

LETTERS OF A JAPANESE BOY

BY HASHIMURA TOGO (WALLACE IRWIN)

TRADING KINGS AT WASHINGTON

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TO EDITOR OREGONIAN, who must come out regular as possible and include shocking reports about weddings, funerals, base-balls & inaugurations, no matter how frequently they events happens.

DEAREST SIR:

My Cousin Nogi, who I frequently meet up with at 'Sons of Nagasaki Billiard & Pools to play it, enjoy showing me how to do to make that game with a poke-stick. He are very kind to teach me this, because he can win 50 out from me each time until I am flatly impoverished & care to stop doing so.

But yesterday he would not. He prefer setting at his room reading some print from newspaper & looking intelligent. By peering through Nogi's shoulder I seen something very important in this print—America have at last traded off Hon. Roosevelt for Hon. Taft, and I almost missed it! This newspaper have portraits of both them famous Kings all over it with mottoes "PUSH OFF THE OLD, PULL ON THE NEW!" Another portrait of Hon. Taft entitled "The Rising Son of O-Hio." Portraits of prominent persons present. Portrait of Senator Foraker removing the Orphan Harpoon from his neck. Portrait of Congress enquiring "Why Africa? There is no better hunting in the world than here in Washington." Portrait of O-Hio dragoons, Annapolis cadets, music-wagons full of Party Harmonies, portraits of pretty political schoolmasks attempting to surround the White House with Hobson expressions, portrait of Inaugural Ballet composed of 46 Beautiful Men from 46 States, portrait of Capitol Bldg decorated with blue flags, portrait of the Treasury Bldg decorated with red tape, portrait of 40 foreign ambassadors in coronation costumes trimmed with real point lace, portrait of prominent Filipinos, Porto Ricans and Pennsylvanians followed by the Boosters' Club & Philander P. Knocks. Finally there is a splendid portrait of 7 complete Chief Justices in front of the Capitol getting ready to swear.

"Chief Justus Fuller," say Nogi from newspaper, "are now champagne swearer of Washington."

"Thought-so that Hon. Ben Tillman was most famous for this artistic talent," I rejoined with voice of deep shock.

"Hon. Tillman do so differently," suggest Nogi. "He are famous for cursing Presidents out; but Hon. Justus Fuller are celebrated for swearing them in."

"Do it give you awes to look at this hero?" I deplored.

"By appearance," report Nogi, "this Hon. Fuller resemble Hon. Mark Twain wearing a black Mother Hubbard and looking like he was going to perform a Juncution or do something legal. It are a awfully sweet & dignified job to be a Chief Justus. All you has to do is to set down on the Supreme Bench and remain there forever. Chief Justus Fuller arrived in Washington before Joe Uncle Cannon did—and nobody can remember further back as that. He have sworn-in so many Presidents he have forgotten the names of over one-half of them. He can Inaugurate a President as easy as a Justus of the Peace can marry a pair of Swedes. He can say that Oath of Office backwards in his sleep; he can administer that Oath with his eyes shut & both hands lashed behind him. Inauguration Day are no treat to Hon. Fuller. Morning of Mch 4 he awake with tired yawn & ring for private Secretary. 'Hon. Sec.,' he say, 'what are on the Calendar to day?' 'Mch 4 are on the Calendar,' speak back Hon. Sec. 'Your Highness must arise up & attend to a new President awaiting to be sworn.' 'Holy smudges!' say Hon. C. Justus (which is a Oath he got for private use), 'It seem to me I just finished swearing

the last one. Who want to be President this morning?' 'It are Hon. Taft's turn to be it,' say that useful man, 'and he would feel hurt if neglected. All ready he are up & dressed attempting to look calm. Entire population of America & New England are eating lunch on the White House lawn, the O-Hio State militia, disguised as Hungarian musicians, are promenading on horseback, all along the line of march, the bisickel squad are beating back the proletariat and several Senators is riding in open hacks to show their affiliation with the Lower Classes. Washington are a scene of nearly-royal pomp, and it are beginning to rain. 'If it didn't rain on Inauguration Day it would be unconstitutional,' says Chief Justus Fuller with experienced look. So he reverse himself out of bed and begin pulling on his skirts of office."

"Did Hon. Fuller make a President out of Hon. Taft this time?" are next question for me.

