

THE JAPANESE WARSHIPS

RECIPROCAL ENJOYMENT.

—The Visitors in Town.—

On Saturday and Sunday large numbers of the officers and marines of the Japanese warships anchored at Largs Bay were given furlough, and took the opportunity to inspect the city and port of Adelaide. Up and down the streets they walked on Saturday morning in small groups, narrowly criticising the to them strange manners and customs of the people, and being in turn carefully scanned by the South Australian community. They appeared almost utterly oblivious of the curiosity which they aroused, as with a freedom and nonchalance born of the remembrance of the bazaars of their native land they entered the various shops and handled and examined the various goods that were offered for sale. In the afternoon an Englishman on North terrace could almost imagine himself transported to the land of the Mikado. In that portion of the city there were a dozen representatives of Japan to every European, and the dark uniforms added to the strangeness of the effect. The officers and cadets were much interested in the Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum. Most of them could speak English well, and they explained that this had been learned during a three-years' course at college prior to entering the training ships. With the Public Library they were delighted, and a number of them expressed a desire to see the shelves containing the histories of England and the works of Dickens. On surprise being manifested at this request they stated that the studies of British learning in their schools were made interesting through the graphic descriptive writing of the great novelist, which they had been brought to admire. The purport of many of the figure pictures in the Art Gallery seemed to be to the Japanese folk nearly as great a mystery as the un-English attitudes and occupations represented on a Japanese screen are to us. They found great delight in the Zoological Gardens, however, and were keenly interested in the various animals. Several of the midshipmen and cadets possessed kodaks, and occupied themselves in catching the shadows of the things they saw. Again on Sunday morning the streets were busy with the sturdy little warriors and sailors, who, while their officers were being entertained at the National Park, wandered about the almost deserted Sabbath streets, or hied them to the park lands and Botanical Gardens. In view of the Adelaide hotels being closed on Sunday, the fact that each marine had a flask slung over his shoulder was the subject of some comment. Enquiries, however, revealed that in every case the bottle was filled, not with spirituous liquors, nor even with the gentle stimulants of the islands of the chrysanthemum, but with pure water. Thus the reputation of Japan for sobriety was abundantly vindicated, and a striking example of temperance was set.

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On Saturday afternoon many officers of the Japanese squadron called at the Naval and Military Officers' Clubrooms, Grenfell street, and later, on returning from Morphettville, Admiral Kamimura paid official visits there and at the Staff Office.

—Tribute to the Dead.—

Shortly after 7 o'clock on Sunday morning about 50 officers, 100 midshipmen, 50 handsmen, and between 500 and 600 men from the Japanese warships visited the Woodville Cemetery to pay their respects, in accordance with the rites of the nation, to the memory of a cadet who had been buried there 15 years ago. It was during the visit of the Rynjo, a training ship of the Japanese Imperial Navy, to Port Adelaide in 1887, that Yoshikuma Kawakami, a cadet, 21 years of age, succumbed to phthisis. His remains were interred with full naval honours on May 11 of that year, and the ceremony, at once unique and impressive, will be remembered by many who attended it.

Commander Genhichi Arimori, of the Matsushima, one of the vessels now comprising the visiting squadron, was at that time a cadet on board the Rynjo, and a warm friend of Kawakami. At the shore end of the jetty the men formed into marching order, four deep, and, headed by the band, with two mounted troopers and a petty officer in the lead, proceeded down the Semaphore road. The majority of the midshipmen and nearly the whole of the officers had in the meantime gone on ahead of the procession so as to have everything in readiness for their arrival at the cemetery. The band struck up the Japanese national anthem, and as the strains of the sweet music floated upon the still morning air many people flocked out and along the route to "get a glimpse of the little brown men." The procession crossed Jervois Bridge and proceeded along St. Vincent street, thence via Commercial road. The trumpeters played a good swinging march along the whole route, and at frequent intervals the band joined in with lively airs, and several times rendered the British national anthem.

The grave of the late cadet was picturesquely decorated with many beautiful wreaths forwarded by the officers, including one striking floral offering from Rear-Admiral Kamimura. The chrysanthemum—the national flower of Japan—predominated. Flanked on each side of the tombstone stood vases holding large artificial chrysanthemums and other flowers made of paper, while in between was erected a small wooden stand, upon which was placed plates containing beans, rice, carrots, apples, sugar, and a small vessel holding water. These were supposed to be for the benefit of the reincarnated spirit of the departed. When the Admiral, his officers, midshipmen, and men were assembled around the grave, Commander Arimori, as chief mourner, read a short naval service. One of the officers afterwards explained to a representative of *The Register* that the

One of the officers afterwards explained to a representative of The Register that the service was practically an address to the spirit of the deceased cadet. The chief messenger expressed his gladness at being present to celebrate the ceremony in the presence of the Admiral and his officers. The principal message delivered in the course of the address was that the Japanese Navy was growing day by day, a piece of intelligence which was believed would be most acceptable. The address concluded, the Admiral and his officers approached the grave and saluted, and then each midshipman and bluejacket did the same in turn, the band meanwhile playing national airs. After the ceremony, which occupied nearly 30 minutes, the Japanese were dismissed. A large proportion of them joined a special train which left Cheltenham for Adelaide at 10.15.

