

leads us to believe he will prove a worthy successor to Lord Ranfurly. That he has no easy task to follow such a lead will be freely admitted on all sides; but it will be equally certain that he comes to a loyal people, who will do all in their power to render his term of office amongst them as pleasant a one as his predecessor so often and so heartily assured us his own had been.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

Still fortune favours in no ordinary degree the plucky little Japs. Events are moving rapidly now. Each month adds materially to the laurels they have won. The late engagements in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur have proved that they are as invincible on land as on sea. The bravery of the Russian troops has also been proved beyond a doubt. The desperate and stubborn way in which the rank and file have fought against repeated defeats, and with the fatal disadvantage of bad generalship, has been beyond all praise. The horrors of war have seldom been more vividly brought home to us than in this spectacle of brave men led to certain slaughter by badly conceived and executed plans of attack and defence, and a corrupt state of affairs that, we learn by the cables, enabled guns to be melted and sold, and the very Red Cross supplies stolen, and bricks and stones substituted. Brave as the Russian soldier undoubtedly is, such a succession of defeats must tell on him, and we are not surprised to hear of general demoralisation. The one slip the Japanese appear to have

made during the past month was permitting the Russian cruisers to escape from Vladivostock under cover of a thick fog. It might have been unavoidable, but one could scarcely imagine it so. The Russians took full advantage of their temporary freedom by destroying transports. It was a bold stroke on their part, a reckless dash out of the safety of the harbour at a moment when they had doubtless noticed that the enemy was keeping lax guard. There was no hope of getting safely away. The only thing to be done was to do as much damage as they possibly could in the time and slip back to cover again, and this they certainly did. But this is only an incident. With Port Arthur assailed, both by the enemies forces, and by impending famine, and with Mukden threatened, Harbin short of guns for defence, General Stakelberg's force in imminent danger of being annihilated or captured, and the Eastern fleet almost entirely wiped out, what hope can possibly be entertained by the Russians of even a moderate measure of success? When one adds to these disadvantages the internal feeling of rebellion against the tyranny prevailing in the country, the odds to be contended against are simply appalling. One cannot help coming to the conclusion that the wisest course to pursue would be to surrender and accept the best terms that could be obtained, and for the Russian soldier to postpone indefinitely his brilliant idea of "drying the Japanese on his bayonet and sending him home in a letter," as expressed in Admiral Alexeieff's Port Arthur organ, the "Novy Krai."