"O surely he done!" illicite Cousin Nogi. "Never since election of C. J. Caesar as Mayor of Rome have a President been so thoroughly inaugurated. Such inspired sight! One Man standing lonesome in granjer, the choice of 80,000,000 people, many of which voted for him. There he stand, the Idle of the Army, the Pride of the Navy, the Adoration of Congress, who with voice of one man, has promised to love, honor & obey him so long as he keep quiet and do not do nothing to make them mad. There he stand on his dignity with both feet, every inch a King—whether you measure him up and down or crosswise. Pretty soon Chief Justus Fuller advance forwards and begin swearing.

"Elevate up your right hand, please, commence-he. 'What is your Christian name, if any?'"

"Taft."

"Chas. or Wm.?"

"Wm., reply Hon. Taft with only slight hesitation.

"You swear you are a white American citizen over 20 years aged so help me, and vaccinated in at least six different languages?"

"I do," say Hon. Taft nervously.

"You swear you have never been arrested in this county, can read & write and will not feel suprised if nothing much happens to the Tariff in the next 4 years?"

"I shall feel suprised at nothing," relapse Hon. Taft.

"You swear to follow the Constitution whichever way it jumps?"

"I am doing so."

"Then take it, my boy, and see what you can do with it," say Hon. Fuller kindly and depart off leaving Hon. Taft facing America with nothing but a speech.

"Were it a good speech?" I ask to know.

"Not sure," say Nogi. "American publick were too far removed from the speaker's throne to hear it. Diplomatick Corps, who stood as usual in exposed positions, was drawing their pretty uniforms about them to keep away the March drafts & eech was sneezing in his native tongue. Ambassador Brice felt peeved because he stood next by Baron Takahira who were sneezing in Japanese which nearly exploded diplomatick relations between them friendly powers. Therefore they got less of them noble utterances. All newspaper-prints this morning has entire sheets full of that speech. It were probably a very fine oratory. A speech couldn't be so long like that & not have some noble promises inside of it. American publick feels kind of undecided about

it. They hope to think it was a fine policy for a new President to say, but they got to read that speech carefully & talk it over before they are sure."

"When will they really know for actually?" I require.

"About March 4, 1912," di Nogi setting his cigarette afire.

Mr. Editor, there are a smell of possum in the White House kitchen today & a new face at the East Room window. Able-bodied White Wings is removing the scrap-paper & orange-peels off the streets of Washington and Congress are feeling comfortable but kind of lonesome. What-say Hon. Rud. Kipling about such sad days as this? He say,

"The rumpus and the spouting dies.

The Cabinet and King depart;

Behold the Constant Exercise,

The Policies we know by heart—

Great Caesar's Ghost, they're with us yet.

Least we forget, lest we forget!"

Many wise professors is now asking, "How will Hon. Roosevelt feel to be a Private Citizen?" He will never be a Private Citizen," are answer for Japanese Schoolboy. He were born a Public Question and he got to continue so whether he want to or not. What-say Hon. Shakespeare, great bookmaker, about this? He say, "Some men acquire Publicity, some men has it poked at them, but Theodore Roosevelt can't no more help being Celebrated than a Welch rabbit can help having 4 legs."

"Do that Welch marginal contain 4 legs?" require my Jay relation, Uncle Nishi, with timid expression of a Nature Fake. I am indifferent to reply.

Hon. Roosevelt were a famous character almost before he was born. In early school-days he were the brightest boy at the foot of the spelling class. He could not write a Love Letter without it sounded like a Presidential message. Nothing he does ever becomes invisible to the human ear. Even when he walk in gum-slippers it make a deliciously loud noise. How can a man vanish into the Jungle when every time he shoot a gray squirrel it sound like the Shot that was Heard around the World? I require no answer.

Power of President are always elastic; but under President Roosevelt it have got so stretched it will never look the same no more. To be a President in the future a person must trade his stove-pipe hat, for an alarm clock. If a gentleman wish to enjoy a lazy life he had better keep away from the White House and go to the Senate.

It were not thusly in the goodish old days of Geo. Washington. Hon. Washington, when he started America, thought it would run itself. After he had pursued the British entirely off this island he decided to retire in his old age and be a President, because this were easier than going on the Lyceum Lecture platform. This Washington were a lucky man. When he was Chief Executive he didn't need to be nothing but President.

