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EDWARD WHELAN]

This is true Liberty, when free-born Men, having to advise the Public, may speak free.—EURIPIDES.

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## Gleanings from late Papers.

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### THE UNKNOWN LAND—JAPAN.

A marvel has been disclosed to us, a new wonder has been opened to us. Suddenly, as if by magic, we have revealed to us an unknown people, with an unknown civilization, and unknown institutions. We have rent the veil that shrouded a mystery which has puzzled the world for centuries. Access has been gained for the West to a paradise in the East. The "heaven wall" of protection which surrounded Japan has been thrown down. The gates of an extensive, wealthy and populous kingdom have been thrown open to the traders of the world. And all this has been done without force or menace, by reason and persuasion, and we may add by the progress of enlightened opinion amongst the Japanese themselves. When Lord Elgin arrived at Jeddo in August, he found commissioners ready to treat with him, and the strangers received from the natives a simple and hospitable welcome. As yet our spies have not penetrated beyond the exterior, but what they have seen and described fills us with amazement and admiration, and excites an ardent thirst for more ample information respecting a community whose external manifestations afford materials for limitless speculation. Hitherto Japan has been as a sealed book, and now the seal is broken. We knew, indeed, that the country is about the size of the British Islands, with nearly the same population and climate, and the same insular position between a great continent and a great ocean. We had heard that the State is governed by two sovereigns, one exercising the spiritual authority, and the other conducting the civil and military rule. History had recorded that Japan was not always isolated from the rest of the world, or opposed to Christianity. Two centuries ago the Portuguese missionaries were allowed the fullest latitude for the promulgation of their doctrines. Not satisfied with this freedom, they interfered in a question of disputed succession, and brought the aid of the Christian population to the aid of the candidate they supported. Their intervention was followed by most disastrous results, for the party with which they joined proved unsuccessful, and two hundred thousand persons were slaughtered. Since that period Japan has been hermetically closed, not in the arrogant spirit which animated the Chinese, but because the Government dreaded a renewal of interference, intrigues and bloodshed. The Dutch alone were allowed commercial intercourse under the narrowest and most humiliating restrictions. For two hundred years they were confined to a small island, four hundred yards long by three hundred broad; and until within a few years they were not allowed to pass the boundary of their prison, to enter the town or the surrounding country. The American expedition, under Commodore Perry, opened a port in the empire. The residence of an American consul at Simoda, and the visits of Russian and English ships during the late war, prepared the way for a change, the inevitability of which, it is said, was recognized by the Japanese themselves. Mr. Harris, the resident representative of the United States, proved himself an able, accomplished and indefatigable pioneer. For two years he laboured to obtain a commercial treaty, and when the news reached Japan of the allied operations in the Pacific, his efforts were crowned with success. He did not strive to secure any exclusive advantages for his own countrymen, but assisted other nations to enter by the way that he made.

The history of Lord Elgin's treaty is full of novel adventure and strange surprises. While the British Plenipotentiary was engaged in bringing his negotiations with the Chinese to a conclusion, the American and Russian Ministers proceeded in hot haste to Japan. Lord Elgin soon followed, and on his arrival at Nagasaki he found that the American treaty had been signed; that the Russians were trying to open negotiations, but there were symptoms of reaction on the part of the Japanese Government. The Liberal Prime Minister with whom Mr. Harris had concluded a treaty, had been turned out of office, and a Conservative or Protectionist Administration had succeeded to power. Lord Elgin was not discouraged, but determined to push on to Jeddo, and to treat within the capital itself. He had with him a steam-yacht sent out as a present to the Emperor, and he resolved, if possible, that it should not be delivered over at any place of secondary importance. On the 12th of August the British squadron arrived off the port of Kanagawa, where the Russians were at anchor. Beyond this point no foreign ships had ever ventured, but Captain Sherard Osborn expressed an opinion that deep water could be found to Jeddo, and Lord Elgin gave the order to approach as near as possible to the sacred city. Cautiously threading their way through a tortuous channel, the British ships advanced until they came to anchor under the forts of the capital. Then came visits from courteous officials, praying that they would return to Kanagawa, and expatiating on the advantages of that anchorage. Lord Elgin was equally courteous, but inflexible, and when the Japanese found that he was not to be moved, they wisely made the best of the situation. They sent off supplies to the vessels, and prepared a residence for the ambassador on shore. The landing was a striking spectacle—an English gun-boat steaming along with a dozen ships' boats, officers in full uniform, and band playing while the ships thundered out salutes. As Lord Elgin made his progress through the city crowds rushed to see the procession, and the influx from the side streets had to be checked by ropes. Finally he was lodged in one of the temples, where he and his suite found clean and even luxurious quarters. The arrival of the English ambassador brought about another ministerial crisis; the Liberal Premier was restored, and after a residence of eight days Lord Elgin departed with a treaty containing enlarged conditions, which the other plenipotentiaries had not even ventured to ask for. The happy nauticity of the British led to a most triumphant result.

