# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

#### THE FATE OF SPIES.

The execution of three Japanese staff officers who, while in disguise, attempted to destroy an important rallway incident to be expected in all wars. There are always spies on both sides, but they are not always detected. When they are discovered they obtain a short shrift and an ignominious death. In our Revolutionary War the brilliant and amiable young Englishman, Major Andre, was executed as a spy and Nathan Hale, a graduate of Yale College, was hanged as a spy by the British General Howe on Long Island. Rev. Dr. Edward E. Hale, the venerable chaplain of the United States Senate, is proud today to trace his ancestry back to the American spy, Nathan Hale, and the British government erected a monument to the memory of Major Andre in Westminster Abbey and conferred a pension upon his mother. His sisters made excellent marriages, and his igno-minious death by the hangman did not injure his memory as that of a hero in the estimation of his countrymen. Doubtless the fate of these Japanese officers executed as spies by the Russians will be deplored and their memory publicly honored by the Japanese government as conspicuously as Great Brit-ain has cherished that of Major Andre and America that of Nathan Hale.

During our Civil War the spy service

of the Confederates was excellent, while that of the Union cause was execrable during the first two years of the war, General McClellan's chief of scouts, Allen, was so incompetent that McClellan always overestimated the numbers of the enemy in his front. In March, 1862, McClellan estimated the enemy in his front at 115,000 strength was but 40,000. On the Penin gula McCiclian estimated Lee's army against McClellan's fighting strength of 95,000. McClellan continued to overes timate Lee's strength so grossly that with 87,000 men at Antietam he thought he was facing at least equal numbers when in point of fact Lee's army was about 40,000 to 45,000 strong. McClellan's spies, or "scouts," were worthless, and those of Burnside were not much better, for General Burnside at Fredericksburg estimated the Confederate forces at from 100,000 to 200,000 men en in fact Lee's army did not exceed 75,000. Even at Harrison's Landing, on e occasion of the President's visit, in July, 1862, McClellan believed that the Army of the Potomac was confronted by 200,000 men. This means that its "secret service" was then worthless.

The "secret service" of the German army was so efficient that it was able to report to Moltke three weeks after the declaration of war that the largest force the French could assemble on the Rhenish frontier would not exceed 250 .-600 men, and on this estimate, which proved correct, Moltke based his triumphant campaign. In the Gettysburg campaign the "secret service" of the Union Army had become so efficient that General Meade was enabled in a couple of hours to find out exactly what gaged on the 1st and 2d of July and on the strength of this knowledge he decided to give battle the next day. There were sacrifices on both sides during the war on the part of spies that were pathetic. While General Rosecrans was in command of the Army of the Cum-berland in the Winter of 1862-63, two Confederate officers in the disguise of Union uniforms were arrested, searched, discovered to be spies with full notes of the Federal lines, numbers and inenchments concealed in their clothing. They were tried, found guilty, and by ier of General Rosecrans hanged. On of them, whose name was Williams, had been an officer in the old regular Army and had been, for a time at least, at West Point. His companion was a Confederate officer of excellent family. They died, as Andre and Hale died, with the courage and composure that befits a gentlema

A party of Union soldiers in disguise undertook to penetrate the Confederate lines in Georgia and destroy an important railway bridge. They were etected, captured and most of them suffered the fate of the Japanese bridge destroyers that the Russians have just executed. In the Fall of 1863 Samuel Davis, a Confederate spy only 18 years was arrested near Pulaski, Tenn. Upon his person were found tions, etc., of the Union forces, then under command of General G. M. Dodge. On trial the fact was disclosed

furnished him by some one inside the told ship, no matter where she was built lines, and the boy was told that if he or under what flag. would give the name of the person who had supplied him with the sketches and information concerning the Union camps he would be given his liberty and a safe conduct to the outposts of Bragg's army. The boy refused even at the foot of the gallows; his sense of honor was so keen that he surrendered his life rather than betray his confed-

erate in the Union camp. General Sheridan ascribed his success in the Shenandonh Valley to the excellence of his "secret service." His "scouts" were natives of that portion His of Virginia. They knew the whole country thoroughly; every wood road and bridle path. He paid them \$100 a month in gold, and they reported to him personally. The result was that Sheridan was better informed as to the numbers and position of his enemy than ever had been McClellan, Burnside or Hooker. The service of a spy or "scout" is perllous, but if it is acc for honor's sake its sacrifice is as muc entitled to respect as if the martyr had fallen leading a charge, for it stands for the acceptance of an ign death for the cause. If "spy" service is undertaken merely for wages, it is nevertheless a service of extreme hardi. hood, which none but a bold, daring man can accept and execute.