For many years Presidents continued for to be thusly. They was a race of calm gentlemen with nothing on their minds but a stove-pipe hat. Only duties required of them were to ride in a hack on Inauguration Day, write a plain business hand, set in the parlor on New Year's, declare war and get their pictures on \$1 bills. In them days every American boy wished to be President—and any brite boy could learn the job.

But such dates is now entirely pastime. In them days the Ship

of State were a side-wheeler river-boat. Today the Ship of State are a twin-screw turbine liner quipped with hot and cold water and a wireless apparatus. A man to run such a Ship have got to be a cross between Admiral Evans and Jack Bluns. He got to keep his eye on Wall Street, his mind on Panama, and his teeth on Congress. He got to keep his ear to the ground and his nose to the grindstone. With one hand he must shake the hand of Labor, with the other he must shake the neck of Harriman. He got to be man and muckraker, engineer and acrobat; he must understand navigation, plumbing, international law, child-culture, hypnotism & finance, and he must be a handy man about horses. He got to be more than a President. He got to be a super-President.

In kittycorns of cemetery near Kyoto, Japan, there reside a cheerful stone tomb what got following inscription on its outside; outside:

HERE LIES EMPEROR SUTOMATO WHO RAINED SUCCESSFULLY FOR 449 YEARS

And Died at the Age of 40.

When firstly I seen that epitaf I was filled with vex & say to one holy gentleman what show me this tomb, price 10c:

"So fooly to think!" I sniff for scorn. "No respectable King could rule for 440 years and die at the age of 40. I know because I am aware."

"O ha!" say this holy gentleman. "Maybe you are not acquainted with this kind of a King."

"How you suppose?" are question for me.

"Thusly was," say him. "This Sutomato for 40 years make laws of Japan—that were job for at least one King. During that same 40 years he enforce them laws—that were job for a King and 1-2. For this same period he boss Art & Literature of Japan—2 more Kings required here. He make War, which were equivalent of 1 King. He make Peace, which equal a pair of Kings. He arrange Japanese spelling-book—1 King used up by this. He encourage Large Families, which were good job for 1-2 King at least. And annually for 40 years he call together Governors of Japan and request them to make National Resources into preserves—sufficient work for another pair of Kings here.

"Thusly," say this holy gentleman, "it were prove by ancient history-man that Hon. Emperor Sutomato were equal to about 11 able-bodied Kings all to one. Hencewise, 11 Kings ruling 40 years was equal to 1 King ruling 440 years. And if this ain't true it ought to be so."

Thusly, Mr. Editor, it are ditto in modern kingdoms. Kings is like Servant Ladies—it is not so important how long they stays as what they does while they are on the job.

Mr. Editor, will Hon. Taft be a similar King like Hon. Roosevelt? Will he be a Chip of the old Stick, or will he be different? Already he have disagreed with Hon. Roosevelt in one important respect. He have disagreed about Ladies.

Hon. Roosevelt say, "It are blessed to be the mother of at leastly 3 twins."

But Hon. Taft say, "It are more blessed to be an Oldmads Schoolman & teach them 3 twins the sense they wasn't borned with."

Both are good ways to know.

Hoping you are the same.

Yours truly,

HASHIMURA TOGO.

TWO ROYAL WEDDINGS FOR ENGLAND

Princess Beatrice
and Beautiful Princess
Patricia Soon
to Become Brides

ENGLAND has two royal romances simultaneously. The charming Princess Beatrice, niece of King Edward VII, is going to wed Manuel, King of Portugal, and the vivacious and somewhat coquettish Princess Patricia of Connaught has finally yielded her heart to Cupid and will become the bride of the Count of Turin, brother of the Duke of Abruzzi, and first cousin to the King of Italy.

One of these projected marriages would have been sensation enough in the court and castles of England, but to have two of them under way at once seems pretty close to furnishing a sensation, and the milliners and modistes, the silversmiths and workers in art objects can prepare for a season of unusual prosperity.

It has been known for some time that the King of Portugal, his mother and all the state advisers looked with favor on the idea of joining the throne of Portugal with that of England by a marital alliance.

In fact, that is one of the prime advantages of being a princess born of the British royal blood.

While the fair daughters of other lands have to wait in vain, the princess of England is never without a host of suitors. In fact, Princess Patricia, the fiancée of the Count of Turin, has been so often sought that she has found it a hard matter to make a selection, and has indeed built up the reputation of being an inveterate flirt.