Our countrymen had no restraint placed upon their movements, and they quickly availed themselves of their freedom. They found that they were located in the Belgravia or court end of Jeddo. Around them were the palaces of the feudal nobles, mansions of vast extent, each capable of containing the ten thousand retainers who followed their lord to the capital. As there are three hundred and sixty of these nobles who are compelled to reside half the year at Jeddo, the extent of the aristocratic quarter may be imagined. The visitors saw before them a street forty yards broad, ten miles long, and as closely packed with houses, and as densely crowded as Hyde-park-corner to Mile-end. Towering above the vast city is the castle or palace of the temporal sovereign. This is surrounded by a moat seventy or eighty feet wide, from which rises a grassy mound of the same height. This is topped by a wall of cyclopean architecture, encompassing buildings in which forty thousand men can be

accommodated. From this place a view was obtained of "the great city of Jeddo, with its trees and gardens, picturesque temples, and densely crowded streets, extending as far as the eye can reach toward the interior, a thickly built suburb, and trees and green fields in the distance." The capital of Japan covers a larger area than London, and contains a more numerous population. The streets are well paved, and perfect cleanliness rules in-doors and out. There are none of the dirt and bad smells of a great city, while evidences of wealth and luxury are seen on every side. The country is as interesting as the town. Neat cottages stand within beautiful gardens, and private residences are as neatly kept and as carefully fenced as in England. At every spot presenting great natural beauties, a temple or a tea-house is to be found. The weary traveller may always find rest and refreshment, and reclining on soft mats, receive from neat-handed Phyllisses the most delicately flavored tea. The description of all the magnificence, and the natural and artificial beauties that met the eyes of the visitors, reads like a chapter from the "Arabian Nights."

And the people are as wonderful as the country they inhabit. They appear to have retained much of the simplicity and innocence of the golden age. They possess the most amiable and winning qualities. In personal cleanliness they surpass all other nations; bathing is an institution, and is performed in public in a manner that recalls to mind the state of man before the fall. The English did not see a deformed person in the streets, nor any drunkenness or quarrelling, and beggars are said to be unknown. But although thus primitive in their manners and habits, the Japanese are industrious and inventive, and not without scientific acquirements. When the advanced ships of the British squadron arrived at Nagasaki, they found a Japanese man-of-war steamer at anchor there. They are able to make engines for railways or steamships, and they have a short line of railway somewhere in the interior. The electric telegraph is no mystery to them, and they are skillful at fabricating astronomical and philosophical instruments. Their manufacture of glass is nearly equal to our own. The Dutch language is spoken by numbers, and some have even learned English. Japanese captains and engineers command their war vessels, of which there are steamers. They show every disposition to seize and adopt the discoveries made by European science. They are represented by their recent visitors to be not merely a progressive, but a "go-ahead" people.

