilda went on: "Always did puzzle me why a sensible man like you wanted to be humbugged so by Shem. Forty acres an' a gal! Huh! I own the south hundred an' sixty, an' I'm as good as any gal Shem Zook ever raised 'r ever will raise!"

Next morning John Prune didn't bring the milk to the house. Zook went out to the barn to negotiate with him concerning Tilda Jane, chuckling over the prospect of at least four years more of cheap help.

John's mouth foamed open in surprise. "Son-in-law!" he gasped. "There's Milly Ann a-growin' up, an' nobody round here I'd as lieve have 'er as you. An' heren't a good forty goes with each one of my gals. Milly Ann is the west."

CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of Dr. H. H. Mitchell.

SOAPS, SOAPS. We have in stock the following brands of Laundry Soap: Brown's Borax, Magic Cleaner, Globe Family, Missing Link, Johnnie Cake, Imperial, Ark, Clover, Polo, Victor, Needle.

S. P. McNAIR, ap 26 tf Wilmington, N. C. Mercer & Evans Co., CITY.

DEAR SIR:—I take great pleasure in acknowledging receipt of a very pretty, bright, new five dollar gold piece, awarded me through you, by the Hub Goo Makers of Boston, Mass., for guessing rebus, in contest of April 15, 1904.

MERCER & EVANS CO. my 15 tf Remember Our Specialties, Globe-Wernicke "Elastic."

Book Cases, Filing Cabinets and Card Systems. Remington Standard Typewriters, No. 6 and 7 fitted with the new Polycrome attachment.

Neostyle and Mimeograph Rotary and Diaphragm Dupliators. Typewriter Deaks and Tables. All up-to-date office appliances.

O. W. Yates & Co., Wholesale and Retail Book-sellers and Stationers. my 16 tf

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Think of it! Only Six More Days of the Big Rush Sale. Don't Miss It. Mouday, May 16, 5,000 yards of 15 and 25c Hamburg will be sold at 10c yard. See Window Display.

Speckled Peas. 4,000 bushels of the straight speckled Peas. Also a few Lady Peas left. 1,000 kegs of Steel Cut Nails. 1,000 kegs Wire Nails. Our prices are low, as we bought before the advance.

WILLIAMS BROS., Wholesale Grocers and Commission Merchants, 18 and 18 North Water Street. Complete Stock of Groceries of Every Description. Fresh Cargo Salt, 10,000 Bags 100 pound Salt 35 cents bag.