King Alfonso of Spain, who took for wife an English Princess, has very strongly advised his royal relative, King Manuel, in favor of following this good example.

Only a short time ago the young ruler of Spain paid a state visit to the King of Portugal, and very strongly enjoined on him the good sense of effecting an alliance with the powerful throne of King Edward.

King Manuel has long looked with favoring eye on the Princess Beatrice of Saxe-Coburg. She is the first cousin of the Queen of Spain, the spouse of King Alfonso. The young Spanish ruler, after three years of married life, still finds himself in the midst of his honeymoon, and in advising Manuel in favor of wedding an English girl he spoke just as much in praise of their charms and virtues as for reasons of state.

King Manuel will be 29 years old next November. He has occupied the throne of Portugal since February 1, 1906, when his father and elder brother, the Crown Prince, were assassinated.

The future Queen of Portugal is five years older than the King, though it is said she has managed to remain heart whole and fancy free even in the midst of many offers that have been made to her.

Her elder sister, Marie, is the Crown Princess of Roumania, and will be the Queen in due time. Her next sister, Victoria, was the Grand Duchess of Russia, became divorced, and is now the Grand Duchess Cyril, of Russia. The other sister, Alexandra, is the wife of Prince, hereditary Prince of Hohenzollern-Landenburg, whose father is the head of the first branch of the house of Hohenzollern.

It is said that the nearest Princess ever came to being wedded was when she was sought by Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria. English statesmen would have welcomed a chance to assume a position



PRINCESS PATRICIA OF CONNAUGHT



PRINCESS BEATRICE OF SAXE-COBURG



KING MANUEL OF PORTUGAL



COUNT OF TURIN

of commanding influence in the affairs of a state that is ever a source of trouble, but the idea was repugnant to the Princess, and she promptly declined with greatest determination, which fact is said to have been a severe blow to the vanity of her suitor, Beatrice, who is the daughter of King Edward's dead sailor brother, Alfred, is said to have a caustic wit, and is treated with greatest deference by the statesmen of the land.

When she becomes the bride of Manuel she will be a part of one of the oldest dynasties of Europe, for the Braganza line dates from the fourteenth century, and has never been displaced from possession of the throne.

The surprise attaching to the engagement of the King and Beatrice is eclipsed, however, by the announcement that Princess Patricia has capitulated to Turin.

The jest she has made of the hearts of her suitors has led diplomats to figure that a time would never come when she would be won to the bonds of Hymen.

She has undoubtedly had more romances than any Princess in Europe. It is said that kindly objections have stood in the way of the union of the Count of Turin to Princess Patricia, the romance between Miss Elkins, of West Virginia, and the Duke of Abruzzi helping to complicate the problem.

The Count of Turin is the elder brother of the Duke, King Edward, it is said, was not willing to permit a member of

LATEST PHOTO OF EDWARD VII.

his family to marry into a family which had accepted a commoner as a member, which means Miss Elkins, who, no matter what her wealth, beauty and worth, is not, according to the tenets of royalty, qualified to enter the sacred families from

which the occupants of thrones are picked.

Now, however, that the match between the American girl and the prince of the King of Italy is virtually abandoned, the King of England is said to look with favor on the wedding.

The Count of Turin is 36 years old, and is the second son of Amadeus, who was

for a troubled time the King of Italy.

It is said that before the capricious Princess Patricia would assent to the wedding, she stipulated that her husband must perform some feat of valor to rank with the hunting expeditions of his brother, and that is the explanation of his combined hunting and exploring trip to Africa, on which he is about to start.

CALM VIEW OF PANAMA CANAL LOCKS

Discussion by Engineering News of the Features About Which Hottest Talk Has Waged—Sea Level Canal Is Still a Plan on Paper—Safety of the Gatun Dam Assured.

In a very elaborate review of the physical conditions which must govern the type of canal to be constructed at Panama, the current number of the Engineering News says:

"The current discussion of the two projects in the newspaper press goes back all the time to the conditions existing when the international board of Consulting engineers reported three years ago. But the relative standing of the two projects is not at all what it was at that time. The sea-level project is still a mere plan on paper with all the difficulties and unknown elements which attend such a project. The lock-canal plan, on the other hand, has made large progress toward completion. Many of its features which were more or less vague three years ago have now taken definite form. We may allude to two or three about which hottest discussion has raged.