BUSSIA'S PLAN OF CAMPAIGN. Indications crop out that the an uncement of a Russian retreat to Harbin may have been somewhat premature. That is to say, the purpose of Alexieff to make that military and mmercial center his base of operations is probably true, but it is doubtful if the withdrawal of Russian troops thither is contemplated without s further show of resistance in the neighorhood of the Yalu. The execution of sples at the Manchurian rallway's junction with the Sungari discovers Russian administration there and we have positive and apparently official information from Tokio that so far no evidence exists of Russian crossings to the south of the Yalu.

It seems fair to conclude that Russia contemplates with equanimity a retirement to her second line of defense at say, Mukden, or even to her third line of defense at Harbin, with the resultant improvement in her own communica-tions and embarrassment to those of Japan, but that she will postpone the step until some more formidable show of strength is offered by Japan than is yet developed. The difficulties in the way of landing troops in Cores from bridge within the Russian lines, is an the sea are well set out in a valuable review of the situation in the current Harper's Weekly by a man who has been on the ground and had access to the Russian plans. He says that the shallow waters of the Corean coast at this time of year are frozen to some distance from the land, and that obstacles to landing, always tremendous, become, in the Winter time almost nuga tory.

This writer in Harper's Weekly undertakes to tell us of his own knowledge that the plans for this war were perfected by Russia as early as three years ago; and that Russia is keenly alive to the strain she can put upon Japan by compelling her to travel into Manchuria away from her base. The attractiveness of this view has already been set out in these columns; yet it's extremely doubtful whether Russia will abandon her Southern Manchurian po-sitions unless satisfied she is confronted by superior force. The abandonment of the Liao Tung Peninsula would not settle its control to any extent; but it would arouse a din of Japanese rejoic ing which even Russia, we should say would hesitate to undergo as the price of an advantageous strategical move ment. We should hear a great deal about a moral triumph. Doubtless one effect of it would be to stimulate the uneasiness with which France and Germany are already regarding the Japan ese activity.

AMERICAN TONNAGE INSUFFICIENT. nearest base at Port Arthur is 900 miles carry a cargo of forage and lumber from Portland to Manila. The freight goes to its destination under an alien flag, for the simple reason that no same rate at which the British steamer was willing to handle it. This is an il lustration of the embargo that would be placed on the export trade of the United States with her new possessions in case the Frye bill, extending the coastwise navigation laws to the Philippines, becomes a law.

Under the stress of the develo that is now in progress the Philippines will soon afford a market for large quantities of products of which the United States has no exclusive me oly. The sellers of other countries, be ing free to charter vessels irrespective of the flag they sall under, can secure lower freight rates and thus restrict American business with one of our own possessions, the only relief being in a tariff on such goods as other cou are prepared to offer in competition with our own, which, of course, would be a tax on the Philippine consumer to help the American shipowner.

As the injustice of the proposed extension of the constwise laws becomes more apparent, there is lessening hope for the Frye bill, or, if it should pass, its fangs may be drawn by some valuable amendments that have been proposed. One of these amendments, in troduced for the purpose of staving off the commercial disaster which would ensue if the bill became a law as it now stands, changes the date upon which the restriction of the coasting trade law is to go into effect from July 1, 1904, to July 1, 1909. It is believed within the next five years the wisdom of removing all hampering trade or transportation restrictions from our new possessions will become so apparent that the matter of attempting to grant a monopoly to a few millionaire shipowners will be abandoned.

Another serious complication will be avoided, or at least postponed for five years, if this amendment, which was proposed by Senator Carmack, of Ten nessee, is adopted. This complication is the one that impends as a result of the rights which Spain will exercise in this trade. As has previously been stated, the Frye bill declares that Spain's rights under the treaty ratified April 11, 1899, will not be impaired or affected by this act. Article 4 of that treaty says: "The United States will, for ten years from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this treaty, admit Spanish ships and merchandisto the ports of the Philippine Islands on the same terms as ships and merchandise of the United States." complete plans of the camps, fortifica- provision Spanish ships could not be excluded from the trade, and accordingly the American ships would be forced to meet a competition from a mation that

While this method of procedure would be of material aid in increasing the supply of tonnage, it would be extending to Spain favors which should not be withheld from other nations that are ready and willing to engage in the carrying trade to and from the Islands. Every tub should stand on its own bottom, and every ship should float on its merits, and without special assistance from the government. If the comparapopulation that is engage 1 in the shipowning business cannot carry on that slness without taxing the much larger proportion of the people who are ot shipowners, they would do well to sbandon the attempt to secure, either by direct subsidy or restrictive legislation, contributions from those who are not shipowners.

