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GILBERT WRITES.

Professor Fossler has just received his letter from A. W. Gilbert, an old Int. man now engaged in Y. M. C. A. work in the Orient:

Newchang, Manchuria, Nov. 26, 1904.
Prof. L. Fossler, Lincoln, Neb.:

My Dear Professor Fossler.—One need never be surprised at anything on this side of the globe because so many unexpected things happen that all one's time would be given to wondering what was coming next. We were hardly settled in Peking in our home before a request came from Japan that I go to Newchang to open the Y. M. C. A. work among the Japanese soldiers stationed there and so I came November 5th, and will stay until January 1st.

In one respect at least the work for the Japanese is very pleasant, namely, the personal treatment the Y. M. C. A. secretary is receiving at their hands. Since coming here I have been officially recognized by the authorities and treated more as a government official than as a Y. M. C. A. secretary.

Of all the polite people in the world the Japanese are certainly in the lead. Sometimes it is amusing and then at other times excruciating. You first, my dear Alfonso. After you, my dear Gaston," surely must have originated in the land of the Rising Sun. I recently attended the birthday of a prominent merchant here at which the only lady present was his wife. After a sumptuous repast we retired to the drawing room and the lady withdrew to another room—we were at the hotel. Presently the lady returned and approached the empty chair which was standing between two others occupied by gentlemen. She would have made it with no trouble to anyone, had these two gallants not seen her unobtrusively advancing. She was a very modest little lady, and rather shy. They knew this, but that made no difference; here was an excellent opportunity to show their gallantry, so up they popped, each man profusely apologizing for being seated in her presence and offering her his chair. There they stood, bowing as only Japanese can, and each insisting upon the confused lady accepting his chair. The other foreigner and myself could not refrain from laughing at these two men being held at bay by one little woman. The situation was all the more amusing because the men were old bachelors. Well, after they had exhausted their vocabulary of politeness, the lady had her way (as usual) for she took the seat she first started for and the men subdued and turned the conversation into another channel. Neither the Japanese nor the Chinese shake hands. Their manner of salutation and farewell is bowing and speaking some words of greeting or farewell as the case may be. In business both are slow, but the Japanese fo at things with a vim as soon as the idea is thoroughly planted, while the Chinaman goes around with an important air, as though he was omniscient, and had a life time in which to accomplish this one thing which the "foreign devil" had revealed to him. Both nations are very inquisitive, but the Japanese inquires thoroughly and minutely, while the Chinaman is more like a boy five years old—the same thing interests him a long time. Both people have a ready way of saying "yes" to everything, but rarely understand you with one telling. To make sure of being understood, you must tell an English speaking Japanese the same thing at least three times, and a Chinaman seven or eight times, or until he finally understands. It is impossible to do official business with the Japanese without first taking tea. This is considered as important as offering a guest a seat.

What about the war? Why, the Japanese are going to win, of course. What then? I will not venture a prediction. However, I think we are safe 'n saying that China will be more open to foreigners than ever before for this reason, viz: that she is looking to Japan for pointers, and Japan's policy is to accept teaching from the western nations—I may say that Japan will listen to any nation, but will accept only that which she thinks is best. She is fast breaking away from all superstition. I have been talking lately with one of her greatest teachers of English who was conscripted and is a sergeant in the transportation office at this place, and have been very much impressed with the possibilities of this rising nation. He is a Chris-

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F. H. BARNES
G. P. A.

—as are many of the high officials here. I suppose that there are few persons in America who can discuss or expound English grammar as can Sergeant J. Nagura. He can not speak rapidly, in English, but his grammar is faultless.

Speaking from an unselfish and sociological point of view. Japan is just the nation to open China. Of course, whether the greed of the powers will permit this is another question. It will mean that the Asiatics are going to enter commercial competition in earnest, that the adventurers and grafters, who are too unscrupulous to make new pastures. They are a disgrace to their country here, and many would doubtless be behind prison bars were they where justice could deal with them. Of course there are many energetic and honest business men here, who would also find it more congenial—for the most part—to look elsewhere for a profitable business; but whether this would not be desirable for mankind as a whole, is a question too big for me.

Sincerely yours,
A. W. GILBERT.

VESPER SERVICES.

The Vesper services, the only distinctly University religious service, will be held in Memorial hall Sunday evening at 7:00 o'clock. Chancellor Andrews will deliver the address and a helpful and inspiring hour is assured. No University student, or member of the faculty should fail to be present on this occasion.

A member of the faculty of the University of Michigan has been appointed by the board of regents as the auditor and comptroller of the funds of all student organizations. This measure is to guard against any suspicion of irregularity in the financial management of the clubs. Professor Geo. W. Patterson of the department of electrical engineering was appointed to the position.

Chas. D. Hurry, a graduate of the University of Michigan, will be present at the annual Y. M. C. A. banquet to be held at the Lindell on the evening of March 3.

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