"Foremost of these, of course, is the Gatun dam. Three years ago enough was known concerning the conditions at the site of the Gatun dam to satisfy the best experts on dam construction of its entire practicability and safety. But some bridge engineers and railway engineers and pseudo-engineers who knew very little about dams, thought it necessary to criticize its design. Since that time the marine survey of the Gatun dam site has been more thoroughly investigated probably than was ever done prior to the building of any dam in the world. There have been test pits dug and borings made galore. Furthermore a good deal has been done on the actual construction of the dam.

"We have seen not a single criticism of the safety of the dam since its foundations have been explored emanating from any hydraulic engineer of standing. Nor has there been any criticism from any source containing matter worth any serious attention from engineers."

"A second (and comparatively minor matter) is the cost of the land to be submerged by the sea-level canal advocates was that the United States would be nuked in heavy damages in the construction of this land, and they set the figure at not less than \$20,000,000. In contrast with this, the estimate made in 1906 by the engineers responsible for the lock plan of construction was \$300,000. It is interesting to record that title to all this land has now been secured by the United States and the total cost is under \$255,000.

"And now turning to the locks themselves, we wish to point out that the sea-level agitation is based on a fallacy. That fallacy is the idea that there is something objectionable or dangerous to a vessel in passing through a canal lock. Why secured by the United States a couple of hours or so required to pass through the locks is no argument against the lock system, for this delay is itself a more trifling in the course of a voyage lasting two weeks or more—will be more than made up by the faster time which ships can make when sailing through the broad open channels of Lake Gatun, as compared with the necessarily slow rate of sailing through a sea-level canal.

"As for the danger, it is well known, of course, that every ship which passes

through the Manchester ship canal has to pass through four locks and that in our own Soo canal, the greatest lock in the world passes a traffic more than double in volume that which passes through the Soo canal and made up of vessels far larger in average size. In all the years that these two great canals have been in operation there has never been an accident in a lock which sufficiently serious to block the canal. On the other hand, there have been several accidents in the narrow channels of the great lakes where wrecked vessels have entirely blocked all traffic. This is another reason why the lock canal with its broad channels and free sailing will be safer for vessels and less liable to obstruction than the deep narrow ditch over 40 miles long which constitutes the ideal of the sea-level advocates.

"But there are other timid persons who favor a sea-level canal because forsooth a lock canal is so vulnerable, you know, in time of war. It only needs an evil-disposed person with a stick of dynamite to destroy a canal lock."

"The fact is that an evil-disposed person in time of war could block a sea-level canal just as easily as a lock canal, and probably at even less personal risk. Concealed in the swamps of the lower Chagres, such a person could plant a torpedo in the channel at its entrance, explode it under the hull of the first large vessel which came along and the sunken ship would effectually block the passage.

"And now in conclusion let us make a fair comparison of the two channels, when completed; on the one hand the lock canal, with its great inland fresh water lake, and on the other hand the deep, narrow ditch all the way across the Isthmus, which would be required for a sea-level canal. We say a narrow ditch and the actual figures justify the word. The original sea-level canal, which De Lesseps started to build in the '80s, was designed with a depth of 23.5 feet and a width of only 72 feet, too narrow by far to permit the passage of the largest vessels of the present day. The sea-level canal projected by the International Board of Consulting Engineers in 1906 was designed for a depth of 40 feet, a width of 150 feet in earth and 200 feet in rock.

"In contrast with this, the lock canal now being constructed at Panama will have channels 45 feet in depth throughout. The channel from deep water in the Atlantic to the Gatun locks will be nowhere less than 200 feet in width. In the deep waters of Lake Gatun, there will be practically free sailing in channels 80 to 100 feet or more in width for a distance of 20 miles. Approaching the cut through the continental divide, the channel is 500 feet in minimum width for four miles; and for nine miles through the Culebra cut, the channel has a clear bottom width of 200 feet. "Again, the sea-level canal as projected three years ago had not only a narrow but a winding channel. Of the total length of 50 miles, over 15 miles was made up of curves. In contrast with this, the curvature on the lock canal is exceedingly small. The few curves are of very large radii and are located in broad channels, so that there is no liability of a ship going around in passing them."