

CIVILITIES AT THE FRONT.

On Christmas Day Japanese and Russians Agree to Suspend Fight That All May Feast.

A Japanese officer serving on the Shaho has a strange and interesting story to tell of intercourse and civilities between the two armies.

The Japanese being desirous of conveying to the Russians news of the fall of Port Arthur, volunteers were invited to carry the letters. Two non-commissioned officers and two privates undertook the task. They rode out toward the enemy's lines with the intention of delivering the letters directly into the hands of the Russians, instead of depositing them at some midway point, as had been the custom hitherto. There was, however, great danger that this new method might be fatal to the little party.

But they rode off stoutly to within a thousand meters of the enemy's outpost, waving white handkerchiefs. The Russians did not fire, and the Japanese went steadily on. When they were only about 30 or 40 yards away, a party of Russians lay down in firing positions, but still the sergeants and soldiers rode on, energetically waving their white flags. Presently the Russians motioned them to lay down their arms, thinking they had come to surrender. The Japanese, however, regardless of risk, pushed on to within hand-shaking distance. Then the Russians saw that they carried several bottles of wine and boxes of cigars. On the latter was inscribed in big letters: "Tomorrow will be your Christmas day. We shall not attack if you do not. Drink and smoke to your heart's content and have a good time."

At first the Russians did not wish to accept the presents, but when they read the hearty sentences written on the boxes in their own language, they were much overcome, and there ensued an exchange of the friendliest greetings.

Then the visitors handed in their letters and spoke of the fall of Port Arthur, the news of which was received with profound discouragement. "There is no further object in the war," said the Russian soldiers. Eager questions were asked about Gen. Stoessel, and the men were much interested to hear he shortly would be on his way home. The Japanese then presented the Russians with some pictorial post cards showing how well Russian prisoners were treated in Japan.

Finally the four men rode away in safety with the rousing cheers of the grateful enemy ringing in their ears.

THE BOOTMAKER IN CHINA

Common People Very Rarely Wear This Sort of Footwear—Customs in the North.

Boots are only worn in China by officials, servants, soldiers, sailors, and special hob-nailed boots, occasionally in wet weather, by the common people. The universal form of foot-covering is a shoe, while coolies and the poorest classes have to content themselves with straw or leather sandals, or go barefoot. Women's shoes are made at home and, except in isolated cases in Shanghai, are never exposed for sale in shops. This remark does not apply to the peculiar form of shoe worn by Manchurian women, which is perched on a sort of small stilt. In the north, during the winter months, the ordinary boot or shoe is often wadded or lined with sheepskin, and of late years reproductions of Chinese boots and shoes in India rubber have been imported from the United States and Germany, and found favor with Chinese at the treaty ports.

Woman's Progress in Roumania.

The post of official shorthand writer in the Roumanian parliament has for the first time been won by a woman. It was a competitive appointment and the lady applicant beat all her male rivals. Since the new government took up the reins women have made great strides in Roumania in the matter of competing with men. A short time ago the finance minister had no fewer than 15 women employed as secretaries in the central offices. There is a great outcry against the minister's manifest partiality for women clerks in his department.

ORIGINALITY IS A POWER.

By Fostering This Characteristic One May Attain Great Things in Life.

There are a thousand people who will do faithfully what they are told to one who can lay out a programme or execute it; a thousand who can only follow to one who can lead. It is a rare thing to find a young man who has the power of accomplishment, the ability to put a thing through with the force of originality, says Orison Swett Marden, in Success.

Whatever your work in life, do not follow others. Do not imitate. Do not do things just as everybody else has done them before, but in new, ingenious ways. Show the people in your specialty that precedents do not cut much of a figure with you, and that you will make your own programme. Resolve that, whether you accomplish much or little in the world, it shall be original—your own. Do not be afraid to assert yourself in an original way. Originality is power, life; imitation is death. Do not be afraid to let yourself out. You grow by being original, never by copying; by leading, never by following. Resolve that you will be a man of ideas, always on the lookout for improvement. Think to some purpose. There is always a place for an original man.

There is nothing else which will kill the creative faculty and paralyze growth more quickly than following precedents in everything, and doing everything in the same old way. I have known progressive young men to stop growing, become hopelessly rutty, and lose all their progressiveness by going into their fathers' stores, factories or places of business, where everything was done in the same old-fashioned way, and precedents were followed in everything. They lost all expansiveness. There was no motive for reaching out for the new and original, because their fathers would not change; and I have seen these splendid fellows, who might have become great and grand men, shrivel to pygmies in their fathers' ruts.

