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THE
DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

DURHAM MAY 23, 1907

SANCTUM SIFTINGS.

Our fool treatment of Canada is another illustration of what our legislators can accomplish. The Dominion has now made up her mind to treat us to as harsh laws as can be devised, and her decision is wise and right. For a quarter of a century she has waited patiently, while one President after another, and one Secretary of State after another, devised treaties intended for the mutual benefit of Canada and the United States. Every time the Senate, imagining itself to exist for sequestering benefits desired by the well-intrenched, has protected its clients against the Administration and the people. Calmly, at length, Canadian leaders have seen that no fair measure of reciprocity could ever pass the Senate, and she has decided to do all in her power to stop trade with us, to develop it with England and her other colonies; to favor all Europe against the United States, to develop her own incalculable resources. We wish her well. Whatever harm our ass policy brings to us has been fully and painstakingly deserved.—Collier's Weekly.

Every home has its skeleton. There are none who couldn't rake up something dirty if they only tried hard enough, and when you see a person who is anxious to spread gossip you may be sure his own closet has a skeleton in it somewhere. A few days ago we met a person who was much distressed because the finger of scorn was pointed at a relative because of a misdeed. We enquired if the gutter-slips who took pleasure in sounding the wrongs of others would like their own characters to be brought to the light of day. Few of us indeed would like to show up in our true colors. If there is no skeleton in our own immediate family the mouldering bones of an ancestor may be lurking in the closet and if such be the case it will become us to shout over our virtues from the housetops. We have all been born but we're not all dead yet, and there's lots of time for some of us to go astray when others may take delight in pointing at us the finger of scorn for our misdeeds. Is it Christianity to trample down the one who is already in the mire of evil? Are the violent tradu-

cers of wrong-doers a whit better themselves in many cases? We doubt very much if they are and it would be well for some not to get their noses too high all at once. The lover of slander and gossip should be thoroughly shunned. They may delight in recounting the misdeeds of another, but that young boy or girl of theirs may soon furnish food for another set of slanders.

We notice a couple of our late exchanges endeavoring to uphold the rights of the press to give the news of the community, and the positions they take are so reasonable that we must endorse the views they express. The Hanover Post and Meaford Express come out simultaneously on similar lines, both condemning the weakness in local journalism when they withhold facts for the sake of friends to the aggressor. Newspapers are supposed to give the news, and the news concealed by the local press often finds its way into the metropolitan papers against which the accused and their friends very seldom offer a protest.

In regard to the curtailment of local happenings for the sake of friends of the guilty ones we must admit that we have at times been guilty, and we must admit also our belief that such concealment of actual and legitimate news items is a source of more evil than good. The man who is guilty of a misdemeanor does not deserve to be shielded. If, in a course of law, he received punishment the publishing of such punishment will be a warning to others not to do likewise. The person who pays for a local paper expects to get the news of the locality, and the local paper that fails to give the general local happenings of the community is certainly failing in the full discharge of its duty.

Only those who see behind the scenes of a newspaper sanctum have any idea of the fear the public often have that their misdeeds should be in the public print. The meanest and lowest characters in a community, who may frequently be the chief actors in our police courts, will not hesitate at times to request concealment. That we, and we presume others also, often yield to their importunities, it would be unjust and untruthful to deny. Many of us feel that the story should be told at times, but we console ourselves with the thought that publicity would do no good to the wrong-doer, and that our silence with a private warning might result in his personal benefit, even though a concealment of the facts might leave an open trap, into which others would be liable to fall.

Whatever the faults of the local press may be as a whole, we are charitable enough to believe that a large majority of them are doing the very best they know how for the community in which they live, and that they, as a rule, are the best judges of what should or should not find its way into public print. There is no class in the community with a greater number of advisers as to how to do their work, but many of the most liberal advisers of a newspaper publisher are the most unprincipled cowards who would be only too glad to shirk a duty and throw the responsibility on to the shoulders of another.

