

シヤパン、タイムス學生號 第六號特別附錄

明治四十四年十一月十五日發行

THE JAPAN TIMES
STUDENT EDITION
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

時文教枝

第貳

THE WUCHANG RISING

(London Times.)

A rising which is manifestly very serious has taken place at Wuchang, the great city in the province of Hupeh which seems destined to become the centre of the Chinese railway system and of the internal trade of the Empire. How serious it may prove to be, and how serious the movement from which it springs, are matters on which Europeans have but few materials for a judgment.

We have not sufficient information to show whether the present insurrection is connected with the disturbances in Szechuan which looked threatening enough a month ago. If they are, their significance, it need hardly be said, would be materially increased. But even if they are both altogether local, they are symptomatic of the general instability of the actual situation. Two years hence a full Parliament of the Empire is to be convoked and a Ministry responsible to it is to be appointed. So at least the Imperial Edict of last November has promised. The results of so tremendous an innovation cannot be looked forward to without misgivings. Is China, the oldest, and to all outward seeming one of the most effete, of Oriental Monarchies fit for so vast a change? The reception of the Edict last year does not augur well for the future. The National Assembly, which had unani- mously demanded this very reform, denounced it as too tardy, the moment it was granted. Yet surely three years was not too long a time for China to prepare herself in for constitutional government. There is much that is admirable in the Young China party. They realize the absolute necessity of reform, and many of them desire it out

of genuine patriotism. Put hitherto they have shown no sense of perspective, no powers of leadership, and no gift of construction. Last year one of their number, himself a subordinate official, who would certainly lose by a change, blurted out to a European in a moment of confidence that, in his opinion, nothing could save the country but a bloody revolution making a clean sweep of everything. That was in the city of Wuchang. Is the present insurrection an attempt to save China in this way, and if it is, what popular force is behind it, or will gather behind it unless it is immediately quelled? A good deal for us and for all European Powers with the interests in the Far East depends on the answer.

A DAY IN MODERN ATHENS

MR. A. R. CARMAN, in the *Canadian Magazine* for July, describes his visit to Athens, and the profound impression made by the disclosure of the ancient Hellenic world. Of the modern Athenians he says:—

"They lunch a little after twelve and then go to sleep. Shops and offices commonly close from twelve to two, or even three. The streets brisk up a bit after three, and at six all business ceases and the entire population—father, mother, son and daughter, the babies—go to the parks or squares, or even the streets, and patronise the cafés. They get an ice-cream or a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and a bit of cake, and that carries them along until dark quite puts an end to the most delightful time of the day. Then, when they can no longer see and the countless orchestras cease playing in the cafés, they reluctantly, but placidly, saunter home to dine. We learned the trick after a while, but we got to like it immensely."

DR. NITOBE IN AMERICA

(Alameda "Times-Star.")

Addressing more than 1000 students here yesterday on "Peace on the Pacific," Professor Inazo Nitobe, head of the economics department of the University of Japan, who is in this country to preach peace, took occasion to expose what he believed to be a source of the war scare, and to insist that the west requires cheap Japanese labor for its development.

"Sift all this empty war talk and what have you left?" said Nitobe. "Not a grain of reason is left that could be given as a just ground for war, whereas there is every reason why the two nations should be tied by the bonds of friendship.

"I do not like to indulge in suspicious talk but my suspicions are well grounded that many a nation and business concern profits by stirring up strife between two nations by crying a war scare. War scares sometimes make flourishing business for some of these concerns and nations."

Professor Nitobe said he believed that Americans were placing a wrong construction on the Japanese immigration question. He said many desirable Japanese students are being barred by the immigration laws.

"California and the West need cheap labor to build up the country," said the speaker, who went on to show that while there is 155,000 square miles, California is by 10,000 square miles larger than Japan, yet has only one-twenty second of that country's population. He referred to the undeveloped resources of the western states as an argument in favor of Japanese immigration.

Professor Nitobe also vigorously refuted the belief that Japanese immigration will impair the morality of this country.

DEATH OF SIR ROBERT HART

(The "Spectator.")

