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### "STAGGERING HUMANITY."

Paul Kruger's phrase comes irresistibly to mind again, says the New York Tribune. He threatened to "stagger humanity" with the costliness of the Transvaal war. We can not say that he succeeded. The world was shocked, but scarcely staggered. But in the present war there is cause for staggering. There are battles contrasted with which those in South Africa seem little more than skirmishes, and losses on a single field comparable in magnitude with all in the whole of that former war. No wonder the Japanese themselves are awed in solemn silence by the price of their own victories, so that they think more of making peace than of celebrating the triumph of their arms. It is a great thing to win a victory. It is an appalling thing to bury ten thousand of the enemy's dead upon a single field of battle.

Nor is that all of it, or the worst of it. The world does not begrudge a price, however great, so long as it receives adequate value in return. It does begrudge even a small price that is paid for naught. Franklin Pierce once spoke of our "fearful, fruitless, fateful civil war," and its "harvest of woe" which brought with it "no recompense." That, by the irony of fate, was on the day that Vicksburg fell and the day after Gettysburg was fought. But his then untimely phrases today recur with painful force, as applicable to these titanic battles on the Manchurian plains. The world has seen great battles before, at Lepsic, at Waterloo, at Gettysburg, at Sedan. They accomplished something. They marked the ending of wars, or at least the definite turning points of campaigns. But at Liao Yang a few weeks ago we had a battle which was declared to have exceeded any of them in magnitude and in destructiveness, and yet which was confessedly indeterminate, a mere drawn game, leaving the belligerents substantially where they were before. Now at Yentai we have had for the last ten days a battle probably greater still in destructiveness and loss, and we are told that it, too, is indecisive, and will probably leave the combatants about as they were before.

It is that apparent fruitlessness of it that most "staggers humanity." We do not say the whole war is causeless or is going to be fruitless. But it is a bitter disappointment to humanity that each of these tremendous battles should be indecisive and that these scores of thousands of soldiers should be sacrificed to no immediate end. It compels us to revise all our preconceptions of a modern war between two great powers. We had thought such a war would, because of the terrible efficiency of the engines employed, necessarily be short, perhaps decided by a single great battle. Yet here is such a war running on indefinitely. Port Arthur is holding out month after month, just as Sebastopol and Plevna did, and one general engagement follows another without result. The Japanese seem, on the whole, to have been victorious, but their victories are barren of fruit. The Russians are defeated, but they are not routed or destroyed.

This, we may say, staggers humanity. We must say it, lest humanity be discredited. The world can not afford to look unmoved upon a slaughter at once so great and so void of consequence. It could regard with some equanimity the striking of the heaviest blows, provided they were "knockdown" blows and they brought the fight to an end. But for two antagonists to maul and maim each other atrociously and yet "get no forrarder," is unspeakably repulsive. Such a process, if long continued, must certainly arouse a public sentiment throughout the world that even the belligerents themselves can not withstand, a sentiment for peace and for the settlement of international differences by some other means that will indeed settle them, and not by an indeterminate pouring out of lives without profit to either side and without bringing the quarrel any nearer to an end.

### EXPORTS OF COTTON.

The exports of raw cotton from the United States for the month of September constitute a record breaker. In no September in the history of this country have these exports either in the matter of quantity or of value been equaled. In volume they amounted to 410,940,894 pounds, valued at \$43,742,325. The nearest approach to these figures was in September, 1902, when the volume of exports

amounted to 347,596,100 pounds, valued at \$29,930,815. Of the September shipments for 1904, Great Britain took 222,278,637 pounds as against 57,905,779 pounds in September, 1903.

Only one conclusion can be drawn from these statistics—namely, that the foreign cotton spinners, especially those of Great Britain—are apparently convinced that the cotton crop of this country for the present season will not reach any such proportions as some sanguine prophets have predicted that it would, and, accordingly, they are taking time by the forelock by providing themselves with ample supplies of that staple, says the New York Commercial. They plainly look for little fall in the price of raw cotton in the immediate future, and, like manufacturers of practical sense and acumen, they are accommodating themselves to conditions as they actually exist.

Their action in thus making haste to provide themselves with an adequate stock of American cotton bears out the recent estimates of the Commercial to the effect that the new cotton crop will probably not exceed 10,960,000 bales, instead of its reaching 12,000,000 or more bales, as was confidently predicted in some quarters earlier in the season. These British continental spinners have been particularly close students of cotton conditions in the United States for the last few months and, if they possessed any grave doubts as to the more optimistic view of the size of the new American cotton crop, they would hardly be so precipitate in their purchases of that staple as they now are.

What effect this heavy volume of exports of raw cotton will have upon American spinners, especially those of New England, remains to be seen. Most of the New England cotton mills are running on part time or are still idle—chiefly in consequence of labor troubles growing out of an attempt to reduce wages—and the owners and managers appear to be little inclined to stock up with raw cotton at the ruling price. It would seem, however, as if these recent large shipments of cotton to foreign spinners might put an entirely new phase on the matter.

