

CURRENT TOPICS

A COMPARISON of disasters overtaking the Russian and Japanese army is presented by the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune. The Japanese defeats are set forth as follows:

February 20—Cossacks routed a Japanese scouting party in Northern Korea, eighteen miles south of Wiju.

March 9—Admiral Makaroff made a sortie from Port Arthur late at night with six Russian torpedo boat destroyers and attacked the Japanese torpedo boat flotilla. One Japanese torpedo boat was torpedoed and sunk and one Russian torpedo boat destroyer was also lost.

April 25—The Russian Vladivostok squadron entered the harbor of Wonsan, Korea, and sunk a Japanese merchant steamship.

April 26—The Japanese transport Kinshiu, with 173 men, was sunk by the Russian Vladivostok squadron in the Sea of Japan. The Japanese soldiers refused to surrender and were gamely fighting when the ship, split in half by a torpedo, went down.

May 1—In battle of Yalu River Japanese casualties reported as 800.

THE Russians have been heavier losers not only of men and property but also in the prestige of arms.

The Russian disasters so far are as follows:

February 8-9—Three Russian vessels disabled by Japanese torpedo boats at Port Arthur. A general engagement followed, in which four more Russian warships were sunk or disabled.

February 9—Russian cruiser Variag and gunboat Korietz sunk off Chemulpho, Korea, after battle with a Japanese squadron.

February 12—Russian torpedo transport Yenisel blown up at Port Arthur by accidentally striking a mine.

February 13—Russian cruiser Boyarin blown up by submarine mines at Port Arthur.

February 14—Six Russian colliers captured by the Japanese.

February 26—The Japanese fleet again attacked Port Arthur, sinking one Russian torpedo boat.

April 13—The Russian battle ship Petropavlovsk blown up and sunk by a Japanese mine in the outer harbor of Port Arthur. Admiral Makaroff and 674 officers and seamen lost their lives.

April 14—Russian torpedo boat destroyer Istrahni was cut off from a fleet of scouts off Port Arthur, and sunk by the Japanese. Only five of her crew escaped. The battle ship Pobieda, while maneuvering off Port Arthur, struck a mine and was badly damaged.

April 21—Russian troops fled across the Yalu before a large body of Japanese, hundreds being drowned while crossing the river in overcrowded boats.

April 22—Russian launch blown up and sunk while laying mines at Port Arthur, and twenty-one men killed.

May 1—Culmination of Japanese effort to cross the Yalu. Russia loses 800 men, 23 guns, 20 officers captured.

IONIA Olive Jones, descendant of the family from which John Paul Jones took his name explains in a letter to the Kansas City Star, how the great hero happened to adopt the name of Jones when he was christened "John Paul." This writer says that "John Paul" was a Scotchman by birth and that when a mere youth he visited Allen and William Jones who owned large estates upon the Roanoke river. The Jones brothers became attached to the young sailor, adopted him, and gave him their name, which he promised to distinguish. Through these two brothers he obtained his commission in the colonial navy.

UNITED States Minister Powell upon leaving San Domingo, addressed the president of that Republic, and said that neither the government nor the people of the United States had the least idea of annexation. They desired that Santo Domingo should remain a sovereign independent power, and in this the republic would have the support of the United States government. Mr. Powell said his government would not consent to

any part of Domingo going under the control of any foreign power.

THE 58th Congress made an earlier adjournment than any of its predecessors. This Congress adjourned April 28, and the Des Moines Capital says that it is the earliest adjournment which has taken place since the early part of the civil war as is made plain by the following table compiled by Congressman Underwood of Alabama:

Thirty-seventh—Republican; Grow, Speaker; July 17, 1862.

Thirty-eighth—Republican; Colfax, Speaker; July 4, 1864.

Thirty-ninth—Republican; Colfax, Speaker; July 28, 1866.

Fortieth—Republican; Colfax, Speaker; July 27, 1868.

Forty-first—Republican; Blaine, Speaker; July 15, 1870.

Forty-second—Republican; Blaine, Speaker; June 10, 1872.

Forty-third—Republican; Blaine, Speaker; June 23, 1874.

Forty-fourth—Democratic; Randall, Speaker; August 15, 1876.

Forty-fifth—Democratic; Randall, Speaker; June 20, 1878.

Forty-sixth—Democratic; Randall, Speaker; June 16, 1880.

Forty-seventh—Republican; Keifer, Speaker; August 8, 1882.

Forty-eighth—Democratic; Carlisle, Speaker; July 7, 1884.

Forty-ninth—Democratic; Carlisle, Speaker; August 5, 1886.

Fiftieth—Democratic; Carlisle, Speaker; October 20, 1888.

Fifty-first—Republican; Reed, Speaker; October 1, 1890.

Fifty-second—Democratic; Crisp, Speaker; August 5, 1892.

Fifty-third—Democratic; Crisp, Speaker; August 28, 1894.

