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-AT-

# T.A. McLean's

Masonic Temple, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Apr 18 d & w tf.

## THE NEW ROAD ACT.

(Continued from Third Page.)

secret of the foreigner's craft, and cry, Japan for the Japanese," said the Mikado and his people.

Europeans were, in this respect, not very different from the Chinese. In 1894 the Celestials thought there was only

A PIGMY WITHIN THE ARMOR.

They called the little brown men of Japan wojen, or dwarfs. How soon were they cruelly disillusioned, for their army and navy were quickly annihilated. So foreigners, even yet, perhaps may think that all the Japanese strength is borrowed. Not so. The Japanese possess the secret of inner vitality. Though feudalism was not abolished until 1870, and all the lines of national construction had to be laid anew, the Mikado has steadily won his way in unifying the nation. Rebels were forgiven, the old clan lines wiped out. Favoritism disappeared, merit won its way, persecution for conscience' sake and repression of fact and truth were given up. Privilege was abolished. The army, the navy, the courts, the schools, all lines of promotion were thrown open to all. Even the pariahs were lifted to citizenship. The revival of the study of the ancient language and literature and a uniform system of education unified the whole nation. What China vainly longed for—perfect unity and a high type of political organization—is what Japan long possessed. Thus steadily within, all forces and powers were unified to make Japan great and give her a power independent of the external appliances, and which machinery only reinforced.

SECRET OF JAPAN'S POWER.

This is the secret of the nation's power. It is what makes the army a unit and the navy one of the most efficient arms of the government developing every resource of nature, of art and of humanity in Japan. It is love of native land as personified in the Mikado. Every child in the empire is taught to revere and to love the emperor even before his father and mother. For the emperor every man sailor or soldier or civilian would not only gladly die but makes it his ambition and hope to die for him. This is what makes the Japanese navy. Statistics tell one story.

It is this:—To-day Japan's navy consists of eighty-five vessels, eight first-class and two second-class battleships all afloat and equipped and among the very finest in the world, twenty cruisers, ten coast defence ships and forty-five other vessels of the dispatch or torpedo class. Her three navy yards at Sasebo, Kure and Yokosuka are rich in modern resources and even in the making of armor plates she intends to be independent. She has a body of trained seamen numbering twenty thousand with a great mercantile marine to draw from.

But this is only half. It is but one wing to the bird, or one wheel to the wagon, as the Japanese say.

THE FLOATING FORTRESS OF STEEL.

with their big forty or sixty ton cannon quick firing and machine guns, steel cupolas and conning towers, search-lights powerful engines, the gunboats and torpedo boats and torpedo destroyers, are but one phase of strength as seen from the outside by the foreigner. But from within, in tradition, in training, in patriotic glow, is the greater strength. What music, what poetry, what a thrill of joy, nerving the arm and attuning the blood of every sailor and officer to do and die for everlasting great Japan, are the very names of their warships! Behind the brand new guns and ships are omens of cheer a thousand years old. Do the names "Constitution" and "Kearsarge," and "Oregon" and "Olympia" appeal to us? Then the names "Naniwa," "Takao," "Akitsushima" and "Tadachiho" appeal to

the Japanese more because of a longer national history. So grotesque to alien ears, these names are as music to the Japanese. They are more inspiring, because reinforcing. They have a thousand years of poetry, of exalted associations, of precious and even holy memories in them, even of a land unconquered and unconquerable.

WILL CHALLENGE RUSSIA.

With these sonorous or mellifluous names are associated the deeds of heroes, the glories of art, the beauties of nature and all that urges to heroism and sacrifice. "Fuji" tells of her peerless mountain, "Asahi" of the morning sun of her glories, "Yashima" and "Shikishima" glow with poetry from the life story of Japan. The Japanese are a heroic people, and should Russia set up a claim to Korea they will challenge the Northern to a struggle of life and death.

(Continued on Last Page.)

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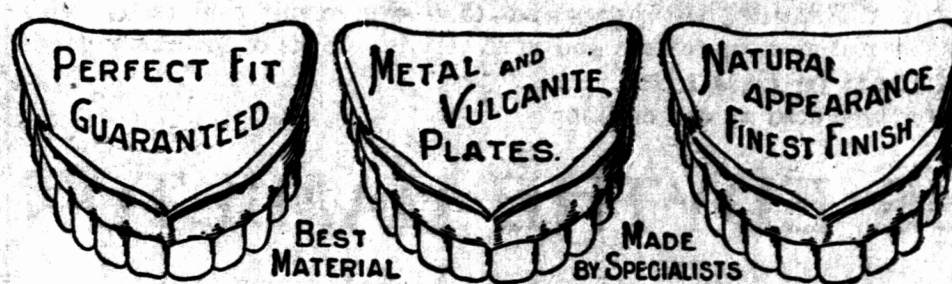
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