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W. F. MARSHALL, Editor and Proprietor.

DEVOTED TO THE PROTECTION OF HOME AND THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTY.

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JAPAN OPENS WAR

3 RUSSIAN VESSELS BEACHED.

Disabled by a Torpedo Attack—Japan Wins the First Conflict. Charlotte Observer.

The Foo, Feb. 9.—The Japanese fleet attacked Port Arthur Monday. Two Russian battleships and one Russian cruiser were disabled by torpedoes. The battle is being continued this morning at a range of three miles. There has been no further damage. The members of the crew of the Columbia tell the following details of the battle at Port Arthur.

The Columbia was lying in the roadstead, surrounded by 14 Russian battleships and cruisers. At 11:30 o'clock Monday night a severe shock was felt on board the Columbia. The Russians immediately commenced to operate their searchlights and opened fire towards the sea. At 1 o'clock more shocks were felt and the Russians again commenced firing.

The Japanese did not return the fire. At 2 o'clock two Russian battleships went in and were beached across the entrance of the harbor. They were soon followed by a Russian cruiser which also was beached. None of the vessels were damaged above the water line. More shocks from torpedoes were felt during the early morning and then all was quiet.

At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning three Japanese cruisers passed Port Arthur in sight. The whole Russian fleet immediately weighed anchor and went after them, but returned in half an hour.

The disabled cruiser and the grounded battleship block the entrance to the harbor, preventing the gun boats from going out and battleships and cruisers from going in and getting coal. Besides this Japan has the Russian gunboats Varig and Koretz caught at Chemulpo. They were bound for Vladivostok.

The Japanese fleet was under command of Vice Admiral Togo and consisted of four fast cruisers the Chitose, Kasagi, Tagafago and Yoshino which circled outside, drawing the fire of the Russians. Then they joined the main fleet and all went in to attack the armored cruisers.

In the Japanese fleet, which consisted of two divisions, were the Mikasa, the flagship, the first class battleship Sahi, Fuji, Inashimi, Shikashima, Hatsuo and the dispatch boat Tatsuma. The second division of the fleet under command of Admiral Kitamura, on the flagship Idzumo, consisted of the armored cruisers Yakuma, Iwata and Asama, when seen by the Foo Chow on Thursday.

When seen by the steamer Foo Chow Tuesday morning, the fast cruisers were circling in a radius of six miles. No torpedo boats were seen and it is probable that they left the vicinity after the torpedo attack of Monday night. The Russian fleet outside of the harbor consisted of the battleships Petropaulovsk, flagship; Pereswet, sub-flagship; Pobieda, Poltava, Czarevitch, Retzivan and Sebastopol, and the cruisers Novik, Boyarin, Bayaru, Diana, Palada, Askold and Angara. The disabled battleships are inside Forts Huan Ching Shan and Chi Kwan Shan. The cruiser is outside, but within range of the forts.

THREE SHIPS DAMAGED.

Admiral Alexieff's Report to the Czar—The Retzivan Built in Philadelphia.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—Admiral Alexieff's official report of torpedo attack by the Japanese is as follows:

"I most respectfully inform your Majesty that at about midnight of February 8-9, Japanese torpedo boats made a sudden attack by means of mines upon the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the battleships Retzivan and Czarevitch and the cruiser Palada were damaged. An inspection is being made to ascertain the character of the damage."

The Russian battleships Retzivan was built by the Cramps at Philadelphia. She is of 12,700 tons displacement, has 16,000 indicated horse-power, and has a speed of 18 knots per hour. The Czarevitch is a battleship of 13,110 tons, built in France. In armor, armament and speed she about equals the Retzivan. The Palada is a cruiser of 6,630 tons. She was built in Germany.

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TEN KILLED, 43 WOUNDED.

Russian Official Report of the Engagement at Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—1 a. m.—The following bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram from Viceroy Alexieff, chief of staff, dated Feb. 9.

"By order of the Viceroy, I beg to report that this day, about 11 o'clock in the morning, a Japanese squadron, consisting of about 15 battleships and cruisers, approached Port Arthur and opened fire. The enemy was received with a cannonade from the shore batteries and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement. At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left proceeding south.

"Our losses in the fleet were two officers wounded; nine men killed and 41 men wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three were wounded. The battleship Poltava and the cruiser Novik each had a hole knocked in her side below the water line. The forts were slightly damaged."

"Major General Flug."

PORT ARTHUR BOMBARDED.

