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An Echo of Old Japan.

The suicide of General Count Nogi is an old story now, just as his act itself was an echo of old Japan. Nogi himself was a peculiar combination of the old and the new. A member of the samurai and educated in their stoical school, he was modern enough in his generalship to defeat China and Russia and to be wholly devoted to his emperor, who led Japan to the new order. Yet most of this modernism was on the exterior. At heart he was a samurai still.

To what extent was Nogi typical of Japan? From the approval given his act by the entire nation it would appear that inwardly it is as much attached to the old order as was he. It has taken up western customs and weapons because these are necessary to its ambition—aye, to its very existence—but its affections are with its own modes and traditions of a thousand years. Facing the alternative of being wiped out by the occidental powers or of learning their lessons and of leading the orient into new paths, it resolutely chose the progressive course, the while its love was with the graves of its ancestors. In other words, its conversion to modernism was of the head and not of the heart.

Even so, it can never turn back. Its choice was the only one possible, and the very logic of events will hurry it forward in the new ways. In time, its heart must be weaned from the old order, just as that of Europe was from the age of chivalry. It may be that the death of Nogi was symbolical of that of the old order. It was the last great tribute to the spirit of the past. Having rendered it, the nation turns her back upon the old Japan and faces the morning. As the Kingdom of the Rising Sun she is to be the emblem of the rising sun of the new order to the whole orient.

Letters that have recently come to light prove that the composer Meyerbeer paid the poet Heine for editorial puffs and that when the money stopped Heine began attacking Meyerbeer. In this day we call that sort of thing blackmail and graft.

John D. Rockefeller was unable to attend the convention of press humorists, of which organization he is a member. Wonder if he lacked the railroad fare?

A girl with short sleeves was the occasion of a riot in an Italian church. Baring arms in a church is liable to cause trouble.

Progress in India.

One of the most hopeful signs of the day is the awakening of the far east to western ideas and progress. Among the most backward countries has been India, although it has been under the rulership of England and should therefore have moved more rapidly than either Japan or China, both of which remained independent. As a matter of fact, India has lagged behind both. The caste system and the conservatism and ignorance of the masses of the people were the great obstacles. Agriculture is the chief industry, and the same methods are used that were employed ages ago. The people count it a virtue to do as their grandfathers did to the tenth generation. Ninety per cent of them are illiterate.

Fortunately there are now some signs of a slight forward movement. Education is slowly spreading. The caste system still curses the country, but if the people ever become enlightened there is hope that the ironclad barriers may be broken. Tradition, prejudice, aristocracy and superstition have been the dead weights on India. Now western methods are beginning to gain headway here and there, the masses are becoming interested in politics, and better days are in sight.

The Parsees are among the most progressive of the population. Phinoze C. Sethna, a Parsee business man recently in America, says that "within the next generation it is likely that the percentage of literacy among the people will come up to 50 or more." He also says that new industries are appearing in India. Both of these mean advancement. Gradually the great democratic movement of the occident is affecting the orient. Eventually what has taken place in Japan may be repeated throughout all Asia.

When Professor Vilhjalmr Stefansson returned from his four years' sojourn in the arctic he had forgotten that there is a presidential election this year. There are some compensations in living in the arctic.

Motorcycles are now used for scouting in the British army in place of cavalry. Judging by the recent demonstration at the Newark motorcycle race, they are more deadly.

Well, if they shut off the mails on Sunday there will be one day in the week when you can't get any bills.

Need a handy man around the house? There is an English earl in New York advertising for a job.

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Ada Sull, N. G.
L. I. Wheeler, Secretary.

W. O. W.

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W. E. Crane, W. M.
Phil Pearson, Secretary

Eastern Star

OCCIDENTAL CHAPTER, No. 45, O. E. S., meets Saturday evening before and after stated communication of Masonic Lodge. Visiting members cordially invited to attend.
Louise M. Bayne, W. M.
Merta Mehl, Secretary.

I. O. O. F.

BANDON LODGE, No. 133, I. O. O. F., meets every Wednesday evening. Visiting brothers in good standing cordially invited.
A. Knopp, N. G.
Harry Armstrong, Sec.

Knights of Pythias

DELPHI LODGE, No. 64, Knights of Pythias. Meets every Monday evening at Knights hall. Visiting knights invited to attend.
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