We have to record the death of Sir Robert Hart, one of the most remarkable among the many great Ulstermen who have distinguished themselves in the world of action and administration. Entering the Consular service in China in 1854, he accepted a post in the Chinese Customs four years later, becoming Inspector-General in 1863. Under his administration, which lasted forty-five years, the value of the foreign trade was quadrupled, the home trade increased sevenfold, and the revenue of the Customs was trebled. But, as a writer in the *Times* reminds us, these figures give only an inadequate notion of the enormous development of a service "which undertook the lighting of the coast and inland waterways of China, which disposed of a fleet of revenue cruisers, instituted a European University in Peking, and which of late years became the sheet-anchor of Chinese finance." His long residence in China brought him like other Englishmen under the spell of the East, and the gross ingratitude with which he was treated by the Chinese Government never impaired his loyalty or inspired him to a word of recrimination or complaint.

JAPANESE HUMOR

No people exists among whom a sense of humor is developed to a greater extent than it is among the Japanese, says a writer in *the Strand*, and there is certainly no type of humor so difficult for a foreigner to understand as the Japanese. At root, of course, it is of the same nature as the humor of all the world; but the unique character and genius of the language, the peculiar traditions and habit of thought of the

people, grown up through so many centuries apart from contact with the outer world, contribute to make the point of a Japanese joke a puzzle to the outsider. The most brilliant flash of fun is apt to need laborious explanation, and the moment one begins to explain a joke the fun vanishes, while by the end of an elaborate exposition it becomes a bore and a stupid weariness.

In Europe the pun is, as a rule, a poor form of wit, though, of course, in Japan the play of words—a thing in the Japanese language far too subtle and significant to be called a pun—not only makes for wit and humor, but carries subtleties of poetic meaning unknown in other tongues. No translation can even make intelligible the full significance of a Japanese poem; there is an interplay of meanings and a use of words involving a literary allusion and association that utterly defy reproduction; and a mere verset of a few lines will carry more curiously and beautifully interwoven meaning than is to be compressed into European poem four times as long.

For many reasons it is inevitable that a vast deal of Japanese humor must remain forever a sealed book to the foreigner unacquainted with Japanese language and literature. But there is a great deal more which is as readily comprehensible to a foreigner as that of his own countrymen. There are two Japanese comic papers, both very popular—the *Kokkei Shim-bun*, wholly and entirely Japanese in character, and the *Tokyo Puck*, which as its name suggests, has a largely Europeanized outlook. The *Kokkei Shim-bun* we must set aside, for its fun is so completely Japanese that explanations would be tedious and cause it to evaporate entirely. As a small instance, it may be mentioned that many Japanese written characters are com-

pounded of two or more others, each having a wholly different meaning; and a great deal of shrewd fun arises and many sharp hits at current events are made out of the associations of these incongruous meanings—all plainly lost on a foreigner ignorant of the written characters. Even the *Tokyo Puck*, the best of the fun is apt to lie in the purely native jokes and in political and local allusions little understood on this side of the world.

DEATH OF M. STOLYPIN

(The "Spectator,")

It is with deep regret that we record the death of M. Stolypin, the Russian Prime Minister, who died of his wound on Monday night. The assassin Bogroff was actually in the service of the Russian secret police. He played one of those almost incredible double parts of which the notorious Azeff is the best remembered practitioner. It appears that he has betrayed many terrorists in order to make quite sure of gaining the confidence of the police. This he succeeded in doing, and ultimately he received a regular salary from the secret police. At Kieff he declared that terrorists would be present at the gala performance, and that he would be able to recognize and betray them. The police therefore made it easy for him to be near M. Stolypin, and with their consent he carried a revolver as though for his own protection. M. Stolypin's wound was not necessarily a fatal one, but his heart was weak, and it gave way after the operation. The crime has caused a good deal of anti-Semitic feeling to be expressed throughout Russia. It is expected that M. Kokovtsoff, the Minister of Finance, will succeed M. Stolypin as Prime Minister. We have written elsewhere of M. Stolypin's great, though often misinterpreted, services to Russia.