#### A MENACE TO BRITAIN.

On this page are reproduced some ruggestive extracts from serious British publications which have sense enough see the effect likely to be produ on the Continent by the proclivity in London and other British centers toward making a hoodlum holiday out of every Japanese victory. The idea that Germany could be depended upon to join Great Britain in any moral or material support of the Japanese cause has lost what plausibility it once possessed, and the British public is in a fair way to be reminded by its most sible opinion that every indica of British pleasure or profit through Japanese ascendency can only be expected to stiffen the desire on the

Continent to hold Japan in check. The significance of this British cantion lies in the recognized fact that a concert of the powers will preside over the settlement of the war. If Japan wins, we shall see England asking the largest possible recognition of herself and Japan, and the other powers standing for fresh concessions in Man-churia and Mongolia. If Russia wins, we shall see her terms to the loser sup-ported by the Continental powers and resisted by Great Britain alone on behalf of Japan. In either case there is an uncomfortable revival of English isolation in Europe which goes far to justify the reluctance felt by official Britain months ago to give Japan the assurances of aid she desired.

It is not an extreme statement of the case to say that the more aid Britain gives to Japan the more aid the Conti. nental powers will give Russia. Now, the precipitation of the acute friction with Russia is a state of things not at all to the British mind. Still less so b a favorable attitude of Germany France and the rest toward Russian de sires on the Black Sea, toward the Persian Gulf, and in China. It has lately been the fond and sagnelous dream of British diplomacy to detach France and Germany from any solid understanding or common basis of action with Russia one apparent progress was reported along these lines; but there is no guarantee of its permanence. Human nature is much the same everywhere; and the sympathy of the Continent, once cultivated for the poor, weak island power in the paws of the all-powerful bear may easily veer around to the defense of Russia, hors du combat from the encounter with awakening and advancing Asia.

# JAPAN'S NAVAL ADVANTAGE.

The naval situation of Russia at pres ent is very embarrassing to that power. If she were involved in a war with any great European power she has a naval quadron bottled up in the Caspian Ser ndanother practically bottled up to the Black Sea. She has a squadron in the Baltic, which in Winter has no great ice-free port, and on the Pacific Coast her fleet is stationed at Port Arthur and Viadivostok. On the other hand, Japan s within fifteen hours' steam of the Corean ports of Fusan and Masampho. The strait separating Japan from Corea is 200 miles broad, while Russia's 1200 miles away on the other. At Yoko suka Japan has an arsenal, slip and drydock, at Kure an arsenal, slip, drydock, armor-plate works; at Saseho a arsenal; at Maitsura a new dockvard; American vessels were available at the at Nagasaki three docks, and at Take shiki a coaling station and naval base Russia has no adequate dockyard and repair shops at Port Arthur, but at Vladtvostok, 1200 miles away, she has constructed a large drydock and a floating dock, but Vladivostok is too far removed from the range of probabl

This is the naval situation today, and It is not easy to see how it can be changed unless Russia wrests the supremacy of the sea from Japan. Japan not likely to be overcome at sea by Russia without strong naval relaforcement of her Pacific squadren from Europe, and of this reinforcement there is no present prospect. In that event could Russia by main strength expel the Japanese from Corea and Manchurla by invasion and occupation of Corea? This would depend entirely upon how well the Japanese can fight, how straight they can shoot, how skillfully they can intrench a strong position, and how absolutely intact the can keep their line of water communiation with Japan. Suppose there were 250,000 troops of the quality of the American regulars who stormed the outworks of Santiago; suppose there were 250,000. Boers of the quality that repulsed the British at Magersfontein an army of 500,000 Russlans could not drive them out of Corea so long as their sea line of communication and supply

with Japan remained unbroken Nobody knows whether the Japanes oldier is as intelligent in the field and as good a marksman as the veteran he is he will not be disloged from Corea without a very stubborn contest Does anybody believe that if the Boers could have changed situations with the British they could have been conquered; that is, suppose the Boers had had behind them an endiese chain of supplies impregnable because unreachable, they could not have been conquered. Sup pose the Boers could have reached Great Britain's endless chain of supplies by sea communication with Engand, broken it and kept it broken; that event South Africa could hardly

If Japan's soldiers have skill, courag and superior marksmanship and she does not lose control of the sea, she will make a stubborn stand in Corea. But for the engineering genius of Todleben Skobeloff could never have beaten the Turks at Plevna. If the Japanese can fight well, shoot well and know how to fortify, they may hold Coren as long as they can hold the sea.

