

THE HURRYING HOURS.

How often the thought comes home to me,
As the moments hurry away,
Of the many things I intend to do
Somehow, some time, some day.
There are promises that have not been kept,
Though I always meant to be true,
But time is too short for all the things
That a body intends to do.

I will answer a letter, or read a book,
I will write a bit of rhyme;
I will do the things that I ought to do—
Some day when I have the time.
So I look beyond, as I hope and plan
For the days that are just ahead,
While the day that is here goes into the grave
With its opportunities dead.

To-day is the only day we have,
Of to-morrow we can't be sure;
To seize the chance as it comes along
Is the way to make it secure.
For every year is a shorter year,
And this is a truth sublime;
A moment missed is a jewel lost
From the treasury of time.

When Fortune Favors

HE was a big, awkward fellow,
working with some patient skill
in an old-fashioned saw-mill,
and living on the far outskirts of a pretty village.

His home was a gray old farmhouse,
where he dwelt with two maiden aunts,
one of whom was a weak, fragile invalid,
quick-tempered and querulous;
the other was stout and strong in body,
but idiotic and silent. Often he was
tempted to go away—to rush out into
the world and leave the old place to go
to the dogs and the old women to the
workhouse, but a dogged sense of duty
held him, so he stayed and worked on.

One of the handsomest farms in Scott
County had stretched its green fields
about the old house twenty years ago,
but when Ralph Mydack's young wife
died and left her baby boy, the hus-
band, always reticent, had grown posi-
tively gloomy. His two sisters seldom
heard him speak, but one day, when
the little Ralph was five years old, his
moody father said, in a strange, stern
way:

"I'm going to sell the farm. You two
girls can live here in the old house, and
I will deposit enough in the bank to
keep you and the boy until I can send
you some more. I shall go to Australia."

Huldah, the invalid, cried out piteously,
but her brother paid no heed:



"LAW SAKES! THAT'S COURTIN', AIN'T IT?"

but Hannah, the idiot, stared stonily
and spoke not.

That day the farm and the mill priv-
ilege on the little river were sold to a
large corporation that had been trying
for some time to buy it, in order to
erect a cotton mill there.

Ralph Mydack came home and packed
his trunk, but his motions were un-
steady, his face pale, and before night
he was sick, very sick.

There was little that two helpless
women could do for him; the farm
hands were dismissed, all but Jared,
who was to take care of the cow; so
they sent him off for the doctor, but
when he returned Ralph Mydack was
dead.

Ten bitter years dragged slowly by.
The little money in the bank was soon
exhausted, and partly on charity, partly
by the few vegetables neighbors
helped them raise in the garden patch,
the two old women and the awkward,
sullen boy lived on.

It was well known that a large sum
of money had been paid to Mr. Mydack
for his farm, but the corporation had
fallen immediately after, so nothing
was done about the cotton mills, and
from the hour of payment, when the
legal papers were signed, all trace of
the money disappeared as effectually
as though it had been dropped into the
sea of oblivion.

Lawyers searched the old house,
looked over the few papers that Mr.
Mydack had evidently intended to take
with him, searched his wearing apparel,
and gave up in despair.

Little Ralph grew up a stout, healthy
lad, and when he was 15 he asked some
of the neighbors to help him rig the old
saw-mill anew, that he might saw logs,
and thus eke out his scanty support.

Everybody felt kindly toward him,
and season after season, when the wa-
ter was high, he would work night and
day among the fragrant pine and hem-
lock logs, earning quite an independ-
ence.

It was here that Gertrude Kennendis
found him one day early in June.

He had seen her bright face about
there the year before, but had turned
away from her pleasant words with a
moodiness that was almost rude. For
what had his wreny, toilsome life to do
with beauty or kind words?

What, indeed? And yet she would

THE BRONZE BUTTON

Each day as I walk the busy street and meet the gray-haired men,
Who wear the button made of bronze, that tells where they have been,
Their eyes meet mine in glad response to the welcome of my own,
And at once our hearts are warmed by the love that was born in sixty one.

Their step is not so firm and quick as it was long years ago,
When, gun in hand, they marched away with loyal hearts aglow,
But their eyes today have the glint of steel, though years have come and gone,
And the same old love new fills their hearts, that was born in sixty one.