A Japanese Squadron of 15 Battleships and Cruisers Attack the City.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—6 a. m.—A second telegram has been received from Viceroy Alexieff. It is dated Feb. 9 and says:

A Japanese squadron of 15 battleships and cruisers to-day began to bombard Port Arthur. The fortress replied and the squadron weighed anchor in order to participate in the battle.

A third telegram from the Viceroy says that after a bombardment lasting one hour the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and steamed southward.

"Our losses," the Viceroy continues, "are two naval officers and 51 men wounded and nine men killed and on the coast batteries one man killed and three wounded. During the engagement the battleship Oltava and the cruisers Diana, Askold and Novik were each damaged on the water line. The damage to the fortress was not important."

A CRUSHING BLOW.

The Correspondent of a London Paper so Terms the Attack of Japan on the Russian Vessels.

London, Feb. 10.—In a dispatch from Chee Foo, dated Feb. 9, a correspondent of the Daily Express says: The Japanese have dealt the Russians a crushing blow at Port Arthur.

An advance squadron of the Japanese fleet under Japanese Commander Vice Admiral Togo, and comprising 16 battleships and cruisers, with a numerous torpedo flotilla, left the main fleet off Shan Tung Peninsula on Sunday immediately after news of the diplomatic rupture became known. This information was conveyed to the Japanese admiral by a destroyer dispatched from Tsushima Saturday evening.

The Japanese scouting cruisers had given accurate information of the precarious situation of the Russian fleet outside of Port Arthur. The squadron steamed slowly in battle formation Sunday midday towards its goal, and came within sight of Port Arthur under cover of darkness. It cruised slowly outside without showing lights. The Russians were lying in the roadstead apparently feeling secure from attack.

Nearly all the Japanese torpedo boats were dispatched on their dangerous and daring task. They rushed, full steam, on the enemy, who were completely surprised. A great rattle of small arms greeted the invaders, who, however, escaped unhurt, and the Retzivan, the Czarevitch and the Palada, were almost immediately torpedoed. The Japanese dashed along the entire line of the Russians, exposed by now to a terrible fire from machine guns and small arms from both the ships and the shore. There was the utmost consternation among the Russians, which probably accounts for the Japanese torpedo boats escaping unhurt and joining the admiral outside.

A bill was passed Monday by the South Carolina House of Representatives levying a tax of 50 cents a piece on all dogs, and provides that the tax shall be collected just as other taxes are.

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THE OUTLOOK IN THE ORIENT.

With Japan it Appears to be a Case of Now or Never—Russia Requires an Open-all-the-year Port on the Pacific and will Eventually Absolutely Control Manchuria and Close the Open Door There.

Charleston News and Courier.

For some weeks past the attitude of Russia and Japan has been that of two lusty youths, somewhat unequally matched, upon the verge of passing blows. The eyes of the civilized world have been turned with acute tension to their angry disputes and warlike preparations.

Commercialism means conflict; in its extreme phases it endures war. In the Orient, the spheres of influence of two great nations have overlapped; their commercial interest clash. Since the Boxer rebellion Russia has acquired in Manchuria the dominant political influence, and is using it to further her commercial ends. For the still wider extension of her interests and power she has eager eyes on Korea and is encroaching gradually upon that weak monarchy.

By the brilliant results of her war with China and the peace treaty, Japan rightfully acquired Manchuria. Russia, however, selfishly intervened and prevented the enjoyments by conquest. Though losing a legitimate possession, Japan controls the lion's share of Manchuria's trade. In Korea, her control obtains in both trade and politics. Russia's policy is to possess herself of Manchuria in name as she does in fact. This evident course and the encroachment upon the contiguous territory of Korea bring Japan face to face with many dangerous problems fraught with serious consequences.

Undeniably legitimate aims prompt both nations. Shut off from Atlantic, Mediterranean and Persian ports, Russia's only outlet to the sea is in the far East. And there she must have an ice free port. It was thought that Dabny the port adjacent to Port Arthur would afford this, but the building of a break-water blocked the harbor with ice. Japan, with a teeming population and a limited territory for food supply, must have additional domain for her surplus growth with corresponding productive resources.

With great interest and issues at stake there is no solution except such terms as the sword arbitrates. War is inevitable. It cannot be evaded by the expressed fear that it will involve allied Powers and assume world-wide proportions. The conditions are much the same as those existing in the United States when the issues involved were slavery extension or limitation. The tread of Russia's expansion is slow, but resistless. The demands of her trade interests are relentless. Half Asiatic herself, her astute diplomats know best how to deal with Asiatic conditions and policies for the accomplishment of her purposes.