were brought to this Coast at the time of the Klondike excitement. It is stated that they will now be returned to New York and the Pacific Coast manage has already been recalled from this field. The vessels of this company are old-style craft, built at a time when the cost of construction was much greater than now, and they are also much more expensive vessels to operate than are the modern-built craft. For a brief period they made money in the Alaska trade, and afterward mulcted the Gov-ernment in the transport trade, but since both of these rich fields have been worked out, except on a strictly business hasis, the vessels have had but little business of value. These ancient craft have frequently been mentioned as eligible for the Philippine trade in case all but American vessels are excluded from that field. The fact that were unsuccessful competitors with other vessels in the Pacific trade is one of the strongest arguments against their being forced on the ship-pers who trade with the islands and who would find their trade restricted if they were obliged to pay tribute to the owners of vessels of an out-of-date type, simply because the vessels sailed for the American flag.

Spelling formed the subject of a re cent editorial in the Brooklyn Eagle, and the subject is one that cries as course, slips in spelling do not count for much; most persons are guilty of them. But it is different when a writer, in an earnest plea for better education for the children, speaks throughout his communication of "thier" rights and of the judgment of "thier piers." When another estimable citizen begins every third or fourth word with a capital letter, and by way of punctuation throws in one dash, and nothing else, to a page, to say nothing of five or six "and 'whiches' " in one burst, why then, the cry of the Eagle for better spelling and so forth falls upon more attentive ears. A man may be worthy and spell "sphinx" with a "y" or "gnat" with a "k" in place of the "g," but surely he was not grounded in the elements of English when "govenor" is the best he can do with "governor," and "diploma" becomes under his pen "deploma." And these are not the strugglings of uneducated men after the light, but the versions of men that are deemed, no doubt rightly, excellent products of our pub-

The Canadian government will turn deaf ear to all appeals of the lumbermen for a protective tariff against mber. The reasons given are that the large numbers of new settlers who are going into the provinces should be permitted to secure their lumber at the lowest possible cost, and that it would be a case of increased profit of a few at the expense of the any if the tariff were levied. This paternal policy of the Canadian governent, especially when it extends to lothing, machinery, etc., may account in a measure for the large exodus of American farmers to Canada within the past few years. The lands on this side of the line are as productive and many localities are fully as cheap, and yet but few Canadians are coming over to our protected country to engage in farming, while, on the other hand, Americans are going over to Canada in such numbers as to cause some uneasiss among the railroads traversing that portion of the West and Northwest which is still sadily in need of

The trouble caused postoffice depart ents by sheer carelessness on the part of the public is strikingly shown in the last report of the British Post-master-General. No less than 2,500,000 letters remained undelivered in one year in consequence of incorrect or insufficient addresses. Nor is this astonishing carelessness confined to unimportant letters, for in the same year undeliverable registered letters and others contained the great total of \$3,665,310 in bank notes, checks, postal orders and Letters mailed with no addresses at all numbered 367,579, and these contained \$81,965. Owing to the \$5920 in coin and \$120,000 in postal orders, checks and so forth were found cose in the mails, together with 93,232 small articles. And yet the ordinary Englishman complains more about the delay and inefficiency of the postoffice than about anything else

Japan has for several years controlled the camphor market. The camphor of mmerce comes principally from For. osa, and the camphor trade was one of the perquisites of Japan's victory over China. A marked advance in the price of this commodity has already war. At the close of last year it was quoted at 55% cents a pound in bulk. Now it is selling at 77 cents in limited quantities to preferred customers. China will feel this advance much more than other nations since camphor is ne of its staples in therapeutics, while cople who are less dependent upon or wedded to old remedles can easily find a substitute for it.

The value of water powers in Oregon not appreciated and probably will not he for many years to come. In scores of streams in the Willamette Valley there are excellent sites for water powers, but they are not held at a very high value. One town after another is dispensing with steam as a power for enerating electricity and water is used instead. As this state develops and manufacturing increases, the right to use water for power will be as highly prized as the right to use it for irrigation in an arid region. Then men will wonder why they did not see the opportunity to acquire a water power when no one considered it of value,

thuslastically and consistently pro-Japanese, hoots at the idea of a of Japan and China because the Japs are military and the Chinese are essen tially traders. This is a curious perver-sion of the "yellow peril" propaganda under which the peaceful Chinese are to be effectually organized by the more military minds of Japan. By the same easoning England can do nothing in India or Egypt or Germany in Syria Conquering and organizing peoples do need to be of the same mold with their subordinate allies.