No one but we who shared the strife of battle camp and field,
Can ever feel the love we bear for those who fought to shield
The nation's life, its very soul, the grandest under the sun,
A loyal love for the stars and stripes that was born in sixty one.

The sight of that button is his best, like a beacon sure and true,
Shows me a comrade dear to all who ever wore the blue,
Who endured the hardships of the search and the fields with blood that ran,
To free the aches of a curse that was born in sixty one.

As that button made of bronze we wear upon the breast,
Is an honor far more sacred than any monarch's crest,
The emblem of our nation's trust, the hope she leaned upon,
In the awful struggle against her life that began in sixty one.

This badge we wear means much to us, an emblem we love well,
A token of sweet comradeship that shall forever dwell
In every heart that loved the flag, and its duty nobly done,
For the nation's life and union, in the strife of sixty one.

FRANK B. STEARNS.

not let him be. She went every day and
watched, as by a resistless fascination,
that pitiless, great saw tearing its slow
way through the logs making them use-
ful while seeming only to destroy them.

He was 20 years old at last and she
was 19.

She had been fussing about the old
house, making gruel for Aunt Huldah,
and trying to coax a smile on Aunt
Hannah's stolid face, but really only
waiting for Ralph to return from the
village.

He came in soon, and seeing her
standing alone in the clean, poorly fur-
nished room he went straight to her,
and, taking both her hands in his, he
said:

"Now, Gertrude—Miss Kennendis—
you must not come here in this manner.
People are talking of it down in the
village, and if your uncle should hear
of it he would send you to a nunnery
and kill me outright."

"Oh, you do not want me here," she
said, trying to speak playfully, but
with a little moan in her voice.

"I do—I do," he answered, putting his
arm about her, holding her close, and
touching her hair with a quick, caress-
ing motion. "God knows it is worse
than death to send you away, but, my
darling, see the long, weary life
stretching before me. See the work to
be done here and you hovering like some
bright bird just out of reach. Could I
drag you down to share this poor old
nest? No, no, it would not be right. I
have served duty too long to dare de-
sert her now."

"But you are so young," she murmur-
ed, leaning her face on his shoulder;
he could feel her breath against his
cheek.

His heart beat so fast he thought it
would strangle him, and that moment
of rapture paid him for the suffering of
years.

"So young and so ambitious—and
there is the invention down at the mill
I am sure that is going to work well."

"Yes; but I have been to the village
to-day for the last time trying to raise
even \$50 to pay for the patent, and I
can not do it. Nobody has any faith in
it; they think it is a boy's scheme, and
I'm quite discouraged."

"Oh, if I only had my money—"

"Yes, but you have not, my darling;
nor would I touch one penny of it if
you had. No, you must go back to your
relatives. I shall never marry, dear,
but I shall cherish your memory as my
one blessed gift. Now, don't feel
badly—don't."

They were both sobbing together by
this time; she put her arm up around
his neck, and their two tear-wet faces
nestled against each other like two
grieved children.

Aunt Hannah put her white, flabby
face in at the door to say that dinner
was ready, and, seeing the young peo-
ple standing together there, she started
nervously and exclaimed:

"Laws sakes! that's courtin' now,
ain't it?" And as they neither moved
nor spoke she went softly across the
floor and whispered: "Ralphie, boy, are
you goin' to be married?"

"Yes, auntie," answered Gertrude,
"and we want your blessing."

"But you want your money, too, don't
you?"

"Yes, certainly; the marriage por-
tion," said Ralph, bitterly, brushing the
tears from his eyes and trying to face
his lonely life once more.

"Then come upstairs," she laughed
out, in her queer, wild fashion.

"What does she mean?" asked Ger-
trude, wonderingly.

"I do not know," Ralph answered. "I
have not heard her speak so many
words at a time in ten years."

Reckoning them to follow her, she
climbed the worn old stairs up to the
dusty garret, where broken chairs and
long-idle spinning wheels made up the
furniture.

Down behind the big chimney crept
the daft woman and drew out a large,

loose bundle of rags, in which was sly-
ly hidden rolls of strong parchment.

They opened them there in the
changeable light that flitted through the
time-stained window.

There was \$4,000 in gold—the price of
the farm lands. Not a great fortune.
It is true, but a fabulous sum for the
young people, who were married ere
long, to the great wonder of the village
folks.—New York News.

A Cuban Milkman.