In our experience we have had advisers who would make you believe they were the essence of wisdom, and that there was no act of bravery they would shirk if they were only in the newspaper business. They may tell you they put themselves about considerably to offer a little advice on some question that was sorely in need of ventilation. They may formulate their mode of attack and show exactly how their plans would right a grievous wrong and at the same time improve your paper, which everybody regarded as a great family journal. All you had to do was to act on their advice and your fortune was assured. With pencil in hand and mouth ajar the editor may have taken notes. At the close of the interview he can easily test the bravery of his advisor by writing out a most scathing article. He need not be afraid of cutting down deep into the feelings of some of the members of the community who deserve to get a roasting. Every slash and cut will be just in line with this brave man's taste, and he chuckles to himself as he imagines how the other fellow will squirm on reading the scathing rebuke that has just been ground out by the editor's facile pen.

So far, so good, the article is just about right, but it doesn't cut quite deep enough. Another sentence or two would just put on the climax. Never mind the additional sentences, just put on a heading, address it "To The Editor of the Chronicle," finish up by saying "Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space, I remain, etc." Then ask the brave adviser to sign his name and watch him squirm as you do so. We have tried the test and we know how it works in some cases. In fact we seldom yet saw the man who was liberal with his advice and willing to put his own name to the bottom of an article he would like to see us publish on our own responsibility. We are all cowards in a certain degree, no matter how brave we would like to appear.

FROM FAR AWAY JAPAN

Extracts From a Letter Sent From
Tokyo by Mrs. (Rev.) Holmes
to Garfield Colling.

Japan is quite up to date in some things. We saw a gasoline house-cleaning machine in front of a large store with the rubber tubes cleaning the store, but I do not expect to hire it to do my house cleaning. There seems to have been a day set for all the cleaning to be done in Hongo district for on Monday all the stores had their contents moved into the street and sweeping and dusting and scrubbing was taking all their time, and household effects were on the roofs in great bundles and the beating of the tatame (the padded floor matting) and dusting of their walls and windows were the music of that day. They do much cleaning and need to for the houses are so open to the street and there is much dust although they are continually watering the street. A man draws a cart on which is a square box of water and the water just pouring from it making mud wherever it goes but it soon dries off.

Yesterday an English classmate brought a snowdrop to school and gave it to our favorite teacher, it was amusing to see her caress the flower. Japanese love flowers as much as their own people.

One of the most amusing sights we see is the attempts at millinery. Only a very few hats for ladies are on exhibition, but I think the number will supply the demand for that sort of hat. The prevailing style is a sailor hat covered with velvet, simply a large piece being placed on top and belted in around the crown and bound around the rim and three turkey feathers stuck in the band and generally plaid ribbon for the band. I have never seen them worn, they are only for sale.

There are many fires in Tokyo and one was very near last night. It was quite a large fire, but they soon put it out. It seems to us that the people are very careless about fire. When carpenters are building a house and are cold they light the shavings in the middle of the room with walls only two or three feet away and the blaze reaching to the ceiling.

Both cats and rats eat rice and fish. They very seldom get a chance of meat or milk so have not cultivated the taste for them. I had covered a saucer of rice with a wire flour sifter and in the morning a rat had eaten a hole through the wire to get the rice and cheese and butter sitting beside it untouched.

Yes, hens cackle here. We are wakened in the morning by roosters crowing and hens cackling, and crows are in flocks all through the city and are very tame, eating all the refuse in the streets.

We have just had word that W. G. Connolly is on his way to Japan and we wonder if the Board will think we know enough of the language and send us out of Tokyo and put him here.

We think the Mission Board would save money if they furnished the houses with at least the heavy furniture for it is more expensive to move here than at home. Japanese never have any heavy beds or chairs or dishes in their houses.

We find the children here just like other children, very bright and interesting, although we cannot say much to them yet, but they understand smiles and return them very freely. A little girl or boy who has a baby brother or sister, has to be nurse and carry the baby on their back and they run about and play their games just as freely and they all seem very happy and many of them very dirty for they have no playground but the streets and there is no pavement except the clay which they try to keep wet to keep the dust from flying. Our shoes are always muddy and we think it very good to do as the Japs, take them off when we go in the house.

Little boys have their heads shaved all around the edge of the hair to about two inches back and then sometimes a spot about the size of a cent at the crown of the head is shaved and sometimes that much is left very long. Most larger boys and men have their hair clipped as short as possible if they did not it would stand up straight for it is so coarse. Women and girls have many different ways of combing their hair but nearly always use a strong smelling oil on it and generally wear many pretty combs and artificial flowers in it, which makes it look rather pretty.