How many of our business houses are weighted down with machinery, old, antiquated methods, ponderous bookkeeping, and out-of-date appliances, when new devices, or new methods, with short-cut way of doing things, would enable them to economize greatly on room and get along with less help; but they cling to the old with a fatal tenacity.

This is why so many old concerns, which have been strong and powerful for generations, gradually shrink, shrivel, get into ruts, and fail, while their newer competitors, the bright young men who have gone out from these houses, do things in a new way, adopt up-to-date methods, keep up with the times, and go on to greater success.

WOMEN WASTE VITAL FORCE

Fair Sex Loses Much Nervous Energy Through Errors Which Might Easily Be Avoided.

Women (according to a lady doctor) lose much nervous force through errors which might be easily avoided.

One notable instance is seen in their manner of walking. Many women have an uneven gait, a nervous, jerky step that jars the whole body and keeps most of the muscles tense and drawn.

A good way of correcting a bad walk is to carry a waltz tune in the mind, and keep step to it as far as possible without actually dancing. After a time the walk will become regular and buoyant, and, the habit once formed, there is no occasion of continuing the device of keeping step to a tune.

Women lose much of their vitality in needless excitement and in misplaced sympathies. Their emotions are easily drawn upon, and instead of reserving their powers for important occasions, they dissipate them on the smallest provocation. The remedy here is to practice self-control. It is one of the finest of nerve tonics.

Chinese Cotton Mills.

Thirteen hours and a half constitute the working day of a Chinese mill hand in the cotton factories, night shifts working but ten hours. In spite of the long hours the pay is very small, the best workers receiving but 12 cents a day.

MINIATURE JAP GARDENS.

Made in This Country and Used to Decorate the Dinner Table for American Society.

The little Japanese gardens displayed in the windows of florists are made in this country, but by Japanese artists.

"We import the dwarf plants and trees used for the purpose from Japan," said one dealer to a New York Sun reporter. "The gardens are constructed by Japanese men here whom we employ for the work."

"How much are they? The ones that you see here range from \$3 to \$6. We have more expensive ones. These are the \$6 ones in these round terracotta pots."

"Some people use them for jardinières for the center of the dining table. The coloring is rich and good and the little gardens always interest people."

Only Japanese art could achieve these wonderful miniature gardens, many of them not more than eight inches across.

A perfect illusion of extensive landscape is won by the clever placing of the tiny dwarfed trees, the carefully twisted given to weaved paths, the carefully arranged vistas.

The smallest gardens are, as a rule, grown in little shallow porcelain dishes of pretty design and coloring. The larger gardens are grown in shallow earthenware pots, bowl shaped.

Flooded with bright sunshine the gardens show off to the best advantage.

"I love mine in the sunset light," says a woman who is so devoted to her garden that she has had a special high stand made for it to rest on in a bow window, where it may catch an admirable all round light. "The effect of the golden light through the little old pine trees is stunning, and orange streaks slip over the little lawns in just the way they do over real lawns."

"When dusk comes the garden is delightful, so dark and bosky and cool. And in the moonlight? Well, you just ought to see the moonlight on my garden, lightening up the dearest little white pagoda on the side of a steep hill."

"My garden's poetry to me all the time. Through it I keep sense of summer near me all through the winter months."

WAS HONEST IN POLITICS.

Mark Twain, Stumping for Hawley, Told Exactly What He Knew of the Famous General.

This is the way in which Mark Twain once introduced Gen. Joseph R. Hawley at a public meeting, according to the Hartford Times: "I see I am advertised to introduce the speaker of the evening, Gen. Hawley, of Connecticut, and I see it is the report that I am to make a political speech. Now, I must say this is an error. I wasn't constructed to make stump speeches, and on that head (political) I have only this to say: First, see that you vote. Second, see that your neighbor votes. Lastly, see that yourself or neighbor don't scratch the ticket. Gen. Hawley was president of the Continental commission. Was a gallant soldier in the war. He has been governor of Connecticut, member of congress, and was president of the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln."

Gen. Hawley—That nominated Grant.

Twain—He says it was Grant, but I know better. He is a member of my church at Hartford, and the author of 'Beautiful snow.' Maybe he will deny that. But I am only here to give him a character from his last place. As a pure citizen, I respect him, as a personal friend of years I have the warmest regard for him; as a neighbor whose vegetable garden joins mine, why—why, I watch him. That's nothing; we all do that with any neighbor. Gen. Hawley keeps his promises, not only in private but in public. He is an editor who believes in what he writes in his own paper. As the author of 'Beautiful Snow' he added a new pang to winter. He is broad-souled, generous, noble, liberal, alive to his moral and religious responsibilities. Whenever the contribution box was passed I never knew him to take out a cent. He is a square, true, honest man in politics, and I must say he occupies a mighty lonesome position.

