

THE CAUSE OF WAR

JAPAN WAS SHORN OF SPOILS OF VICTORY.

Russia Stepped In and Has Gradually Usurped What She Won From China.

The situation in the East is complicated and unless one has reviewed Oriental history since the close of the China-Japanese war in 1894, a clear insight is very difficult to obtain, says an exchange. China and Japan fought over trade, territorial and seaport rights in Korea in 1894 and Japan won.

Instead of allowing Japan to take the fruits of her victory and come into the possession of the privileges she won from China, Russia stepped in as an unwelcome arbitrator and awarded Japan much less than she claimed and had justly won in the war with China.

Russia's object in doing this was to prevent Japan from gaining too much power in Korea. Japan took the award of the powers unwillingly, and has since contended for her trade and territorial privileges in Korea. Russia, as soon as she cheated Japan out of her Korean trophies won from China, began to make advances in Korean territory and trade herself. From that day until now, Japan has been hostile to Russia.

While Russia has been stealing Japanese rights in Korea, she has also been stealing Chinese, Japanese and other rights in Manchuria, thus inviting the bitterest hostility from China, who is now ready to join Japan in putting Russia out of Korea, thereby gaining the friendship of Japan and securing her aid in evicting Russia, the common enemy, from Manchuria, later.

Korea is a passive power, without individuality or national color, and is a helpless mass of clay in the hands of the victor in the coming brawl.

Owing to the wide trade interests of the other powers in the disputed territory, it is very likely that these other nations will prevent the annexation of Korea by either Russia or Japan.

Japan asks only the just fruits of her easily won contest with China in 1894. Russia, through diplomacy, prevented Japan from taking her reward, and has since appropriated it, by degrees, herself.

Japan's claim seems to be just. Her contentions with China in 1894 were none of Russia's business. She was entitled to what she won fairly and was cheated out of it by Russia, who took both Japan and China by the throat and absorbed Japanese rights in Korea and Chinese rights in Manchuria. The old combatants of 1894 are ready to join hands in 1904 to whip the common enemy, Russia.

Korea belongs to Japan if to any foreign nation. It is tinctured with Japanese life, language, customs, characteristics and manners, lacking the Japanese vim and spirit. It is expected that Japan will boldly annex Korea any day. This bluff might avert war, as it would make Russia the aggressor, if she attempted to dislodge the Jap, and this role Russia does not care to play openly.

STATE TAX LEVY.

\$1,225,000 the Sum Asked For By the State Authorities.

The state board of levy, consisting of Governor Chamberlain, Secretary of State Dunbar and Treasurer Moore, have made the annual tax levy for 1904.

The amount of revenue called for is \$1,225,000, and of this sum \$125,000 is for the general expenses of the state and to pay the extraordinary appropriations provided for under special acts of the legislature. Marion county will pay of this amount the sum of \$75,000, as against \$46,588 last year. Umatilla county pays \$60,025, and is third on the list of heavy taxpayers, Lane and Multnomah being the only two paying more.

The increase is explained by Secretary of State Dunbar to be owing to the large special appropriations made by the legislature at the last regular and special sessions, which have to be provided for this year. They are: Celilo Canal, \$100,000; Indian War Veterans, 100,000; Lewis and Clark Exposition, 250,000; Portage Railway, 165,000.

But for these large extraordinary appropriations the levy would have been just half what it is, but these appropriations have been made, and the board was compelled to levy the tax to pay the amounts named.

In the matter of the exposition appropriation a like sum of \$250,000 will have to be appropriated next year, as the state will pay \$500,000 toward the expenses of the exposition.

Saved From Terrible Death.
The family of Mrs. M. L. Bobbitt, of Bargerton, Tenn., saw her dying and were powerless to save her. The most skillful physicians and every remedy used, failed, while consumption was slowly but surely taking her life. In this terrible hour Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption turned despair into joy. The first bottle brought immediate relief and its continued use completely cured her. It's the most certain cure in the world for all throat and lung troubles. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1. Trial bottles free at A. B. Stone's drug store.

