THE STRUGGLE IN THE FAR EAST.

BY THE EDITOR.

JAPAN is now passing through a most critical period of its history, for the present war will decide whether Russia alone shall sway the destinies of Northern Asia, or whether she will have to retreat before the rising sun of Japan. Russia fights for the expansion of its empire, Japan for its independence, yea, for its very existence.

So far the Japanese have been victorious, and their triumphs are the more remarkable because Russia is the greater country with mightier resources. Moreover, the Russian troops are fighting with an unprecedented tenacity, and their generals, above all Kuropatkin and Stoessel, have shown uncommon boldness and foresight, so as to deserve our unlimited admiration. These brave Russian leaders have, again and again, after repeated defeats, and under the most trying circumstances, inspiring their troops with new courage,—a sure indication of their genuine generalship and the moral superiority of their characters.

The Japanese have begun the war with great reluctance and because they had no alternative left other than to fight or to submit; but they are determined to die rather than to yield. They know their fate if they lose, and they also know the prize if they win. They fight for their national existence, for their independence, for their honor, for their place in history; and one thing is sure; they have surprised the world by the valor of their men, the circumspection of their generals, the humaneness of their general behavior.

In spite of the Hague Tribunal, the present war was positively inevitable, for there is a conflict between the Russian and Japanese nationalities which could be decided by war only. Since Peter the Great's day the Russians have been anxious to reach the open sea somewhere, for they need it for the expanse of their commerce. They have harbors in the Black Sea and in the Baltic, but their navies are practically locked up in these inland seas, and Vladivo-
stok is ice-bound almost half the year. Further, the traditional policy of Russia is naturally a policy of expansion. Peter the Great's Testament indicates plainly Russia's aim to conquer Europe and Asia and take a commanding position among the nations of the earth. Patriotic Russians believe in it and Russian diplomats never lose sight of it. Indeed, part of the program (the conquest of Poland and of several countries in Inner Asia, as well as the extension of Russian influence on the Balkan peninsula,) has ac-


tually been carried out, and there are many who believe that finally Russia will grow to the full size of her ideal, slowly but irresistibly and with comparative ease.

After the Chino-Japanese war, Russia protested against Japan's taking possession of Port Arthur; yet soon afterward she herself marched her troops into that Manchurian stronghold. Millions of rubles have been invested in fortifications and harbor im-
provements, and we can have no doubt that Russia, in spite of her assurances to the contrary, intended to keep Manchuria for good.

2. JAPANESE NINTH CAVALRY REGIMENT FORDING THE RIVER NEAR SHOU SHAN PAO.

3. JAPANESE INFANTRY READY TO CHARGE.
They are hidden behind Chinese corn and have thrown their overcoats aside.

Russian influence in Corea indicated that the Hermit Kingdom would be the next object of her expansion, and if Corea had be-
4. JAPANESE FIELD HOSPITAL NEAR SHOU SHAN PAO.

5. JAPANESE CANNON AFTER THE BATTLE.
come Russian the Russian sphere of influence would irresistibly have extended over Japan. Count Hans Von Königsmarck, a late military attaché of Germany to Japan, appreciates the significance of Corea in his interesting little book entitled *Japan and the Japanese,* where he says on page 6: "The conquest of Corea means for Japan 'To be or not to be.'"

In a passage written before the beginning of the war, Count Königsmarck says (l. e. p. 250) on his arrival in Fusan, the Corean harbor: "Should Russia become master of this place, she would not only set limits to Japanese trade and commerce (in Corea) but could also build up on this strategical point an abutment for a bridge to the Island Empire, thereby at least invalidating the independence of Japan.

"The English press represents this step of the Slav Goliah as immediately imminent, but in my opinion it will be reserved for a later future. At present, Russia is too much engaged with fortifying her interests in China, and so the friendship of Japan, which is after all a considerable factor in the Far East, will still be too valuable and should not be disturbed through a premature desire

7. THE DEPOT OF LIAO YANG AS LEFT BY THE RUSSIANS.

8. BURNING PROVISIONS AT LIAO YANG DEPOT.
for a conquest of the peninsula of Corea. Russia should first gain a firm foothold in Manchuria, which done, she will be able to take possession of Corea without minding Japan."

The same writer, in speaking of Russia's plan of a "preliminary friendship with Japan in Japan," says (p. 185): "It is the delicate task of Russian diplomacy to veil as much as possible these seemingly inconsistent moves of Slavic world-policy and to sweeten the bitter anti-Japanese pills on the continent by sugar-cakes at Tokyo."