"How many cows there are about
the streets!" somebody exclaims, and
then he is calmly informed that the
morning's milk is simply being deliv-
ered. A bunch of cattle and their
driver stop before a house, and the
portero comes out with a cup for the
morning's supply. It is seen then that
the cows are being milked from door
to door by the dairymen, for this is the
way the acute Cuban housewives have
taken to assure for their tables a lac-
tate supply which is entirely fresh and
absolutely pure. Otherwise the gulle-
ing vander might dilute the milk
before delivering it to his customers,
and craftily stir into the watery fluid
the juice of the sweet potato to color
it up to a duly rich and creamy cast.
Even with the cows milked before the
door one must continue to watch the
milkman, for I have even heard of
their having a rubber bag of water con-
cealed under their loose frocks and
connected with a rubber tube running
down the inside of the sleeve, its tip
being concealed in the hollow of the
milking hand. Only a gentle pressure
upon the bag of water within is needed
to thus cause both milk and water to
flow into the cup at the same time.
The milk venders of Italy and India
have also learned their trade to perfec-
tion, for they practice this identical
trick.—Woman's Home Companion.

Gold-Beating.

Gold-beaters, by hammering, can re-
duce gold leaves so thin that 282,000
must be laid upon each other to pro-
duce the thickness of an inch, yet each
leaf is so perfect and free from holes
that one of them laid upon any surface,
as in gliding, gives the appearance of
solid gold. They are so thin that if
formed into a book 1,500 would only
occupy the space of a single leaf of
common paper; and an octavo volume
of an inch thick would have as many
pages as the books of a well-stocked
library of 1,500 volumes, with 400 pages
in each.

Opposed to Walking.

Most Chinese mandarins pass the
whole of their lives without taking a
single yard of exercise. The late Nan-
king Viceroy (father of the Marquis
Tseng) was considered a remarkable
character because he always walked
1,000 steps a day in his private garden.
Under no circumstances whatever is a
mandarin ever seen on foot in his own
jurisdiction.

Eyes of the House Fly.

The common housefly is said to be
provided with 16,000 eyes; that is to
say, his two compound eyes have each
8,000 facets. By this singular arrange-
ment he is enabled to see in every di-
rection, and to elude with great skill
and success the many dangers that
threaten his daily existence.

Famines of Modern Times.

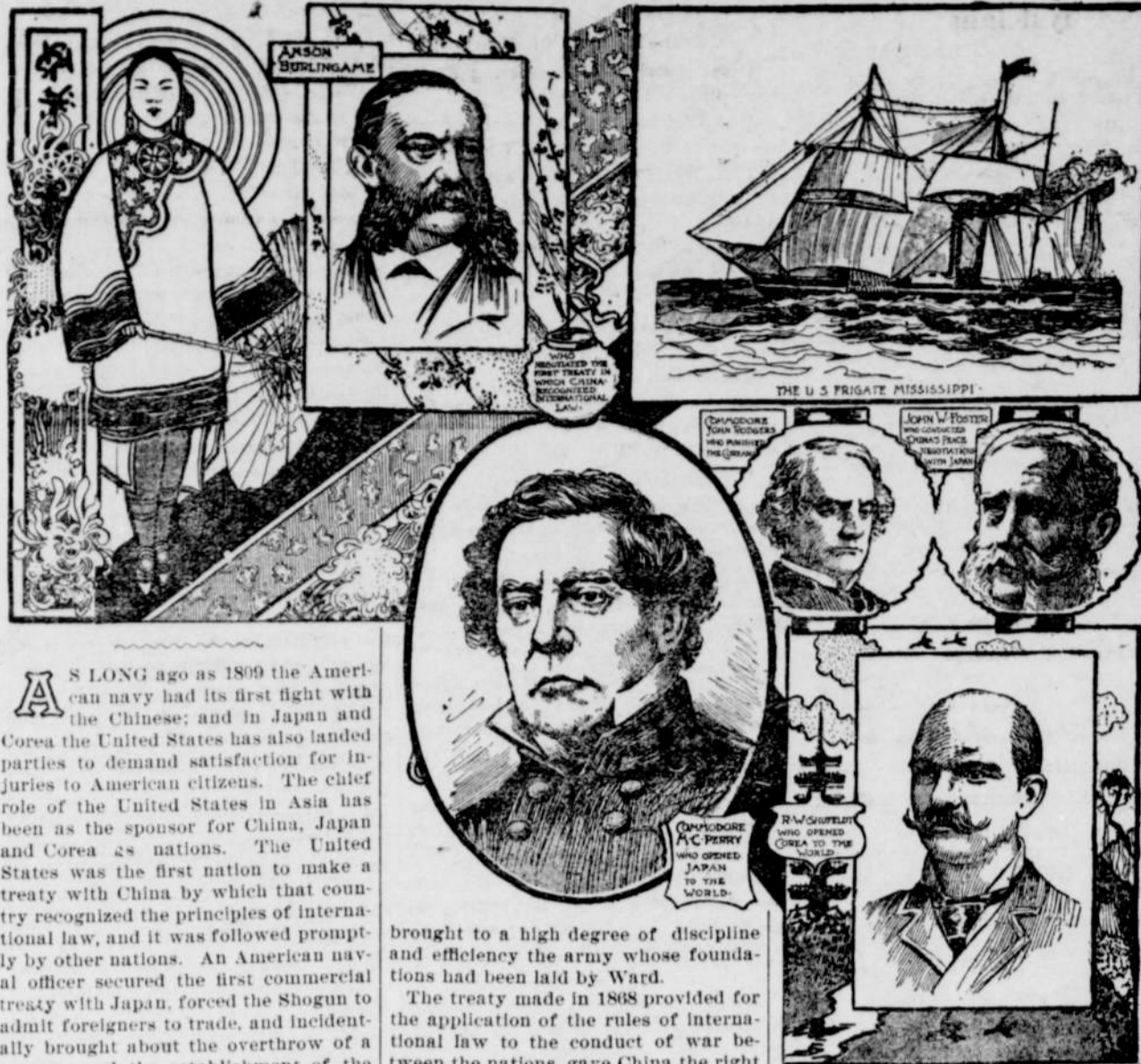
The worst famines of modern times
were the famine in Ireland in 1846-47,
in which 1,000,000 people perished; the
Indian famine of 1866, which claimed
1,450,000 victims; the Indian famine of
1877, in which 500,000 people perished;
and the great famine in China in 1878,
in which 9,500,000 died.