Fifty-fourth—Republican; Reed, Speaker; June 11, 1896.

Fifty-fifth—Republican; Reed, Speaker; July 8, 1898.

Fifty-sixth—Republican; Henderson, Speaker; June 7, 1900.

Fifty-seventh—Republican; Henderson, Speaker; July 1, 1902.

REFERRING to the list of literary men and women who have died since January 1, 1904, a writer in the Reader Magazine directs attention to the extraordinary average of longevity. This writer points out Mrs. Latimer, had reached the age of 81, Citizen Train had passed 75 years of vivid life; Von Holst, the scholar, had gone too soon at 65; Hallowell, the Quaker, was 65; Mrs. Ketchum, who, in her youth, wrote the gallant and taunting lines of "The Bonnie Blue Flag" was in her 80th year; Rev. Dr. Cooper, the philosopher, was 73; Professor Powell, the historian, has spent 75 studious years; Erastus Wiman was 70, and Sir Leslie Stephen left the life in which he had found so much of interest, taste and fine pleasure, after 81 years of discriminating enjoyment. A number of other writers departed this world of more or less futile activities, at 60 and 65. Only one of the list, Professor Beecher of Yale, had cried quits before reaching the half century mark.

This bears witness to the fact that the career of the literary worker is not a hazardous one, at least, so far as our sane, grave, temperate American writers are concerned. It seems to be different with those who have a flame within them. The last few years have seen some gallant adventurers in the world of thought go down—though with colors flying, be it said. De Maupassant and Emma Lazarus, Stephen Crane and Henley, Stevenson and Norris, Hovey, Fairless and Carryl—above all, Stevenson.

A PRINTER at Louisville, Ky., is just now attracting some attention because he gave up a position to help his fellow man. The Louisville Courier Journal tells the story in this

way: "Because he thought another man who was married and had a family needed the place more than he did, Will Alvot has given up a job which paid him \$4 a day and his place has been taken by Edward Johnston. Both men are striking job printers and were employed by the Courier-Journal Job Printing Company as proof readers. Alvot at once secured a place with the Globe Printing Company as head proof reader, his wages being \$4 a day. He went to work, but a few days later learned that Johnston was out of a job and could not get another place. Johnston is a married man and has several children. When Alvot heard of this he went to the managers of the printing company and offered to resign his place if they would give it to Johnston. The company agreed and Alvot left. Johnston then went to work and now Alvot is out of a place."

THE largest warrant ever drawn upon the United States treasury figures in the settlement of the Panama Canal transfer. This warrant is in the sum of \$40,000,000. The New York Evening Post says: "This will give Secretary Shaw the distinction of affixing his signature to the largest single warrant ever issued in the course of government business. It will also rank in the opinion of New York bankers as the largest sum ever transferred by the interchange of a single slip of paper. When the \$20,000,000 was remitted to Spain at the close of the Spanish-American war, four treasury warrants of \$5,000,000 each were used. They were paid over at intervals of a week or more to the French ambassador, by James Stillman, president of the National City bank, of New York. In that instance gold was not used as a medium of exchange, although metal covering the full amount was exported to Europe within two months after the transaction was completed."

IT IS predicted by Professor George Darlow that as a result of the apparitions now growing in the distribution of the solar system, the moon will return to the earth which gave her sudden birth so many years before and that the planets and their satellites must ultimately yield to the gravitational influence of the dying sun. A writer in Harper's magazine says: "We must conceive of the solar system of today, then, as gathered into one central mass, closely aggregated around that point which, from the beginning, has constituted its center of gravity. And what will be the stage of this shrunken object? It will be a dark star, a dead sun. There are myriads such in the heavens. Sir Robert Ball has said that to count all the bright stars that we can see and say 'these are all there are,' would be like counting the redhot horseshoes in England and saying, 'This is the total number.' This dark to-be will therefore be just such another as millions more. There will be no life upon it. We can not conceive the terror of its cold, for the nebula has been dissipating energy, in the form of light and heat, into the chilly depths of intersidereal space ever since the first hour of its longaeval shrinkage. What is the destiny of this dead sun, amongst whose constituent atoms, remember, will be those in the printer's ink before your eyes and those in the eyes themselves? Are they forever—'stable in desolation,' as Stevenson has it—to be borne onwards through infinite space? No; this shriveled globe, the common tomb of Sun and Earth and Mars and of the bodies of the great that once breathed thereon, may live again. Give it but the consuming embrace of such another voyage and in a moment a new nebula will be born. The force of their impact will suffice to evaporate their substance into another cloud which will repeat the history of the old. The path of the two dead suns will determine the position of the 'principal plane' which will form the ground plan of the new system."

A WOMAN at Anthony, New Jersey has recently completed what is described as the "craziest patch-work quilt." A writer in the Kansas City Journal says: "What in all probability will be known as one of the most remarkable bed quilts in the country has just been finished."