What we have been told increases our curiosity. We are not admitted to the arena of the Government, or the institutions that have produced so much peace and plenty, such wealth and comfort for a whole people. There is a spiritual Emperor or chief priest, who takes no part in governing the country, and resides in sanctified retirement at Nioca. There is a governing Emperor, who has his seat in the vast castle overlooking Jeddo. There are three hundred and sixty petty princes or lords, each exercising sovereign rights on his own territory, and paying feudal homage to the reigning Emperor. These nobles are compelled to reside for half the year at Jeddo, and when they are allowed, in the other half, to visit their estates, they leave their families as hostages. There is some ground for supposing that they act in some way as a governing council. We are informed that there are parties, as amongst ourselves—one conservative, protective and exclusive; the other progressive, eager for improvement, and for intercourse with European nations. Even political crises are not unknown, and changes of ministers, as with ourselves. It is difficult to discover what their military system is, if they have any. The well constructed fortifications of Jeddo show some knowledge of the art of war, but none of the correspondents saw a battalion under arms.

There are police, but if we can believe all that we are told, they can have but little occupation. We are offered a series of the most perplexing problems. We have presented to us an old country, with annals extending back at least two thousand five hundred years, thickly peopled, without a surplus population, or paupers or beggars, with a feudal aristocracy, and no signs of oppression or intestinal strife, with great wealth and no poverty, with a simple, social, frugal life. Have we come upon a nation who have solved problems that have baffled the wisdom of Europe? Have we found a people who have enjoyed all the advantages, all the material prosperity derivable from civilization, and without suffering from any of the vices or diseases, moral and physical, of old societies?

As yet we have not penetrated beyond the surface. If the Japanese be what they really appear to be, it seems a pity that they should be subjected to European intrusion. Undoubtedly we incur a heavy responsibility by bringing them into close contact with what we must call superior civilization. But the die is cast, and a higher power has decreed that no community shall be permitted to isolate itself from the rest of the world. In the very nature of things it is not possible that Japan could much longer remain hermetically closed. Such mystery as now surrounds that wonderful country, so long self-sustained and self-supporting, will soon be dispelled. Observing travellers will follow in the track of commerce, and tell us how much of the apparent social virtues of the Japanese is laquer, how much rests on a substantial substratum of morals. What is now clouded will be made clear by the light of investigation. Meanwhile we may wait patiently, and hope that we, at least, will play a truly Christian part towards the people whom we have constrained to admit us to free intercourse.

### JAPAN.

The English papers contain glaring descriptions of all that Lord Elgin and his suite saw in Japan. One writer says:—

The country is held by Princes, who owe feudal duty to the reigning Emperor, who obliges them to reside for six months of the year at Jeddo, with their families; during the other six months he allows them to visit their estates, but keeps their families hostages in Jeddo. This restrains them, and the practice is intended to prevent the Princes from obtaining too much influence over the people. It is difficult to discover what the military system of the empire is, but that it must have the power of bringing an immense number of men into the field is beyond doubt—they have numerous and well appointed batteries.

Nagasaki, and everything Japanese, bears a striking contrast to everything Chinese. You cannot be five minutes in Japan without seeing it is a progressive nation—the country towns and houses and people all show this. The streets are wide and paved in the centre, houses open throughout the ground floor, with matting, formed in frames, fitting neatly into the rooms. On this they sit, sleep and eat, and everything is kept scrupulously clean. Behind each house is a small garden, with a few green shrubs, and occasionally a fine tree. Cleanliness seems one great characteristic of the Japanese—they are constantly washing in the most open manner. To our great surprise, as we wandered the first day through the streets, we saw two or three ladies quietly sitting in tubs in front of their doors washing themselves with the utmost unconcern, traffic and the

business through the street going on past them as usual. We understood afterwards it was a general custom. The Japanese are eager for knowledge. Never was there a people more ready to adapt themselves to the changes and progress of the world than they are. It is curious that while some of their customs are what we would deem rather barbarous, and while they are ignorant of many common things—while they still rip themselves up, and shoe their horses with straw, because ignorant of any other method—they have jumped to a knowledge of certain branches of science which it has taken nations in Europe hundreds of years to attain. At Nagasaki they can turn out of their yard an engine for a railway or a steamer. Japanese captains and engineers command their men-of-war, three of which are steamers; they understand the electric telegraph; they make thermometers and barometers, theodolites, and, I believe, aneroids. Their spyglasses and microscopes are good, and very cheap. They have a large glass manufactory which turns out glass little inferior to our own. They have a short line of railway somewhere in the interior, given by the Americans. Many of them speak Dutch, some English, all anxious to learn: everything is done by themselves, and when it is considered that it is not more than ten years ago since they made this start, the advance they have made in that short time is perfectly wonderful.