The island of Sakhalin, once Japanese territory, was incorporated by the Russians in the midst of peace, and the Japanese gov-

9. DESTRUCTION OF AMMUNITION CARS AT THE LIAO YANG DEPOT.
the noble spirit of a pure and stern patriotism pervades not only the army, not only the men that fight, but also those non-combatants who are left at home, also the wives and daughters and children. Our frontispiece represents the widow of a Japanese officer who has fallen in the war. The artist, Kunishiro Mitsutani, belongs to modern Japan. He is a pupil of the famous Koyama, and has studied in America and in Europe. He has abandoned the old Japanese style, and, following in the wake of his great master, may be considered a typical representative of modern Japanese art. And how well does he picture the spirit that animates his country. The

![](image)

10. FIRST CLASS RAILWAY CARRIAGE LEFT BEHIND BY THE RUSSIANS.

The grief of the young widow is transfigured by the resigned composure plainly visible in the expression of her calm face. She carries on a tray, made of hinoki wood, unvarnished and without ornament, in order to express the simplicity so highly esteemed in Shintoism, her husband's cap and sword, apparently the same ones which he wore in battle, to deposit them as a reminiscence of her deceased lord, the father of her children, in the family shrine of her home. What love, what devotion, and yet at the same time, what determination is seen in her dignified features! It is typical of Japan,
whose attitude in her present ordeal elicits the sympathy of the world.

We here present our readers with some original photographs, taken on the field of battle in and around Liao Yang.

Liao Yang is an ancient city and was once the capital of Corea, when the Hermit Kingdom was still the center of Asiatic culture, religious as well as secular. Both China and Japan owe many inventions and progressive movements to the ancient Coreans, but when the country began to decline, it became the object of frequent invasions from the Chinese, the Japanese and the Manchurians. Emperor T'ai Tsung, who governed China 627-650 A. D., the foun-

II. RUSSIAN CANNON CAPTURED BY THE JAPANESE.

der of the Tang dynasty, invaded Corea and entered Liao Yang, extending his victorious march to the heights of Shou Shan Pao, i. e., "the fortress on the mountain," an almost impregnable site, which is the natural defence of the country toward the south.

When Corea's military power was weakened, Liao Yang ceased to be the residence of the kings of Corea, and Seoul was selected as the new capital. In the meantime the Manchu invaded the western frontiers of the country, and Liao Yang ceased to be a Corean city.

The commanding heights of Shou Shan Pao offered a good opportunity for a successful defence against the Japanese armies,
and Kuropatkin did not neglect this chance, but proposed to make here a decisive stand, hoping that the natural strength of the place would make it impossible for the Japanese to oust him from Liao Yang; but, owing to the superior artillery and an unparalleled valor of the Japanese troops, the Russians were outflanked and this impregnable position was taken. Thus, Liao Yang had to be aban-

12. HOKU SHAN TOWER.
A Buddhist temple over five hundred feet high.*

doncd, and Kuropatkin was forced to retreat toward Mukden, destroying behind him his stores of ammunition and provisions.

*If our informant is not mistaken as to the height of the Hoku Shan tower at Liao Yang, this remarkable structure will have to be considered the highest religious building in the world. The tower of the cathedral of Ulm is 161 metres high; that of Cologne, 156; of Rouen, 149; St. Nicolai of Hamburg, 144.2; the cathedral of Strassburg, 143; St. Peters of Rome, 138.7; and St. Paul of London, only 111.03.
We have selected from the photographs at our disposal mainly those which will help us to form a vivid picture of the topography of the battle.

We see in the first picture Marshal Oyama with his staff passing through the main street of Hai Cheng. Before the Japanese begin their battles, they dispose of their troops as a skillful player would move the figures on a chess board, before he begins his attack. We see (in picture 2) the Japanese Ninth Regiment of Cavalry fording a little river to reach the place where its attack will be most effective. Infantry troops are moving through the fields covered with kao liang (literally “high corn,” which is as high as, or even higher than, the maize fields of Illinois. In picture 3, the Japanese soldiers are hidden behind the Chinese corn. They have thrown aside their overcoats to be unhampered in the charge. In the meantime, preparations are made in the rear of the army. A field hospital is quickly erected in the shape of a huge tent destined to give shelter to the wounded, who will soon need the accommodations of physicians and nurses.

The battle was bloody, but the victory was gained, and the cannon (in picture 5) exhibits how the material has been used to
14. JAPANESE INFANTRY AFTER THE BATTLE.

15. A JAPANESE POST BEFORE THE WALL OF LIAO YANG.
the utmost. How much more worn out must have been the men and horses!

Liao Yang being evacuated fell into the hands of the Japanese, who at once took possession of the railway station (picture 6). They find heaps of wheat and other provisions in burning piles while the ammunition which had been stored in railway cars and could not be moved, was exploded at the depot, which presents the sight of an unspeakable chaos. Nothing is left but wrecks and ruin.

At a distance we see a large tower. It is the Hoku Shan, a Buddhist temple, which is the most characteristic feature of the ancient Corean capital, and is over five hundred feet high, higher than many a building that has been reputed the highest in the world.

In the remaining pictures we see the soldiers resting after the battle on the top of Shou Shan Pao, and an outpost of the Japanese garrison quartered in the city of Liao Yang guarding the access to the wall and its entrances.

Our information from the headquarters of the Russian army is very meagre in comparison to communications received from the Japanese front. In fact it is limited to a humorous postal card

which Mr. R. H. Little of Chicago lately sent to the Chicago Press Club.

In the meantime, while the war is still on, the cause of civilisation is progressing, and one of the best fruits of the vicissitudes of the present campaign, which is actually beginning to ripen, would be a constitution for Russia.