The Broken House Key

THE young and pretty bride felt worried and out of sorts. Only a short eight weeks ago she had married her dear Gus and had followed him to his home in W—, and already he had begun to neglect her to go out of an evening, and to leave her alone in the big house. He had tried to convince her that he could not altogether neglect his former friends and companions, and that she ought not to object to his meeting them on two evenings, every week, and to pass an agreeable hour or two in their company over a friendly game of whist; but she simply did not comprehend how he could even think of going anywhere without taking her along.

"Oh the dreadful evenings I have to spend," she complained with tears in her eyes. "I am obliged to sit here all alone because I have as yet had no chance to form any acquaintances here. Naturally I get homesick. Often I feel like leaving everything and taking the train home to my parents."

"Would it not be better, darling, if you went to bed instead and tried to sleep?"

"That is just where the trouble is," she replied, still in tears. "I am afraid. Our servant sleeps way up in the attic. She would not even hear were anything to happen to me."

"Why, you foolish child, what is there to be afraid of; what is going to happen?"

"Are not the papers every day full of burglaries and robberies?" she persisted. "Think of the many strangers that flock to a well-known health resort like this. Nothing is impossible under such circumstances!"

The husband looked thoughtfully at his sweet bride.

"No, dear, I do not want you to frighten yourself into illness. I promise you hereafter, of my own free will (the poor fellow could not help heaving a sigh as he said this), to return promptly at 11 o'clock whenever I go to meet my friends. It is impossible for me to withdraw from their society altogether, for they would ridicule and make fun of me, and call me henpecked. Burglars rarely put in their appearance before the hour of 11, the streets being full of life and traffic. Good-by, darling, and please do not feel lonesome."

Annie sighed and submitted resignedly to her fate. She read awhile; she then took up her embroidery, a present for her mother; she played a game of solitaire, and finally she paced restlessly up and down the room. At home there had been a large family circle, hence it was very trying to her to be left so much to herself in her new surroundings.

At ten o'clock even the familiar noises in the kitchen ceased, for the servant had gone upstairs to her attic, and the poor woman felt the old feeling of distress and fright creep over her; the sitting-room was located to the rear of the house, and there was a hallway between it and the front rooms. She therefore could not hear a usual street noise. A death-like silence reigned in the room. Tired, and yet excited, she threw herself on the lounge. She sadly reflected why her houses and card parties had been called into existence. By and by her thoughts became more and more confused, and she fell into a sound slumber.

It was 11:05 when Gus arrived breathlessly and post haste at his house door and tried to fit his key into the lock.

"Poor fellow! Had evil spirits conspired to get him into trouble? Click—the key broke in two, and the bit stuck fast in the keyhole, handle and barrel alone remaining in his hands. He knocked; he called; he knocked again and louder, for, unfortunately, there was no house bell—all in vain. "I hardly think my wife has retired as early as this," he reflected, "but, of course, she is in the sitting-room, and most likely she cannot hear me." Once more he knocked—this time very loud—he called until his voice was hoarse. No reply!

To fill his cup of misery to the brim it commenced to rain, and he was without an umbrella.

"Perhaps Annie has gone to bed after all," he thought, shivering and dripping wet. "Shall I go to a hotel? No! What would the people think? The only place that I know of that may still be open is the railway depot, for there is a train arriving at midnight."

He went down the street in the pouring rain, and at last found himself in the waiting-room of the station.

"A glass of beer, sir?" asked an enterprising waiter. Gus shook himself. He felt chilly. "Punch," he said, "and make it hot!" He drank one glass, and then another, and still another, to while away the time. He was the only person there. In due time the last train had arrived, and he could stay no longer. They were about to close up.

In sheer desperation he looked at his watch.

It was one o'clock when he emerged into the street, and it had ceased to rain. The full moon seemed to grin and wink at him maliciously through the clouds as though she meant to say: "See, old man, it serves you right! Why must you go out to play cards and leave your wife at home in loneliness?"

In spite of the repeated potations he still felt chilly. "There is no help for it but a good run," he said to

himself, starting on a lively trot through the city, first down one street, then up another, through the suburbs until he reached the open country and back again without stop or rest for fear of catching cold.