A yacht having been sent by the Queen to be given to the Emperor of Japan, we left Nagasaki with her for that place, our squadron consisting, beside her, only of the *Ferret* and a gunboat. After five days, three of which were spent in a very heavy gale of wind, we arrived at Simoda, the port opened by the Americans, and where their Consul-General lives. It is to be given up, as it is utterly useless as a harbour, too small and open, with no trade. After remaining there two days, and investing in Japanese laquer ware, which is the best in the world, we came on here (Jeddo). The port of Jeddo is at Kanagawa, about 15 miles down the Gulf. Great objection has always been made to men-of-war coming further up; indeed, Kanagawa itself has only been open a few months. The Japanese said great obstacles existed to ships coming to Jeddo. We, however, put it to the test, and without the least difficulty ran right up, and ate anchored within their own men-of-war, which we did not know were here, and within a mile of the forts of Jeddo. The town stretches far miles round the bay. I suppose it is the largest in the world, for it covers more ground than London, with between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 people, which, if I recollect right, is more than the London population. We have been begged to go back, which when we declined doing, they made no further effort to get rid of us, but have offered us a residence on shore, and requested us to commence a treaty. The Americans have made a very good one. The Russians, I believe, are just about concluding one, and I suppose before many days we may be doing the same.

We had probably to-morrow or next day. I will say no more till I can tell you something about the inside of the city.

SEPTEMBER 2.—Jeddo, without exception, is one of the finest cities in the world; streets broad and good, and the Castle, which includes nearly the whole centre of the town, built on a slight eminence. There are three walls or inclosures round this quarter. Within the inner, the Emperor and his court are seated. The houses of the princes and nobles are palaces, and you may imagine the size when some contain 10,000 followers. They are built in regular order, forming wide streets some 40 yards broad, kept in perfect order; an immense court-yard, with trees and gardens, forms the centre of each inclosure, in the midst of which is the house of the owner; the houses containing the followers, servants, stables, &c., form this large inclosure. They are built of one uniform shape. The gateway leading to the court-yard are exceedingly handsome, of massive wood work, ornamented with lacquer and other devices. From the road that leads by the most to the second wall is one of the best views I ever recollect seeing—on one side, the Gulf of Jeddo, with the high hills rising beyond, while on the other is a portion of the great city of Jeddo, with its trees and gardens, picture-que temples, and densely crowded streets, extending as far as the eye can reach toward the interior; then there is a view of the trees and green fields in the distance, far away beyond a thickly built suburb; but the most striking view of all is that close by—the well kept green banks of the second defence, rising some seventy feet from the broad moat below, with grand old cedars over a hundred years of age growing from its sides. The fine timber, the lay of the ground, the water lilies in the moat, the grandeur, good order, and completeness of everything, equal, and in some ways far surpass anything I have ever seen in Europe or any part of the world.

We made an expedition into the country. The cottages were surrounded with neatly clipped hedges; the private residences as well raised and kept as any place in England. The same completeness and finish exist in everything.

The Botanical Gardens are very good, and well cared for; good nurseries of young pines, cedars, &c.