The freshmen of Princeton, under their franchise of self-government, intoly expelled from college several of their class who had bought and used stolen examination papers. Such of-As said by the New York Independent under command of General G. M. Dodge. On trial the fact was disclosed that the sketches of the camps had been is willing to embark under fix flag any

## VIEWS OF MR. HANNA. His Forceful Personality.

Baltimore News.
Whether or not Mr. Hanna, in the past ow months, cherished the ambition of he-oming the candidate of his party for the residency even his closest friends seem nable to determine. Possibly he was imself undecided as to the attitude he himself undecided as to the attitude he should assume. In any event, it became evident some time ago that there was no chance of such an aspiration being fulfilled. In the impulse to magnify a man's greatness at the moment of death many newspapers of this mortuing have spoken of Mr. Hanna as though he had measured up to the full stature of a statesman. This is not the case and however superior he a not the case; and, however superior he fose in many ways to the original popular conception of him, and however atrongly his forceful personality has impressed it-self upon the leading figures of his party. it still remained true that the center of his strength iny where it was in the be-ginning-in his connection with great moneyed interests.

#### His Masterful Buoyancy.

Knnsas City Times. Even Americans of conscience and abso ute rectitude found themselves unable to resist the power of such masterful buoyancy and effective energy as Mr. Hanna possessed. Personal contact with him banished enmity and made converts of his consors. He had the power of com-manding attachment, which all persons possess who bring things to pass, in a way that shows consummate tact and rare ability. The sorrow and the general regret which have been created by the death of Marcus A. Hanna are significant testimonials to his personal popularity, for there will be many persons to mourn sincerely at his grave who did not ap-prove of his mestlods. It is no reflection on the memory of Mr. Hanna, but rather a distinct tribute to his attractive individuality, to say that he was able to do, without popular censure, things which a different sort of a man would not have en permitted to do without strenuous

### No Hypocrite About Him.

Boston Transcript.

As a political leader, Senator Hanna had ery plainly expressed limitations. These were the defects of his qualities. Masterful, his determination to succeed rose with opposition. It was nourished on obstacles, and he did not always see that there are obstacles that are themselves conditions. He was lacking in the imaginative faculty that renders its possessor sensitive to the appearance and extent of moral currents the political atmosphere. As a political in the political atmosphere. As a political leader, this was a serious misfortune to him, as we saw instanced in his flerce par-tisanship for Eathbone. To be sure, Sea-ator Hanna prided himself on never "go-ling back" on a friend, an amiable qualin an individual, but a weakness in ender when it is strong enough to in-e him to support a man with Rathone's record simply because of ancient indness in the days before that record as made. Senator Harna's kindness in the days before that record was made. Senator Hanna's views with regard to patronage were those of most public men nearing 70 years, whose characters were formed in the days when the merit system was not, but he was no hypocrite. If he invisted on having his share of patronage, if he bargained with administrations about offices in secret he administrations about offices in secret, he did not address civil service reform rallies in public; nor denounce spoilsism in magazine articles.

### Magnetic In Friendship.

Providence Journal. Mr. Hanna was an astute politician, who rose to National prominence by se-curing the nomination and election of William McKinley as President. He was in no sense a statesman. He left no impress upon National affairs and was a far greater personage in the public prints and in the talk of politicians than in the circles in which legislation is shaped and perfected. Friends he had in plenty, and he exerted a strong magnetism over many men. He stood not for any great prin-ciple, but for the success of his party and his friend, virtually offering to alter principles to suit the fickle popular taste. Shrewdness was his strong card, and he always depended upon it, being ever ready to compromise in conventions or in ctions for the advancement of the party which he was indubitably a devoted mirer and a courageous leader. In his anipulation of delegates and in his choice of political associates and office-holders Mr. Hanna displayed low taste. His loy-alty to the discredited Rathbone and his toleration of the odious Heath come promptly to mind. His means to an end were not always to his credit. That Mr. na was untiringly faithful to his ways pleasant to heed the motto, mortuls nil nisi bonum." but to accept Mr. Hanna's career as praiseworthy is to take a discouragingly narrow view of the op-portunities for genuine public service in American politics.