The Czar's Estates.

The Czar has one estate, which cov-
ers over 100,000,000 acres, more than
three times as large as England; and
he has another estate which is more
than twice the size of Scotland.

Wise is the man who acts as if he ex-
pected to live a hundred years, but is
prepared to shuffle off to-morrow.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA



AS LONG ago as 1809 the Ameri-
can navy had its first fight with
the Chinese; and in Japan and
Corea the United States has also landed
parties to demand satisfaction for in-
juries to American citizens. The chief
role of the United States in Asia has
been as the sponsor for China, Japan
and Corea as nations. The United
States was the first nation to make a
treaty with China by which that coun-
try recognized the principles of interna-
tional law, and it was followed promp-
tly by other nations. An American navy
officer secured the first commercial
treaty with Japan, forced the Shogun to
admit foreigners to trade, and incident-
ally brought about the overthrow of a
usurper and the establishment of the
present liberal government in control.
Corea's first treaty was with the United
States, as was that of the king of the
Loo Choo Isles. The United States in
1894 made the first treaty with Japan
that treated the Mikado's empire as a
civilized nation. Within the last year
this country secured the adoption of an
agreement for the open door in China
by the powers. Some of the most in-
fluential generals, admirals and diplo-
mats in the service of the Asiatic pow-
ers have been Americans. It is on ac-
count of these facts that when the pres-
ent trouble arose the suggestion was
made in many foreign countries that
the United States should settle the crisis
in China and also because of the
known disinterestedness of the United
States, which has allowed other powers
to reap the territorial advantages that
have followed its action. So, too, the
Chinese minister was not without reason
for his suggestion that the Monroe
doctrine be applied to China.

First Lesson.