The recent triumphs and gigantic strides of Japan fill her people with pride and enthusiasm, and give confidence in the ultimate success of national projects. She has been aptly called the "England of the East" and her people "the Yankees of the Orient." Whether considered geographically or commercially, there is ample warrant for such designations. Her progress has brought her to a pitch of prestige whence there can be no receding without material damage in influence and reputation.

At first glance it might seem vain and pompous on the part of a comparatively small and inexperienced nation to try its strength with a vast and resourceful empire. Strategic conditions sometimes far outweigh resources not readily at command. Japan's insular, compact position affords unrivaled advantages. To these are to be added a powerful, up-to-date navy, strong coast defenses and a ready, easy base of supplies. In organization, transportation and hospital service Russian experts concede to the Japanese superiority; only in power of endurance they claim superiority. This claim is questioned by many. There are instances such as the Peking campaign which warrant the belief that is staying qualities the Russian can boast of no superior excellence in a climate to which the Japanese soldier has the pugnacious qualities of the yellow jacket.

Back of points of advantage with which the Japanese is served to the south with the soul-stirring consciousness that

she is fighting for national right to live and prosper. The history of Russian policies and tactics leaves no room to doubt that in time she would be absorbed and deemed an invaluable acquisition to Russia if some obstruction is not placed in the way of the latter's Eastern march. In adopting modern methods of popular government and successfully administering it Japan has proved her right to rank by the side of civilized, progressive nations. Her commercial ideals and policy are in keeping with all the other evidence of enlightened progress she has exhibited. As a nation she has risen speedily and unprecedentedly to an exalted pinnacle. To see her merged into a merciless autocracy is a spectacle which the other great Powers would tolerate with reluctance. It would be a disastrous step backward in the development of a world of commerce.

Delays are dangerous. Napoleon lost Waterloo when timely action would have brought victory. With all possible speed Russia is hastening men, ships and supplies to the future seat of war. Japan is ready to strike. For her each day's postponement of action lessens the chances of success or makes it more difficult.

The cornered animal will fight. Japan is rapidly occupying the position of a cornered nation and must fight for existence. Her safest policy would seem to lie in the annexation and occupancy of Korea by a prompt and vigorous movement of her forces. True, there are difficulties in the way. She has disclaimed again and again any idea of a territorial expansion. Her treaty with England bids her to uphold Korean sovereignty and independence. The Korean Government and populace are hostile to her. Such a step means breaking off the alliance with England, but it is hardly probable that England and America would stand aloof in the event France, her ally, should support Russia. Their commercial interests are too great to assume non-interference. Further than asserting her protectorate over Korea Japan's hope of success lies in territorial expansion, leaving Russia in undisputed possession of Manchuria.

If acquiesced in such a step will affect the open-door policy. It is idle to suppose that the open-door in Manchuria will continue. Within three years Russia's occupation has so changed the face of things as to establish an absolutely new order. Failure to evacuate some months ago, according to solemn promise, points to full control and eventual annexation. The vastly improved conditions under Russian management are indicated by the construction of railroads, by new cities, new methods of tillage, wise and cheap administration of Courts and deliverance from financial oppression. The Russianizing process has gone on at so rapid a rate that the absorption of the province and the introduction of Russian tariff laws are practically no longer open questions.

With the influence acquired over the Korean dynasty, with the timber concessions wrested from it along the Yalu River and its tributaries, and with all the advantages that such concessions imply, unless the tide is arrested the same process will go on in Northern Korea until annexation will be a natural and necessary consequence. A bold, decisive movement on Japan's part is what at best will avert the most alarming menaces to her

national welfare and territorial integrity.

All that stands in the way of immediate war is the power exerted by the Mikado and his Cabinet. The lower house of the Diet, expressing the spirit of the people, considers patience and self-restraint exhausted. It calls strenuously for the assertion and the maintenance of national rights and interests. It is up to Japan to assert her rights and power within her legitimate spheres and trade and politics, and to resist the further encroachments of Russia. Will she do it? Yes. Will Russia yield? No. What will follow? Brute force; war. It may come soon; it may be delayed.

Would Have Walked Too.

New York Tribune.

They tell this story in the commissioner's office at Ellis Island: Two Irish immigrants just arrived stood one morning on the government landing watching a dredger at work a few yards away. Presently a diver fell rigged, crawled painfully from the channel slime up a ladder to the deck of the dredger. One of the Irishmen very much surprised, turned to his companion and said: "Look at that man! Look at him! Begorra, if I'd known the way over I'd have walked too!"

Teach Local Affairs.

Gaines Ledger.