#### All Promises Were Kept. New York Evening Post.

He was, in this, but the child of his poch. That was the reason of his sucepoch. That was the reason of the cess. He best embodied the tendency of the years in which he was militant. It was in enator Hanna that grosser and more re-ulsive policies of his own party beheld the policies as in a mirror. What was What was verywhere latent, he caught up and flashed forth. The apologies of others be-came his defiances; what they deprecated, even while profiting by, he gloried in. He set about the first election of President McKinley in the spirit and with many of the devices of a financier planning a vast combination. In fact, there was an almost idicrous resemblance between his campaign for the nomination of Mr. McKinley and a skillful reorganization of a bank-rupt railway. Mr. Hanna took up a Congreasman whose private fortunes were shattered and whose political prestige was broken. That looked like most unpromising material out of which to create a Governor and later a President, But Mr. Hanna saw the financial possibilities of the situation. A political reaction was on the country. After years of depres sion a promise that the people were to be fed and filled and warmed was sure to be fetching. Mr. Hanna openly dangled that bribe in the Nation's face. He set in notion, certainly in 1895, probably as early as 1894, an elaborate and heavily endowed reganization to bring Mr. McKinley to the front. Just who furnished the funds and in what sums will not be known till Mr. Hanna's private records leap to light, if they ever do; but it was common goselp in advance that such and such men were to have this office and the other for sub-scriptions received. It is to be said of Mr. McKiniey that he honored every obilgation of that sort. Financial good faith was kept. So was political. No one of Mr. Hanna's "original McKinley men" were unrewarded, let clergymen and college professors protest against them as scan datous ill-livers if they choose. The whole ante-convention campaign was tinged with the merchandising spirit, and afterward every note was met as it fell due.

# Little Men as Soldiers.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

It is announced that the United States Recruiting Station here will continue to accept young men 5 feet 4 inches high as recruits and will not for the present require them to touch the mark at 5 feet 7. It is pleasant to know that three inches makes not the slightest difference in a man's ability to discharge a Krag-Jorgensen; and from time immemorial hasn't it been maintained that a little man is more pugnacious than a big one? Little men are more high-tempered; they will fight quicker and longer. will fight quicker and longer. It is easy to comprehend why they do
it. It is because they won't be "put
on." They fear that you labor under
the impression that because they are
small they are not as likely to maintain
their rights with the same firmness as
a builder man, and they mean to under a builder man; and they mean to unde-

### BRITISH VIEWS OF THE WAR,

Chicago Evening Post. The impression produced by the regular dispatches from London, in which, for obvious reasons, only daily papers are quoted, is that "all England" is intensely ent crists in the Far East. From the British point of view, it is represented, Russia is the unscrupulous and wanton aggressor, and Japan the innocent victim and unselfish exponent of international morality. As a matter of fact, the sober and responsible organs of British opinion have no sympathy or patience with such puerile notions. A few quotations will make this perfectly clear.

No one will accuse the Saturday Review, the stanch Tory organ, of special attachment to Russia. Referring to the attempt of certain papers to paint Russia black as the "villain of the piece," while picturing Japan as compound of martyr and here, this review says: It implies colorsal conceit on our part, and

It implies colossal conceit on our part, and a disposition by no means to be admired, that we can be proud of our own nitimate victories over the Boars, and yet attack Russia as a bully because circumstances lead her into inevitable conflict with a smaller power. England has never acted on the maxim that small maticist have the right not to be hit. A charge may plausibly be made that we have acted quits contravily our legitlends answer is that may plausibly be made that we have acted quite contrarily; our legitimate answer is that the fate has brought shout the collision and the weaker must go down. It would seem sensible and self-respecting to apply some of our ercuses for ourselves to the position of Russia, which is in many respects similar to her own.

The leading weekly organ of the Liberal tearty, the Speaker, has been denduing-

eral party, the Speaker, has been denounc-ing the reckless jingo campaign against Russia. It said recently:

Russia. It said recently:

It is mitural there should be a good deal of sympathy with Japan, for Russia has established herself in Manchuria by unscrupulous methods, and Japan is understood to be on the defensive. Japan, on the other hand, has ambitions in Corea, and seems as little inclined as Russia to respect the rights of feelings of that unconsidered population. Some Tory papers argue as if Japan should not be content with keeping Russia out of Corea, and urgo her to contest Russia's position in Manchuria. This seems to us meet mistaken advice. A Russian port in the Southern part of Corea may be a matter of life and death to Japan, and we can quite understand the Japanese regarding it in that light. But Japan has no interests or treaty claims in Manchuria which abe does not share with other powers, and if they have refused to fight for them, it is inconceivably mean to urge Japan to fight for them. The late of Manchuria was settled long ago.