Another writer says:—  
The band struck up "God save the Queen" as Lord Elgin ascended the steps of the official landing place near the centre of the city, and was received and put into his chair by sundry two-sworded personages, the rest of the mission, together with some officers of the squadron, following on horseback. The crowd which for upwards of a mile lined the streets leading to the building fixed on as the residence of the Embassy, was dense in the extreme; the procession was preceded by policemen in harlequin costume, jingling huge iron rods of office, hung with heavy clanging rings, to warn the crowd away. Ropes were stretched across the cross streets, down which masses of the people rushed, attracted by the novel sight; while every few hundred yards were gates partitioning off the different wards which were severally closed immediately on the passing of the procession, thus hopelessly barring the further progress of the old crowd, who strained anxiously through the bars, and envied the persons composing the rapidly-forming nucleus.

During Lord Elgin's stay of eight days on shore nearly all the officers of the squadron had an opportunity of paying him a visit. His residence was a portion of the temple situated upon the outskirts of what was known as the Princes' Quarter—in other words, it was the English-bridge of Jeddo. In front of it was a street which continued for 10 miles, as closely packed with houses and as densely crowded with people as it is from Hyde Park corner to Mile-end. At the back of it stretched a wide and somewhat dreary aristocratic quarter, containing the residences of 360 hereditary Princes, each a petty sovereign in his own right, many of them with half-a-dozen town houses and some of them able to accommodate in these same mansions 10,000 retainers. Passing through the spacious and silent (except where a party of English were traversing them) streets, we arrive at the outer most of the castle; crossing it we are still in the Princes' Quarter, but are astounded as we reach its further limit at the scene which now bursts upon us—a magnificent moat, 70 or 80 yards broad, faced with a smooth green escarpment as many feet in height, above which runs a massive wall composed of stones Cyclopean in their dimensions. This is crowned, in its turn, by a lofty palisade. Towering above all, the spreading arms of giant cedars proudly display themselves, and denote that within the Imperial precincts this picturesque is not forgotten. From the highest point of the fortifications in the rear of the castle a panoramic view is obtained of the vast city with its two million and a half inhabitants, and an area equal to, if not greater than that of London. The castle alone is computed to be capable of containing 40,000 souls.

In their personal cleanliness the Japanese present a marked contrast to the Chinese; no deformed objects meet the eye in the crowded streets; on various diseases seem almost unknown, as a substitute for ground sugar—12 pounds of the plant's root to 40 pounds weight of sugar. This lozenge-makor was in

corners of the streets. In Jeddo they frequent large bathing establishments, the door of which is open to the passer-by, and presents a curious spectacle, more especially if the inmates of both sexes ingeniously rush to it to gaze at him as he rides blushing past. But it would not be possible to condense within the limits of a letter the experiences and observations of a residence in the capital of an empire about which the information at home is so very scanty, and which presents probably a greater variety of interesting and curious matter to the stranger than any other part of the world.