### A FATHER SAYS "AMEN!"

"With all my heart I congratulate the writer of that editorial on 'A Poor Example' in Wednesday's Astorian," said a man of prominence in public affairs who called at The Astorian office for the purpose yesterday. "It is not only the evil inclination of the boy which the parent has to guard against. It is the temptation to which he is subjected by careless or designing men. The 'kids' know every man of prominence in the city at sight. What these men do is just what the boys are bound to do, except that the boy always wants to go his exemplar one better. If the 'old man' smokes a cigar the boy will take license to smoke anything—even cigarettes. If the doctor utters an oath, the young hopeful wallows in profanity. If the lawyer takes a drink, the boy feels justified in tipping. You are right. It is not even the gatherings of so-called high-class men who congregate nightly within two blocks of this office and whose wagers are only limited by the size of their 'pile' or the influence of the habitues of the lower dens, which renders the training of virtuous and honest boys so difficult in Astoria, though that is bad enough.

"It is the baneful examples of men who are publicly disregardful of the proprieties of true gentlemanliness and are either not good enough at heart to care for the future of the young people, or do not stop to consider that they might better lend their influence for morality and good citizenship—which is true patriotism. Yes, from a moral and from a business standpoint you are right, and we should have more of such utterances."

### ABSOLUTELY IMPARTIAL

The accusation of valley papers that the Associated Press is supporting the republican candidates this fall is absolutely without truth. The Astorian daily receives full reports of political progress in all parts of the country, and they are as utterly unbiased as they possibly could be. The Associated Press exercises the greatest care to refrain from expression of opinion. It is distinctly a news-gathering institution, and as such, supplying service to papers of every political faith, it could not favor the candidacy of either Mr. Roosevelt or Judge Parker and fulfill its mission. It records events and transmits the statements of speakers, treating republicans and democrats alike with absolute fairness. Nor is it fair of the valley papers to charge the Oregonian with publication of one-sided news matter. The Oregonian's special service has been quite fair, and our Portland contemporary has very frankly stated both sides of the question in its news columns. The quotations from eastern journals which are reproduced in the Oregonian may at times strike us as inconsistent and full of prejudice, but the Oregonian is not responsible for this. It pays out considerable sums for telegraphic tolls to print the statements of democratic and republican organs, and ought to be commended for its enterprise, instead of unjustly censured. The political faith of men carry them too far, and we have an idea such enthusiasts have scored the Associated Press and the Oregonian. We have heard no complaint because of the publication of political news in The Astorian, which depends entirely upon the Associated Press, and we know there is no occasion for complaint.

## P. A. Stokes

### "Swell Togs for Men"

THIS IS A CUT OF our well Belted Back Overcoat fifty-two inches long and a favorite with the "know how to dress man." It is a coat that we have in all patterns, materials and weights.

# \$10.

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Of course we have the ever popular "topkote" and Chesterfields, in Melton's, Beavers, Thibets, Coverts and unfinished worsteds.

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### STRUCK A MINE.

Steamer Nearly Wrecked in Chefoo Harbor By Explosion.

Chefoo, Oct. 26.—The steamer Kashing which struck a floating mine north of Alceste Island last night, had a narrow escape from total destruction. The explosion tore a great hole in the port bow, carrying away the fore-castle deck and nine plates. The ship was saved forward by a collision bulkhead, which held secure and en-

abled her to reach Wei Hai Wei today where she now lies.

### Removal Notice.

Dr. J. A. Fulton has moved from his old office to rooms 4, 5 and 6 in the Star theater building, corner Eleventh and Commercial streets, on the second floor.

### GREAT TUNNEL NOW CLEAR.

Workmen Connect Two Sections of Monster Shaft at Seattle.

Seattle, Oct. 26.—Workmen at 11 o'clock tonight broke the wall between the north and south sections of the Great Northern tunnel, running under the business section of the city. The shaft is now clear from end to end. The tunnel is the largest in area in the United States.

### TO EAT FIFTY EGGS IN AN HOUR.

And Also to Drink Eighth of Keg of Beer is Wager Up to Man.

Appleton, Wis., Oct. 26.—A wager of \$100 was made between Otto Zuhke, of this city, and Herman Neidener, of Milwaukee, that Neidener will bring to this city a man who will eat

50 fried eggs and drink an eighth of a keg of beer within an hour. The gastronomic test is to be made the evening of November 2.

### A Love Letter.

Would not interest you if you're looking for a guaranteed salve for sores, burns or piles, Otto Dodd of Ponder, Mo., writes: "I suffered with an ugly sore for a year, but a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me. It's the best salve on earth. 25c at Chas.

Kallunki has fine candies, up-to-now bonbons and fresh fruits.

### Saves Two From Death.

"Our little daughter had an almost fatal attack of whooping cough and bronchitis," writes Mrs. W. K. Harland of Armonk, N. Y., "but, when all other remedies failed, we saved her life with Dr. King's New Discovery. Our niece, who had consumption in an advanced stage, also used this wonderful medicine and today she is perfectly well." Desperate throat and lung diseases yield to Dr. King's New Discovery as to no other medicine on earth. Infallible for coughs and colds. 50c and \$1.00 bottles guaranteed by Chas. Rogers. Trial bottles free.

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