That serious, dignified and excellent re-view, the Pilot, cannot understand why the conflict in the Far East, forced by Japan's aggressive course, has afforded so much pleasure to many Englishmen. While expressing approval of the more reasonable wishes attributed to Tokio, the Pilot says:

Pilot says:

Whatever their merits, the Japanese have not been so long in the European system as to be quite acceptable to the Continental nations. They have done nothing of late to weaken the impression that their political ambitton is anti-European—that they propose to supplicat the authority of Europe in Eastern Acia by their own; and if the Pekin correspondent is right in saying that Jupan has declared her resolve to reject the mediation of a third power, that impression will revive. The assumption must be, in that case, that no European power has any business to interfere; which the Continuial nations are not at all likely to concede. Much more likely is the return of a cede. Much more likely is the return of a feeling which rose to a great height during the Russo-Japanese quarrel of 1898, that an awakened East under Japanese tuition and faured with the friendship of the Anglo-Sax s, demanded the attention of a united Eu-

The Spectator, the Unionist organ, that is generally so judicious and judicial, de-clares that Russia could not be expected to surrender Corea at the demand of any power, and least of all under threats from Japan. It has had absolutely no sympathy with the shallow talk regarding Japan's moral superiority and alleged services to the open door and civilization.

#### Russia in Prophecy. New York Evening Post.

A remarkable instance of political prophecy is reported by Dr. E. J. Dillon in the Contemporary Review. A Russian named Levitoff published recently at Port Arthur a pamphlet urging that the Russians do everything possible to gain time, and that they withdraw the fleet as an encumbrance, and depend upon their numerical superiority on land. With great clearness he pointed out the peris of meeting Japan on the sea. "The Yellow Bosphorus" (The Straits of Corea) "is a trap into which the Japanese at England's instigation, are trying to entice us. So, ses, "the command of the sea and nglo-Japanese alliance "are not the Anglo-Japanese worth a sucked egg.' If we resolve to keep out of an engagement on the water, and if we are further prepared to do without our fleet, not only by refusing to increase it, but by getting rid of it wholly and without reserve, then the Japanese doc-trine, Asia for Asiatics, becomes mean-ingless, and we have a free field on which to continue our work of culture in that part of the globe." It is needless to say that this prediction has received striking confirmation in the past few days. It has been shown that the Russian fleet is merely a source of weakness, and it probably would have been better strategy to lay the ships up and mount their guns in the shore batteries, or, better yet, to send the fleet back to European waters. The Russian discomfiture is a striking dem-stration of the sheer relativity of power. Germany, for example, might etter to study recent events in the Far East than to trust unreservedly in Cap-tain Mahan's teaching. Certainly Levit-off was right when he maintained that a second track on the trans-Siberian road would be more valuable now than all the ships that Russia has built or hopes to

Harper's Weekly. If permitted China will observe a strict neutrality, and the powers have already taken steps to see that she is not forcibly drawn into the struggle. They will insist that military operations be confined to the territory north of the Great Wall, which terminates at Shan Hai Kwan. Japan has already given her assent to this delimination—in fact, Japan brought the subject forward. I have seen many comments on the probability of China assist-ing Japan by threatening the Russian line of communication from the West. This is sheer nonsense to any one familiar with the present military situation of China. She could not present a force that would not be easily routed by a single Russian division. Any threatening move on China's part would give Russia a legitimate excuse to seize Pekin, an opportunity of which she would only toe opportunity of which she would only too gladly avail herself. Any interference by China would result to Russia's advantage, not Japan's. A feeble voice, that of the Emperor, has been heard at Seoul, an-nouncing that Corea will observe a strict neutrality. This would be comical if it were not pathetic. If China and Corea could maintain a strict neutrality there would maintain a strict neutrality there would be no war, for there would be no place to fight if the contending armies

# Sir Henry Irving on Skates.

New York Herald, Attired in a funny little peaked cap of gaudy pattern, a tight-fitting reefer and dark, small clothes, Sir Henry Irving was the observed of all observers of the skaters on Trout Lake, Seneca Park, after the matinee presentation of "The Morchant of Venice" at Rochester. He was

chant of Venice" at Rochester. He was a great success on the ice.

The tragedian led his company on the frozen lake, cut pigeon wings and figure eights like a schoolboy, while the others floundered and fell. He was graceful, sure, and helpful to the ladles of the party. Afterward he was the soul of a story-telling funcheon party in the rustic refectory of the park.

#### NOTE AND COMMENT,

The Courageous Printer. The Novikrai continues to appear oc-asionally at Port Arthur, but only one mpositor remains in town.-Cable Dis-

Strong men tremble, weak despair;
Terrow stalks in every street;
Shot are abricking through the air,
Mines in splinters blow the fleet.
A bursting shell.
The soldier's heell,
Bloody snow his winding sheet.

Grave and grim the Russian host, Ready for their Caar to dis— Soldiers may not leave their post, But the senered civillans fly: "Life's too dear To lose it here, Let us go," the cravens cry,

'Hostile ships are in the port, Foreign armies at the gate;
What to us is Russia's fort—
Fly hefore it grows too late."
Cannon boom,
Their note of doom,
Beiching messengers of Fate.