Little girls are very fond of singing school songs and they sing on the street and in the street car and everywhere.

We have excellent street car service in Tokyo and it is very cheap. We go on the car every day to school about five miles, but sometimes we walk back.

Just now the Tokyo exhibition is being held and there are many visitors both foreign and native in the city. It is held in a park and it just looks like fairy land everything is decorated and every nook and corner is filled with little shops of innumerable things

none of which would be any use to me except the beautiful silks, but even they are so gay that they would scarcely do for a Westerner to wear. The grounds are very quiet no shouting heard anywhere and there is only one band that makes a noise which they call music.

Japanese are fond of music but are woefully ignorant of how to make it. They have a kind of singing of their own training which would just give you an awful feeling. When they wish to train for a singer they put the boy or girl out at night and make them sing until they cannot make a sound and then when the voice is entirely broken they are ready for training, and they suffer intensely with their throats for a long time. Then the songs that they sing are always about war, and very often they do not understand a word of it. But the voices that are not trained are very sweet and when they know a tune they sing very nicely, but they all sing whether they know it or not and you can imagine the effect. It is most amusing sometimes in prayer meeting to hear them all sing a different tune, but their hearts are in it and it is a joyful sound. One night Mr. H. played one tune on the organ and they sang an altogether different one, but that did not matter, I do not think any one knew the difference.

We have a very nice house to live in it is much larger than we need for our size of family. We have one servant who tells us what we ought to do and keeps us posted when to pay the taxes and water rates and all the other taxes too numerous to mention, for it costs a great deal to live in Japan and especially Tokyo since the heavy war tax was put on everything that is bought and sold even to street car tickets.

Our woman knows a little English and so we get along very well and now we try to say a little Japanese. We have quite lengthy conversations with the help of the dictionary. She has a boy fourteen years old and we are teaching him English. It is wonderful how well he is doing. We learn a good many things from him too. He says after a few years he is going to Canada to learn farming, but we hope he will become a Christian and go to Canada to college and come back as a missionary, we think that is by far the best way to evangelize Japan. Rev. Ozawa says if my people could only see how Christians live in Canada and what a difference christianity makes, they would value it more and would know better how to lead a christian life. So you see how far reaching your lives are even if you never see a foreign land.

We enjoy our work very much. Mr. H. has a very large Bible class of students who come from all parts of the city, many of them hear the Gospel for the first time and many come just to learn English, and then are attracted by the strange story of the Gospel and continue coming till they see a little of the meaning and it changes them from a drunken careless life to that of a good moral life. but how much of the Gospel of being saved for service is felt or realized do not know not being able to understand what they say but I do know that Ozawa and another young Japanese who was educated in the U. S. are living lives of great sacrifice and intense spiritual fervor that seems to be sapping all strength and their examples are counting for the Lord, the work in the Tabernacle has almost doubled and there are enquirers every meeting.

I have a Bible class for girls but as not many girls understand English, I only have an average of nine, but they are most interesting and it is a real pleasure to meet with them, they often come to call on us, they are so pleased to see Western things and to hear us talk to them. Two of them are Christians but the others never read the Bible before so it is very difficult to make them understand it well. We have an English preaching service at half past five Sunday evenings which is followed by the Japanese service. The congregation is increasing every week and sometimes we have very good meetings and sometimes many come to scoff at all that is said but they generally come again and "the entrance of the word giveth light." I have sung at the services sometimes and they watch the words so carefully saying them over after me. It is a great novelty for a foreign woman to sing at a men's meeting, but I am willing to be a man with a monkey if I can only help some one to a knowledge of the Gospel.

Having to learn the language is such hard work sometimes we wonder if we will ever be able to talk for we never worked harder at anything in our lives.

RECRUITS WANTED.

The undersigned will receive applications for recruits for Co. D. 31st Regiment up to Friday, May 31st, inst. The annual Camp at Niagara begins June 11th.

O. M. SNIDER, Captain.
OF
N. T. MACLAURIN, } Lieut.
E. M. WOLFE, }

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