

The War In the Far East

REAR ADMIRAL WIRENIUS, whose formidable squadron of Russian warships was on its way from the Baltic to Port Arthur when war was declared, is assistant chief of the general staff of the Russian navy and one of the czar's best sea fighters. His fleet, consisting of the battle-ships Oslabiya, Imperator Alexander II, and Navarin, the armored cruisers Dismiri, Donat, and Admiral Nakhimoff, the protected cruisers Aurora, Almaz, and Admiral Korniloff, and a fleet of torpedo boat destroyers and torpedo cruisers, steamed as far east as the Red sea, and its approach doubtless hurried Japan's declaration of war, for if it had succeeded in reaching Port Arthur the czar would have had a more powerful fleet in Asian waters than the mikado. When the Japanese in a single day put so many Russian ships out of business at Port Arthur and Chemulpo, Rear Admiral Wirenius was ordered to return to the Baltic, because the Japanese could concentrate practically their entire navy against him and overwhelm him. Thus by Japan's prompt action Russia was robbed, for a time at least, of the service of eight big ships. Wirenius, being a man of war, doubtless thinks he is playing in hard luck, but he may get all the fighting he wants later.

In all the broad domain of Russia there is no more impressive figure than that of Father John of Cronstadt, the revered old priest whose piety and good works have made him the unworldly pope of the czar's dominions. Although holding no high place in the Greek church, his power over the Russian people is hardly exceeded by that of the czar. Born over seventy years ago, the son of a simple servant in a village church, Father John has been a priest for nearly fifty years, ministering alike to prince and peasant. While he claims no supernatural powers, marvelous cures have been attributed to him, and it is even asserted that he has raised the dead. He is a man of great stature, of commanding presence and almost angelic expression. Despite his more than seventy years, he looks like a man in middle life. At the coronation of the present czar Father John, in the gorgeous robes of the Greek church, with a chasuble of spun gold and wearing his hair in long curls on his shoulders, was the most picturesque and imposing figure in the imperial procession.

The fighting men of the czar, high and low alike, eagerly seek his parting blessing ere they depart for the east. Admiral Makaroff's last act before leaving Russia to take command of the Port Arthur fleet was to receive the sacrament at the hands of the aged priest.

If he lives, the interesting infant whose picture is given herewith will one day be emperor of Japan. His father is Prince Yoshihito, heir to the throne of Japan, and his mother is Princess Sadako. The crown prince was married in 1900 and has two sons. The eldest, Prince Hirohito Mitomiya, heir presumptive to the throne, will be three years old next April, and the distinction of being the first baby of the royal house of Jimmu Tenno who has been allowed to grow his hair like an American baby. Both his father and the mikado, when babies, had their heads shaved daily.

Soon after the birth of Prince Hirohito measures were taken to eliminate the "aimed eye" of his race. An incision was made on the outer point of the baby's eyelids in a straight line for the barest part of an inch. The lashes were then drawn into shape and held in place by chemically prepared sticking plaster.

The wound healed in less than a week, and the effect now is that Prince Hirohito does not look his oriental birth, so far at least as his eyes are concerned. The young prince is learning to ride a Shetland pony, and it is interesting to note that his toys are miniature battleships.

With the possible exception of the Russian ambassador, the busiest member of the diplomatic corps at Washington these days is Mr. Kogoro Takahira, who represents the mikado at the capital of Uncle Sam. Minister Takahira, who was appointed to his present post in 1900, laughingly calls Washington "the cradle of his diplomatic career," for he first came in contact with foreign governments there as a member of the Japanese legation from 1879 to 1883. He returned to this country in 1891 as consul general at New York, so the present is his third mission to this country.

AN AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Paul du Chailu's First Encounter With a Monster Gorilla.
In his "Explorations and Adventures in Equatorial Africa" Paul du Chailu tells of his first encounter with a gorilla.

"We saw an immense one coming straight toward us out of the woods," he wrote. "As he came he gave vent to terrible howls of rage, as much as to say, 'I am tired of being pursued and will face you.'"

"It was a lone male, the kind which is always the most ferocious. This fellow made the woods resound with his roar, which is an awful sound, resembling the muttering of distant thunder. He was about twenty yards off when we first saw him. I was about to take aim and bring him down where he stood when my most trusted man, Malouen, stopped me, saying in a whisper, 'Not this yet.'"

"We stood in silence, gun in hand. The gorilla looked at us for a minute or so, then beat his breast with his gigantic arms—and what arms he had!—then gave another howl of defiance and advanced upon us. How horrible he looked!"

"Not yet," whispered Malouen. "Again the gorilla made an advance upon us. Now he was not twelve yards off. His face was distorted with rage. His huge teeth were ground against each other so that we could hear the sound. The skin of the forehead was drawn forward and backward rapidly, making his hair move up and down and giving a furtive expression to his hideous face. Again he roared, a sound which shook the woods like thunder. It seemed as if I could feel the earth trembling under my feet. The beast, looking us in the eye and beating his breast, advanced again."

"I was fired too soon," said Malouen. "If you don't kill him he will kill you." This time he came within eight yards of us before he stopped. I was breathing fast with excitement as I watched the huge creature. Malouen only said, 'Steady' as the gorilla came up. When he stopped Malouen said: "Now!"

"And before the beast could utter the roar for which he was opening his mouth three musket balls were in his body. He fell dead almost without a struggle."

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