Blanched is every face but one, Just one here holds his place; Danger he disclaims to shun, Gallant printer at his case; Debonalr, Working there, Honor to the Russian race.

Type beneath his fingers flash

Words of joy for loyal ears;
Heeds not he the battle's crash,
At the hall of shrappel sneers;
Lave or die,
He scorns to fly,
Bravest printer of the years. Great the copy he must set, Story thrills him to the quick— How the hostile host was met, Met and crushed by Colonel Kick-

popoffvitybechvitschoffskivitschky. The best monument to De Lesseps will

e the canal. Sophia Gab has died in Chicago, aged 129. She wasn't a "life-long citizen" the place.

In North Yakima a boy of 17 has married a schoolgiri of 15. This seems to be carrying coeducation to extremes.

Was Ben Jonson afraid of "elimination?" If not, why should he say, "drink to me only with thine eyes?"

Snow, and a world of white, And air that is cruel keen— Chincolt, and a breath of delight, And a world that is gay and green.

Senator Tillman save a farmer works with his hands and an agriculturist with his mouth. What an agriculturist was lost in the Senator;

Stock in the Baker City Hold-up Association is eagerly sought, according to the Herald. A few shares would have been a paying investment, for dividends have been large. In this connection the Herald is justly proud of the success of a little ruse it worked, at the suggestion of the police. In the box-car type it uses with such effect, the Herald declared that the authorities were satisfied that the "lone highwayman" had left town, The result of this announcement was another daring robbery, which clearly shows that the Herald is read and that its scheme was successful beyond all expectations

It is probable that a bar will be estabished in the Martha Washington, a New York hotel exclusivey for women. Hitherto, it appears, the fair creatures that dwell in the Martha Washington have had to smuggle in any liquor stronger than tea. The "literary ladies" of the place recently gave a reception, and one of its features, if not its principal feature, was a bowl of punch. Punch is a name that is sometimes applied to mixtures that neither cheer nor inebriate, but the mixture made by the literary ladies cheered them and their guests to a point at which they became hilatious, not to say uproarious. Possibly with the remembrance of this cheerful occasion the ladies, literary and otherwise, are anxious to have a bar whence cheer might be dispensed without any necessity for the bother of an attendant reception,

The pastor of a church in Naugatuck Conn., recently inserted half-page advertisements of the Sunday services in the local papers. His church was packed to the doors, and as most of the people had brought along the newspapers as programmes the rustling that ensued when a hymn was announced was as loud as waves on the beach. The success of the method having been demonstrated, something must be done to hold the crowds. Why not enliven the services by the use of costume? How much greater is the effect of a recitation or a reading when the speaker appears in character. let this progressive pastor fit up a dressing-room in his church, and when he reads a lesson from Jeremiah, say, let him appear in the garb of that prophet, or in as close a copy of it as the Connecticut climate and modern customs will permit. The same system adopted by the choir would greatly increase the effect of hymns, "Onward, Christian Soldlers" would be an inspiriting processional if sung by boys in rough riders' uniforms. If women were admitted to the choir-as would, of course, be the case in so progressive a church-"Angels Ever Bright and Fair," sung by a lot of girls with tinsel wings would produce a longing for heaven that could not fail to benefit the lives of the young men.

# OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

An Author-"I understand he was an author even before graduation from college." "Tes, indeed. Why, he was the author of a new college yell."—Chicago Post. Cirrle-Now this, madam, is the m

book of the day, everybody is reading it. Mrs. Nurtich—I don't want nothin' that everybody reads. Show me somethin' more exclusive.— Philadelphia Press. Her Tardiness—'Why was Mrs. Wiges so

late in attending the meeting of the Society of Universal Peace?" Ida—She had a spat with her husband because he refused to mind the baby.-Chicago News,

"Who was that young man hugging you last night?" asked the girl in the new fall hat. "Ob, he is a book agent," responded her chum. "Looked to me more like a press agent."-Chicago News.

Minna-I suppose you have seen Katie's en-gagement ring? It doesn't look to me like a real diamond. Florence-Them it would be the appropriate thing. I don't believe her en-gagement is a real one.—Boston Transcript. Judge What happened after the prisoner gave you the first blow? Plaintiff—Why, then he gave me a third one. Your Honor, Judge-You mean a second one. Plaintiff—No, I don't. I itanded him the second one.—Chicago News,
"Arrah, Pat! Have Ju seen Mike lately?"
"Yis, begorra, I did. I was going along the
street yisterday, and I thought I saw him on the other side, and he thought he saw me

was nayther of us."-Country Gentleman

out, hedad, when we got hear to each other it