The town clock struck the hour of four. "It is still too early to get into the house," he said, "the front door is never unlocked before six o'clock! Will they be able to unlock the door anyway? A piece of my key sticks in the lock; the women are imprisoned and cannot get out. But now I can stand this no longer. I must have something hot to drink and sit down somewhere. There is a train at four o'clock," and forthwith he once more wended his way to the railroad depot.

A snug corner and a cup of hot coffee somewhat restored him. But he was very tired and pretty soon he was as sound asleep in his corner as his wife had been the night before on her lounge.

And how did his wife fare? She awoke in the middle of the night with a start, almost frightened out of her wits by a horrid dream, in which her husband had appeared before her, wounded, bleeding, and torn by huge bloodhounds. Pretty soon, however, she comprehended the situation. Her face bathed in tears, she paced restlessly up and down the room wringing her hands. "Oh, the wretch! To stay out all night! Just to think of it! Such a man has the effrontery to talk to me of love. Not content to act like a villain, he even had to make fun of me last night by pretending he would henceforth be home at 11 o'clock."

"Who would ever have thought him so base? They close the beer house after midnight, hence he cannot pretend to be playing cards there all night. Heaven knows where he is spending the night, in whose company he is enjoying himself, while I— I But he'll find that I am not his dupe. I shall leave him at once. There is a train at seven o'clock in the morning which I am going to take and go home to my parents!"—and so forth and so on. More wringing of her hands, more tears, more self-pity and accusations, until in her eyes her husband appeared a veritable Bluebeard.

At five o'clock she called the serving maid, whom she sent to the garage for a valise, and commenced to pack. The maid said nothing, but she was surprised that her master had not risen and did not help his wife. However, she made the coffee and then went after a cab.

The front door was wide open, and a locksmith busy with the big lock, when Annie appeared in the hall. The landlady came to meet her, explaining in a hurry of excitement: "Did you hear about it, madam? A thief was here last night and made an attempt to enter the house. Some one must have frightened him off. He left a broken key stuck fast in the lock, and I was unable to unlock the door. I had to call from the window until I aroused a neighbor, who ran for a locksmith. Now I am going to have a patent lock put on and spoil their little game. But you look very pale, my dear madam. I am sorry to have frightened you with my burglar story. Are you going to take a ride so early in the morning?"

Annie nodded and passed on. She was glad that the woman had not seen her valise, which her maid had already put into the cab.

"What a narrow escape I had last night. How near I came being robbed—perhaps worse!" She was now thoroughly angry. "So much more reason for leaving the fellow, no matter the consequences! For the present I shall remain with my parents." Thus musing, she arrived at the depot.

Before purchasing her ticket she intended to leave her valise in the waiting-room. Annie entered and made for an empty table, when suddenly—she dropped the valise and almost screamed aloud—wasn't that her husband, "her" Gus, sitting there in a corner and snoring loud enough to make everybody in the room smile at his nasal powers?

Suddenly the sleeper opened his eyes. Whatever the outcome, she must avoid a scene in a public room. Annie tried to appear quite unconcerned, and took a seat beside her husband. Somehow her anger had suddenly vanished.

"Oh, darling, what brought me—I mean rather what brought you—here?" he asked, astonished at the unexpected appearance of his wife, dressed for a journey.

"Never mind, dear. Don't bother about that now," she whispered. "Come, let us ride home, when I will explain all."

Gus acquiesced in silence. All he could do was to drag himself to a cab.

And then explanations were in order. Annie had no reason to doubt her husband's narrative of his adventures during the night. But he could not quite make out from her explanations what had taken her to the railway station. He was, however, too ill to ask many questions.

Arrived at home she simply told the astonished servant that "they had changed their mind and would not go away, because her husband, who had preceded her to the depot, had been suddenly taken sick," and sent her after a physician.

Gus was very sick; for two weeks he could not leave his bed.

At last Gus got well, and though he would not, and then go to have a social game of whist, his wife never again doubted him, even if he stayed out later than "eleven."—Translated from the German.

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9:57 a. m.		
	Mixed train Walla Walla and intermediate district points.	1:15 p. m.
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