If the school teachers of this county would adopt the idea of having their scholars read aloud in the school from a newspaper at least once a day, they would find it a great help toward the educating of their scholars. Have them read from a local paper some item of local interest. Such a plan would serve to add to the children's knowledge of local affairs. We have known children who could bound every state in the Union and name its capital off hand, who could not bound the township or the county in which they resided. Give the little ones a knowledge of home affairs.

Just Got Out of Doors.

Atlanta Journal.

A current magazine tells of a New York gentleman who said to his family physician, "Doctor, I find I am using too much tobacco. What do you advise me to do? I want to stop these habits, but don't seem to be able to. If I stop coffee, I can't work."

"My friend," said the physician, "a great many people ask me that question in the course of a year. I tell them all just what I tell you—don't try to quit your tobacco, if that would inconvenience you in your work. Just get out of doors often enough so that you can stand your coffee and your tobacco. And then you'll be all right."

The anecdote is timely at this season of the year. A great many people feel badly towards the winter's end, and fancy that it is because they are drinking too much tea or coffee, or eating too much, when what they really need is more oxygen and ozone. Temperance is an essential thing, of course, but the most rigid temperance in all matters cannot make a man feel as he should unless the lungs are supplied with plenty of fresh air and the body invigorated with sunlight.

Just get out of doors. There are only a certain number of sunny days in a person's life. Why not make the most of them?

Seasonable and Excellent!

The things that are seasonable and excellent in ladies' furnishings are always found here in their freshest and finest beauty. Have you found helps for your present needs, suggestions for your future wants, and values that satisfy the careful buyer. Our advertisement in last issue told you of

Corsets—

Of which we have a complete line from 50 cents up. The famous W. B. brand has been added, you know, to the lines we have been selling.

Ribbons.

We haven't space to say enough of our line of extremely beautiful ribbons. The newest things in the ribbon kingdom are here. Simply beautiful—that doesn't express it all, but they are very beautiful; come and see if they are not. And quantity! We asked a well informed travelling man the other day how much he supposed we carried in ribbons—how many hundreds of dollars' worth. He guessed—but it was about one-fourth of what we carry.

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Real Linen Torchon Laces per yard, 5c. to 15c. Imitation Torchon per yard 2c. to 10c. Embroideries, Swiss, Nainsook and Cambric, 5c. to 50c.

Petticoats and Walking Skirts.

Peco Petticoats, 25c. \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.25, \$3.50, and \$4. Walking Skirts, \$2.50, \$3.50, \$3.95, \$5, and \$6.

JAS. F. YEAGER.

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SCHOOL DISCIPLINE IN THE OLD DAYS.

If the Child was Whipped at School It got Another at Home.

About every quarter you may see where some New York school teacher enters special pleadings to his board of trustees for permission to spank some unruly boys in his school. Sometimes the trustees say yes and sometimes no. But the very fact that the matter is submitted to these officers at all is a guarantee that this trouble will continue. There used to be in this State a code of ethics for the adjustment of this particular matter, which is far better than the New York plan. We venture to say now in this 20th century of culture and great progress, that the pity is this good unwritten law has ever been overruled. The first Monday in August was when we used to start to school, after the crop was laid by, the wheat threshed and the turnips sowed. We were in a hurry to get off, for then we had to stop when fodder was ripe. So if the teacher did not give "fodder time" the boys of the family were out that much, for they always had to stop and pull fodder, whether school kept or not. When the dinner baskets were all fixed, the books and slate were had no tablets then—the last parting injunction was "If you get a whipping I'll give you another when you get home." This may sound a little harsh now, but that it was a trouble saver, both to the boys and to the teacher, does not admit of a doubt. It meant to the boy that there was no court of appeal, and at the same time it was a suggestion of the co-operation of teacher and parent, which is so necessary to the successful administration of a school. Nobody expects New York parents to do this; in fact, nobody expects parents anywhere to follow this barbarous (?) custom, but if there could be

United States Vessels to Observe the Operations.

Washington, Feb. 9.—Orders were called to Rear Admiral Evans to send his cruiser squadron, consisting of the Albany, New Orleans, Raleigh and Cincinnati, from Subig Bay to some point in Chinese waters yet to be determined for the purpose of observing the naval operations. It is expected that the squadron can coal and get under way within two days.

Admiral Evans will keep the battleship squadron in Philippine waters throughout the period of hostilities between Russia and Japan. The decision was reached at the cabinet meeting to-day after long consideration. It has been definitely settled that the cruiser squadron will not go to Port Arthur. Admiral Evans is not instructed regarding his own movements, but it is believed in naval circles that he will transfer his flag to the Albany and proceed northward with the squadron.

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