HE SOWED THE HOLY SEED

Bible Used as Wrapping Paper Proves Interesting and Many Calls Are Made for It.

In Armenia the distribution of the Bible by missionaries is especially difficult. Yet the book is eagerly read by the natives when it falls into their hands, as may be gathered from this story, told by one of the Bible men, says Everybody's Magazine. A copy of the Bible was given to a patient in the American hospital, and by him carried to his home in a village. Here an Armenian priest took it from the man, and, having torn it to pieces, threw it into the street. A grocer picked it up and took it to his shop, where he began to use it as wrapping paper. So for a time olives, cheese, candles and other things sent forth from that store were wrapped in pages upon which were printed the "Words of Life."

In this way the Bible was scattered about through the village, and was read by many whose interest was so far aroused that they began asking for more of the same book. The result was that when the colporteur came round over 100 Bibles or portions of the Bible were sold in that village. North and south, east and west, the Bible society sows; and that no ground is too barren for its seed surely the following incident proves:

A Cree Indian and his son, fishing in the northwest some years ago during the winter season, traveled on snow shoes across the plains, thinking that they carried what they called the "Book of Heaven" in their pack. When they reached a hunting ground, 140 miles distant from the fishery, they found that the book had been left behind. One of them went back on his tracks and walked 280 miles through the wild country to regain the Bible.

HELD TO CLASSICAL MUSIC

Thomas, Famous Leader, Began at the Top in His Education and Always Stayed There.

The accepted way of teaching people to understand music is to begin at the bottom, says Charles E. Russell, in Reader Magazine. Play simple airs to-day, and perhaps to-morrow, or next year, or some other time, you can play something a little better. You must lead the people by slow degrees and as if by the hand from fathomless depths of ignorance. The first thing Mr. Thomas did was to trample upon this snail's pace. He would have none of it. He was a musical democrat; I think he had a feeling that the theory of beginning at the bottom was the rotten fruitage of the idea that some men are specially gifted to feel and to understand, and the rest, poor things, are inferior, and the gifted truly must be very patient with them and show them the way to the simplest apprehension. Few men have had a better understanding of their fellows, and he probably knew well enough that the difference between mind and mind is usually infinitesimal. He tolerated none of this "beginning at the bottom." He began at the top. With the highest and most complicated forms of music he started upon his career, and through years on years of good and evil fortune, through trial and failure, boundless trouble and incessant toil, through intelligent praise and fierce storms of denunciation, he never for an instant lowered his standard nor abandoned his faith.

Industrial Accidents in France.

There were killed or injured in industrial accidents in France in the four and one-half years, from July 1, 1899, to December 31, 1903: Males under 16 years of age, 1,282; males over 16 years of age, 41,094; females under 16 years of age, 238; females over 16 years of age, 1,549; total, 44,163. The deaths included in the foregoing numbered 6,962.

Colombian Gold.

According to a Spanish exchange the republic of Colombia, in South America, since the times of the conquerors has produced \$130,000,000 worth of gold.

Good Fellow, Poor Fellow.

There is no way of estimating how much of life's trouble comes through the desire to be thought generous. — Philadelphia Bulletin.

WILL POWER AN ESSENTIAL

The Man Who Believes and Has Confidence in Himself Is He Who Succeeds.

What would you think of a young man, ambitious to become a lawyer, who should surround himself with a medical atmosphere and spend his time reading medical books? asks Orison Swett Marden, in Success. Do you think he would ever become a great lawyer by following such a course? No, he must put himself into a law atmosphere, where he can absorb it and be steeped in it until he is attuned to the legal note. He must be grafted into the legal tree so that he can feel its sap circulating through him.

How long would it take a young man to become successful who puts himself into an atmosphere of failure and remains in it until he is soaked to saturation with the idea? How long would it take a man who depreciates himself, talks of failure, walks like a failure, and dresses like a failure—who is always complaining of the insurmountable difficulties in his way, and whose every step is on the road to failure—how long would it take him to arrive at the success goal? Would anyone believe in him or expect him to win?

The majority of failures began to deteriorate by doubting or depreciating themselves, or by losing confidence in their own ability. The moment you harbor doubt and begin to lose faith in yourself, you capitulate to the enemy. Every time you acknowledge weakness, inefficiency, or lack of ability, you weaken your self-confidence, and that is to undermine the very foundation of all achievement.

So long as you carry around a failure atmosphere, and radiate doubt and discouragement, you will be a failure. Turn about face, cut off all currents of failure thoughts, of discouraged thoughts. Boldly face your goal with a stout heart and a determined endeavor, and you will find that things will change for you; but you must see a new world before you can live in it. It is to what you see, to what you believe, to what you struggle incessantly to attain, that you will approximate.