The first experience of the Chinese
with Americans grew out of a some-
what similar state of affairs to that
in the Mediterranean, where the United
States suppressed the Barbary pirates,
who had been levying tribute on the
ships of the great nations without hind-
rance. Chinese waters were also in-
fested with pirates, against whom the
Europeans had made no determined re-
sistance. The United States ship Athu-
alpa, under the command of Capt. Ba-
con, happened along in 1809. The ship
entered the river at Macao and sent a
boat crew in command of the chief of-
ficer ashore to get a pilot. The pirate
junks stole quietly up and suddenly
rounded the boat, intending to leap
on board and kill the crew. When the
Americans realized what had happened
they turned their loaded cannon on the
Chinese and fought off the boarders
with their Brown Bess muskets and
boarding pikes. The Chinese gave hard
battle, throwing hand grenades on
board. The pirates were beaten off,
and the defeat of the leader was such a
blow to his prestige that he was after-
wards betrayed by some of his men.
The mandarins put him to death by
the means known as the "thousand
cuts," a slow and prolonged process of
hacking into little bits. Capt. Bacon's
lesson, however, taught the Chinese pi-
rates to respect the American flag, and
American trade grew and prospered.

The opium war, which was declared
against China by Great Britain in 1840,
was responsible for the opening of that
nation to the world's commerce by
means of the treaty ports which were
afterwards established. That war grew
out of the attempt of China to suppress
the smuggling of opium carried on by
the British to the depletion of the im-
perial revenues. To suppress the trade
the Chinese had recourse to force.

But after the short, sharp struggle in
1857, which resulted in the capture of
Canton by the allied British and
French, the United States was one of
the powers that joined with England,
France and Russia in securing treaties
for freedom of trade.

The first foreigner employed by the
Chinese for the reorganization of their
army was an American, Frederick
Townsend Ward, a soldier of fortune,
born in Massachusetts. He adopted the
Chinese nationality under the name of
Hwa, married the daughter of a
wealthy mandarin, and was made a
mandarin of the highest grade and Ad-
miral General in the service of the Em-
peror. Gen. Ward turned his attention
to the reorganization of the empire's
army, but found it a difficult task. He
died as the result of a wound received
in directing an assault on Tsekie. The
Chinese paid him the highest possible
honors after his death by burying him
in the Confucian cemetery at Ningpo.
Ward's successor in command of the
Chinese forces was Major Charles G.
Gordon — "Chinese" Gordon — who

brought to a high degree of discipline
and efficiency the army whose founda-
tions had been laid by Ward.

The treaty made in 1868 provided for
the application of the rules of interna-
tional law to the conduct of war be-
tween the nations, gave China the right
to appoint consuls to the United States,
provided for the recognition of free-
dom of religion in China, and permitted
Chinese to embrace Christianity, per-
mitted the Chinese to attend schools in
America and to have free right of
travel here, and for all the mutual priv-
ileges which are allowed to the most
favored nation. The Chinese exclusion
act later excluded the Chinese, and in
this again the United States was first
and was followed by Australia, the
only other nation where the coolie com-
petition was felt.

When the war with Japan ended dis-
astrously for China Li Hung Chang
turned immediately to America to se-
cure a disinterested adviser to aid in
the peace negotiations and watch the
interests of the imperial government.
The man upon whom his choice fell
was John W. Foster, who had succeed-
ed James G. Blaine as Secretary of
State. Mr. Foster went to Shimono-
ski and conducted his negotiations to
the satisfaction of the Chinese govern-
ment. In the case of Japan the United
States was actually the godfather of
the new nation.

Japan had been a closed nation from
1638, when the Portuguese had been
expelled, until 1854, when Commodore
M. C. Perry, a brother of the victor on
Lake Erie, opened the country to for-
eign trade. The Japanese government
did not permit any foreign vessel to
touch at a Japanese port under any pre-
text. In 1840 the United States had
its first trouble with the Japanese gov-
ernment. Commodore Gisinger, learn-
ing that some American sailors were
imprisoned at Nagasaki, sent Commo-
dore Glynn to demand their liberation.
He succeeded in doing so, and the re-
port he then made of the resources of
the island was partly responsible for
the determination of Daniel Webster,
then Secretary of State, to open the
islands to American trade.

The acquisition of a Pacific coast line
by the United States suggested to
Millard Fillmore and Daniel Webster
that the United States should be the
chief trading power in the East, and
that the commerce of Japan would be
profitable. Commodore Perry was,
therefore, given a letter to the Mikado,
signed by the President and written by
Daniel Webster, soliciting a treaty of
friendship and commerce between the
two nations by which the Mikado's
ports should be thrown open to Ameri-
can vessels for purpose of trade.