A VERY PRACTY PICTURE! A DELICIOUS STATE OF SOCIETY.—An Irishman named Morrissey and an American called Heenan, "made a match" the other day, as all our readers are aware. They met, they fought; Heenan, although the stronger, was too impetuous, and was beaten in the fight by his smaller, but sturdier antagonist. Everybody does not read the New-York sporting journals, and perhaps every one does not know the pretty state of society developed on the occasion of the fight at Long Point. Let us enlighten the ignorant by a short series of quotations. First, as to the company present. There was such a congregation of thieves, gamblers, and murderers as could not be brought together in any other country in the world. There were hundreds of three-card monte players, "fancy" men, rought who never pay a shilling for their liquor in their lives—all classes of thieves, from the hotel dancer to the petty fogle hunter. Among the notables present we will only select a few. The time-keeper of the fight, Mr. Briggs spent thirty days in the Tombs for assaulting a woman. \* \* \* William Mulligan, the expelled, \* \* \* was one of the umpires. D. Thompson, the shop-lifter and hotel thief, \* \* \* figured prominently at the making of the ring. Mr. Cunningham, who was tried for killing Paulsen, was there. Baker, who was tried three times for killing Bill Poole, was also on hand. Then there were some minor lights. For instance, Mr. Bill Morey, the hotel thief, &c., &c., &c. The particulars of the fight need not be recounted. Some Canadian constables endeavoured to interfere, but what could half a dozen do against a many thousand? And now for the return trip:—Several of the "roughs" held an important meeting, and it was settled that they should start for the city by the Central Railroad, that no man should pay anything for his fare or for his provisions and luxuries by the wayside. \* \* \* As soon as, and before the locomotive was in motion, the talk was "fight." Cigars were lighted, and, despite the remonstrances of the ladies, in front, rear, and on every side, volumes of smoke were emitted. \* \* \* Some of the "roughs" travelled from one end of the cars to the other, and when they found a "fat" with a ticket stuck in his hat, they immediately eased him of it, and returned to their own compartment. The conductor then came along. We will omit the anecdotes told by our writer, but here is the conclusion:—The bills of several revolvers peeping out appraised the conductor of the folly of either attempting to collect fare or prohibit smoking, and he passed on through the roughs, glad to escape with his life and a whole skin. The "fancy" continued to amuse themselves until they reached Rochester. The towns had been warned by telegraph, but at every village they rushed out and made all that came within reach their own by right of forcible appropriation:—In some instances, (we read) stores were nearly gutted, and, while the unfortunate store-keeper was wrangling, they reached over the counter and secured the till. After passing Syracuse, they made the new conductor give them all through tickets, using as an inducement the customary American persuader. At Utica they resolved to go to the hotel where they charged most for dinner, and one Bagg's was selected. They ate all they could, drank all they could find, and, after dinner, while one of their ringleaders shouted—"Attention! Form in rank! March!" about eighty of them tramped out, knocked poor Bagg's into the gutter for asking his pay, and regained the cars. But the crowning disgrace remains to be told. At one of the depots two respectable women entered and took seats in the cars with the "roughs." The train soon moved on, and the "roughs" got up and fastened the doors at each end of the car. The women were helpless, without protection, and beyond its reach. Scenes too shocking to describe were enacted. The women were insulted in every conceivable manner and form. \* \* \* And yet in this enlightened age and country, where woman is supposed to be fully protected, all this happened—all these scenes were enacted and yet nobody dared to interfere! We need add but little to the description. The whole scene is a fitting companion to that in which, not long ago, a New York mob attacked an hospital, set fire to it while the sick were inside, and were with difficulty brought from the burning building in the cold night air. How low is the national character of the Americans falling!—*Toronto Colonist.*

PERSECUTION OF ROMAN CATHOLICS IN POLAND.—The *Gazette de Posen* says:—The following events have taken place in Lithuania. In the Russian Government of Grodno, circle of Volkowsky, is a crown village of about 150 houses, the inhabitants of which were converted by force to schism, and had received a very greedy pope, who shamefully plundered the peasants every time that they had need of religious ministrations. Indignant at these proceedings, the peasants resolved to return to the Catholic Church, without asking leave of the Government, and went with this object to the Ecclesiastic Oleniski, a resident old man, who, regardless of the menaces of the Government, received them into the Church. When the Russian clergy heard of this a prosecution, which is still going on, was instituted; but, meanwhile, to reduce the peasants to obedience, the Governor-General Nasimoff sent a detachment of troops, his aide-de-camp Popow, and some police, to the spot. All the inhabitants of the village, without exception, have been beaten with rods. One hundred and odd peasants, three of whom died during the torture, received each 600 strokes of the knout. The Ecclesiastic Oleniski was already dead from natural causes, but the Dean and his Vicar were taken to Wilna, and treated in a revolting manner. They were threatened to be sent to Siberia, and were ultimately delivered over to the tribunal. The metropolitan who was at Wilna received from General Nasimoff the written order to expel them immediately, and this order was executed without sentence of consistory, without respect for canonical law.

A dreadful tragedy had occurred in the town of Bradford, in England, by which about 200 human beings were poisoned, of whom 17 had died up to the time of the sailing of the *Canada*. It appears that a person named Neale, a wholesale confectioner in that town, has been in the habit of mixing a large quantity of Plaster of Paris with pepper-mint lozenges, as a substitute for ground sugar—12 pounds of the plant's root to 40 pounds weight of sugar. This lozenge-makor was in