—An Officers' Outing.—

On Sunday morning the Admiral and a contingent of about 100 officers and midshipmen from the training ships were taken by the members of the club for an outing to the National Park. The party started in six large drags at 11 o'clock, and were driven to Long Gully, where a capacious marquee had been erected. The toast of "The King of England and the Emperor of Japan," proposed by the President of the club (Col. Lovely) was honoured, and the British and Japanese anthems were sung by the respective divisions. An excellent luncheon, prepared by Mr. C. A. Marten, was then partaken of.

Afterwards Col. Lovely proposed "The health of His Excellency the Admiral, his captains, and officers." He hoped their tour would be a pleasant one, and result in drawing closer the tie that bound the two empires. There was reason to be grateful for the statesmanship that had brought about the alliance between the greatest naval power of the West and the most formidable one of the East, and it should prove an important factor in the preservation of peace and the maintenance of the political equilibrium. It was remarkable that an empire which until 1853 did not possess a steamboat should now own so magnificent a fleet that Great Britain was proud to join forces with her.

The Admiral responded, his reply being interpreted by a member of his staff. He said:—"I wish to express my thanks and satisfaction with the excellent reception you have given me and the kindness and good feeling shown to my officers since our arrival in your waters. We are proud of the inter-imperial alliance, and the sovereignties of both countries have every reason to believe that so long as the alliance exists (may it be for a thousand years) it will prove a potential factor in securing the peace of the world. In the event of need for active service I am sure that the English and Japanese armies and navies would work shoulder to shoulder to surmount every difficulty they might encounter. (Hear, hear.) Of course the fleet under my control is but a training squa-

under my control is but a training squadron in connection with the large navy of my land. The pleasure and delight which I feel at the hospitality shown to us will ever live in our memory."

Col. Ferguson submitted "The Consul for Japan," which was responded to by the Hon. J. L. Parsons, and Col. J. Rowell, C.B., gave "The Mayor of Adelaide," which was appropriately recognised by Mr. Cohen, M.P.

During the afternoon national marches and musical items were given by the English and Japanese, and the entertainment was much enjoyed by the visitors. The party reached Adelaide before 6 p.m.

—Public Inspection of the Warships.—

Perhaps never before in the history of the Largs Bay Jetty has so large a concourse of people journeyed along the pier as that on Sunday, when the three Japanese warships were thrown open for public inspection. The launch which left for the warships shortly after the arrival of the train at 9.23 a.m. carried a good complement of passen-

gers. The arrivals at Largs increased as the day advanced, and three special trains had to be put on. In two of these the passengers were "packed like sardines." The third special did not leave Adelaide until 6.30, and was only sent down to relieve the pressure at the other end. The launch service was excellent, and consisted of several of the Adelaide Steam-tug Company's boats and the steamers Falcon, Eleanor, and Surprise. The sea trip from the jetty in a gentle southerly breeze to the warships was most pleasant. It was an exceedingly joyous crowd which stepped upon the gangway of the splendid Japanese warships. As soon as their feet touched the decks of the vessels they were hurried away by the courteous little "Japs," who were most anxious to demonstrate their love and affection for the British. The "Japs" appeared to be delighted to render all possible assistance to the visitors, and chattered away as fast as their knowledge of English would permit them. They took a keen pride in their vessels, and readily replied to the numerous queries of "How is this gun worked?" or "What is that thing used for?" and "What class of cruiser does the Hashidate, or whichever vessel it might be, belong to?" The Japanese were not slow in giving practical demonstrations of the working of the guns, powder and ball being, of course, lacking. The breeches shone like burnished brass under the rays of the sun, and it would have been nigh an impossibility to discover a speck of dirt upon any of the mechanism. While some of the "Japs" went into the details of the armament others hunted up buried treasures in the form of artificial flowers and curiosities which were—almost without exception—presented to members of the fair sex, to whom they were very attentive. Among the visitors were many ardent collectors of coins and a fair sprinkling of numismatists, who sought to add to their col-

lectors of coins and a fair sprinkling of philatelists, who sought to add to their collections. That they did not seek in vain was plainly discernible from their smile-wreathed faces. As the hour for departure drew near the same excellent arrangements for transferring the passengers from the ships to the shore were again noticeable, but notwithstanding the additional trains the accommodation was for some time utterly inadequate. The train which left Large Bay at 5.45 was crowded, while the special at about 6.30 was about on a par with the first. The third "special," however, at 7.35 was not so well filled, and the passengers who travelled by it had elbow room. At about 5 p.m. the Military Band boarded the flagship and discoursed sweetly, to the delight of the Japanese, who listened awestruck while the music was in progress.

—March Through the Streets.—

The Premier (Hon. J. G. Jenkins) stated on Saturday morning that the Japanese troops will come up from Large Bay on Tuesday, reaching Adelaide about 12 o'clock. They will form up in the quadrangle of the railway station, and march up King William street, round the Queen's Statue, and back along King William street, through Pulteney street, to the Exhibition Building, where they will be entertained at luncheon at 1 p.m. As it is understood that the fleet is leaving on Wednesday arrangements for the march through the streets had to be made for Tuesday. About 500 of the troops will be present.

—Cementing Commerce.—

The Hon. J. L. Parsons, Consul for Japan, received the following letter on Saturday:—"I am directed by the President of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce to convey through you to Admiral Kamimura and the officers of the Japanese fleet a very hearty welcome on behalf of the chamber to South Australia, and to express the hope that the visit of the fleet to this port will assist in cementing the cordial relations which they are pleased to know exist between Japan and the British Empire, and they trust that the commerce between Japan and Australia will soon assume those proportions which the enterprise of the two nations warrants.—I have the honour, &c., J. Creswell, secretary."