Commodore Perry sailed in Novem-
ber, 1852, with a fleet, and he carried
with him many useful implements and
inventions as presents to the Japanese
government, including a small railway
and equipments, and a telegraph line—
things which were unknown to the Ja-
panese. Commodore Perry's instructions,
which he received from Webster before
the Secretary's death, were to approach
the Emperor of Japan in the most
friendly manner, and to use no violence
unless attacked, but if attacked to let
the Japanese feel the full weight of his
power.

Perry's Diplomacy.

Perry carried out his instructions by
sailing to Yeddo and delivering his let-
ter to the authorities with the request
that it be presented to the Emperor.
The Japanese, in accordance with their
custom, refused to permit him to land,
and Perry waited for his answer for
several months, during which he sur-
veyed the Loo Choo Islands. While
in these islands he made the first treaty
negotiated by them with a Caucasian
power. After waiting several months
Commodore Perry returned to the Bay
of Yeddo, and finally by a triumph of
diplomacy, aided by the sight of his
seven ships, effected a landing and ob-
tained a treaty permitting the Ameri-
cans to trade. This treaty permitted
citizens of the United States to trade
with Japan through the ports of Simo-
da and Hakodate and the United
States was authorized to appoint Con-
suls to represent its interest at these

points. It was stipulated that steam-
ers from California to China should be
furnished with supplies of coal, and
that American sailors shipwrecked
upon the Japanese coast should be
treated humanely and not killed or im-
prisoned, as had been the Japanese cus-
tom in their attempt to secure isolation.
Thus Japan, after 216 years of seclu-
sion, entered into the family of nations.
The other powers were quick to follow
the United States' example and se-
cured similar treaties, and three other
ports were soon added to which West-
ern people might trade.

Perry's visit was the cause of the
overthrow of the dynasty then in power
in Japan. From the twelfth century
the authority of the Mikados had been
nominal. They had been relegated
among the gods and their power was
exercised through a Shogun, who was
the real sovereign. When the Shogun
yielded to the American demands it
created a profound sensation in Japan.
The nobles were indignant at the de-
parture from the traditional policy of
the empire. They gained the upper
hand, and in 1863 ordered the Shogun
to abrogate treaties of commerce. At-
tacks on the foreigners followed, and
foreign vessels attempting to enter
treaty ports were fired upon. One of
these vessels was the Pembroke, a
small American steamer loaded with
merchandise.

Japs Learn a Lesson.

The insult was reported to Commo-
dore MacDonoug, who was with the Wy-
oming at Shanghai. The Wyoming at-
tacked and destroyed the Japanese
fleet. MacDonoug sailed away in the
Wyoming, which was hit twenty times.
Five of his men were killed and six
wounded. The American minister
made a claim of \$10,000 for the loss of
time and freight sustained by the Pem-
broke, which was paid promptly.

Perry opened Japan to trade. The
United States in 1878 and again in 1894
led the way for the admittance of
Japan into full fellowship with the na-
tions and to permit trade of Ameri-
cans in every part of the empire.

After 1868, when the Shogun was
finally overthrown and the Mikado
himself began to rule under a constitu-
tional government, the Japanese show-
ed constant progress in peace. They
became restive of being treated as bar-
barians and wished the removal of the
stigma. The first effort was received
with favor by the United States, which,
by the treaty of 1857, placed Japan upon
exactly the same footing as Germany,
France, or any other country in re-
lation with the United States, except
that the consular courts were contin-
ued. The treaty of 1894 was the first
to give Japan standing among nations.
Until then the empire was closed to
foreign residence and travel.

Corea was the last of the Eastern Asi-
atic countries to be opened the world.
"The Hermit Kingdom," as it was
called, excluded all foreigners until
1882, when Commodore Shufeldt of the
United States navy opened it by much
the same methods that had been em-
ployed by Commodore Perry in the
case of Japan.

The first communication the United
States and Corea had was one of force,
and in a punitive expedition 2,000 Core-
ans were killed. This expedition was
sent because of the treatment of the
crew of an American schooner, the
General Sherman, which had been char-
tered by a British trader.

Their defeat in this battle taught the
Coreans a wholesome respect for Ameri-
cans, who were unmolested from
that time forward. The United States
was determined, however, to secure
trade with the peninsula, which re-
mained closed to all nations except
China and Japan. The negotiations
were put in charge of Commodore
Shufeldt, who had served in one of the
expedition against the Coreans. The
matter was accomplished by diplomacy
when China became jealous at the
growing influence of the Japanese in
the kingdom.