FIND TREASURE OF A KING

Hoard of Gold, Ivory and Precious Stones Lies Hidden in African Soil.

Treasure hunting continues to occupy the attention of many people in various parts of the world. A hoard of buried wealth not as well known as certain others is that supposed to have been secreted by Lobengula, king of the Matabele in South Africa, before he met his death at the hands of the British. This treasure is said to consist of gold, ivory and precious stones. It was brought into the limelight of public notice not long ago by the arrest of a Dutchman named John Jacobs. He arrived at Bulawayo, told something of his plans, was put into what they call the "goal" and has since been deported.

Lobengula succeeded his father as king of the Matabele in 1870 and boldly opposed European civilization. He made Bulawayo his capital. After the discovery of gold in his territory in 1872, Portugal, the Transvaal and Great Britain strove to win the supreme control over Lobengula's kingdom. In 1888 he signed a treaty with Great Britain, admitting her suzerainty. In 1893, provoked by the insolence of the British South Africa company, he attacked the English. He was terribly beaten. His capital was taken and in his flight he himself was killed.

John Jacobs, the treasure seeker, was a school-teacher. He claims to have been private secretary to King Lobengula and that in this way he learned where the treasure was hid. The Bulawayo authorities, however, discovered that he had a bad record. Hence his deportation. Jacobs is an elderly man, bearing evidence of long exposure to wind and weather. The treasure is still to be found.

Old Age and Late Hours.

A statistician affirms that the majority of people who attain old age have kept late hours. Eight out of ten who reach the age of 80 have never gone to bed till after 12 at night.

BLACK DEATH, RATS, FLEAS

It Is Believed That Germs on Rodents Are Accountable for Terrible Plague.

The origin and nature of the black death, which devastated Europe during the middle ages, has never been clear, says Collier's. It seems certain that the infection was brought by the ships of certain traders escaping from the Crimea, where they had been attacked by the Tartars at a town on the River Don. During the attack the Tartars were stricken with violent plague, which caused great loss of life among them. In the hope of giving the curse to the people of the besieged town, they threw bodies of their dead into the town. Their hopes were fulfilled, and the defenders were also attacked by the plague. These traders took to their ships and sailed to various European ports, Constantinople, Venice and Genoa, leaving the black death everywhere behind them. This black death had certain striking features in common with the Bombay plague of India. A careful search of the records of Indian history has shown that there had been an outbreak of plague in India just previous to the time of the Tartar siege and the introduction of the black death into Europe. These Tartars might very easily have taken the disease from the people of India. If that is the true story of the train of events, then the black death of the middle ages was the modern plague, a disease which we know to be caused by a certain specific bacillus.

Efforts have been made to learn the means by which this disease is carried, and what causes lead to an outbreak. Certain facts bearing on these points have lately come to light and may lead to a correct knowledge of the means of plague transmission. Rats have the disease and rat fleas have been examined and found to contain quantities of the plague bacilli. Ordinarily the rat fleas are not found on man. During epidemics of plague, however, these rat fleas are found in notable quantities on human beings, and there is no evident reason why they may not inoculate man by their bites. Doubtless these things have something to do with the spread of the plague, although enough is not yet known to allow the whole chain of events to be made out.

HISTORY IS A NEW STUDY.

Recognition by Universities of Importance of America's Story of Recent Date.

It seems incredible to students of the present day that within the last three decades only has American history been considered of enough importance to be given a place in the study courses of our large universities. Henry Cabot Lodge, in the Reader Magazine, says: "A little more than 30 years ago a boy could enter Harvard college and after four years graduate with the highest honors without knowing of the existence of the Declaration of Independence or when the constitution of the United States was framed. What was true of Harvard was true of other universities and colleges. American history was not included in the scheme of the higher education. Boys entering college were required to know something of the history of Greece and Rome, but not of their own country. During the four years of the college course they had an opportunity to study the history of England and Europe, but never to learn aught of the United States. This condition of education was merely an indication of an attitude of mind then passing away, but which had once been predominant. The usual opinion seems to have been during the first half of the nineteenth century that there was no American history worth telling, apart from the adventures of the earliest settlements and the events of the revolution, which were both connected so closely with the history of Europe that they might be deemed of importance."

The Bicycle in Germany.

The bicycle still holds its own abroad, as is shown by the fact that the exports of bicycles and parts of bicycles from Germany during the years 1902, 1903 and 1904 were valued at \$3,427,200, \$4,416,600, and \$4,795,700 respectively.