Characteristics of the Marquis Ito as the Statesman Appeared to Sir Edwin Arnold --- The Man of Silk and Steel--- A Human Blend of the German Chanceller. Cavour, Pitt and Washington.

NOM T was lately permitted me

to sketch in light and re-

spectful outline his imperial majesty the Emperor of Japan as I saw him amid his troops upon the hills glad with purple and gold blossoms which fringe the southern shore of the island empire, says Sir Edwin Arnold, in the London Telegraph. Next to that august figure the personage who will necessarily rise to the mind when thinking upon that interesting country and its present profoundly important position is her great statesman, the Marquis Ito. I have ventured to call him in the title of this brief paper, the "Bismarck of Japan," but the similitude between the two characters is only partial, and hardly covers more than the single fact that history will probably speak of both as the renovators, and, in a sense, actual creators of their respective nationalities. If the German chancellorprince was of "blood and iron," his Japanese anti-type would rather be described as one of "silk and steel." Justly to make up the human blend which would best present the chief stateman of Tokio to Western imaginations one would have to add qualities taken from the subtlety of Cavour, the patriotism of William Pitt, the tenacity of George Washington, and the diplomatic resources of such keen ecclesiastical ministers as France possessed minded of each and all of the above simplicity and naturalness which every true-bred Japanese keeps for his inner and domestic life. I have seen the famous politician who stands to-day grandly as Horatius upon the bridge, with not very more than the two companions of the Roman hero to share hopes-as plain a country gentleman, as contented a rustic squire, as could be found in the shires.

which dot the Pacific coast of the southern kingdom. The native houses tion of wealth or luxury. It was only a typical rural abode, two-storied, with no large number of apartments, but some of these furnished in semi-European style, and the others frankly native, and such as any Tokio merchant or fairly prosperous seaside farmer of the Tokkaido might have tenanted. No show of state was visible, although then, too, my illustrious host was the most powerful man in Japan. The opened to us the outer shoji were

to announce his arrival in any well- who, so far as I could see, did not by ordered Japanese house, but no guards or police or waiting men. At the inner entrance was the statesman himself, wearing English garments, and holding in his hand an English book. The glory of the dwelling was its surroundings, its happy settling in the midst of the loveliness of that landscape, where the perfect hills came down to the perfect seashore, and one seemed to exist in the centre of a perfect picture. At the point where the bright sea sparkled and foamed against the embankment of the garden there stood a little inclosure shut in with split bamboos, lightly lashed to posts with grass string. In the centre of this there paced three or four grave storks, in their smooth but sombre plumage of black and white, with dark purple and bottle green reflections-birds of unre- will be well when continental statesstrained demeanor, dear to all Japanese artists and indispensable as symdiscriminate the Japanese people from bols alike to the poets, historians and fan makers of Dai Nippon. These were high favorites, although I think they would have been glad to get out along the yellow sands, where the seashells and little blue crabs lay so invitingly, or among the square patches of the rice fields, whence innumerable frogs were beginning their evening chorus. He spoke about the storks as "totems" of Japan, but I pointed away from the Tsuru to a great, glittering, long-bodied dragon fly, balancing upon the leaf of a lily, his jointed body of black and blue, big, round eyes, formidable jaws, and filmy, powerful wings. That also, was an accepted sympol of the land, the "Tombo," resembling in shape the long, winding line of the Japanese archipelago, which numbers more than 2000 islands. I remarked that it reminded me better of Japan than did the solemn storks, for I said: "After the fashion of that splendid creature, your empire has cracked the skin of 'O. Jishin,' and emerged into 'Meiji.'". To this day all Japanese speak of the great uprising which put an end to the Shogunate as the "Earthquake," while they term the new era, which has now lasted thirty-six years, as "Meiji," "Beginning of Order." Yet none but the ignorant regard Japan as commencing civilized life six and thirty years ago. She was a cultured nation at a date when Britain was barbarous, and fought the Armada of the Mongul conqueror, .Kubla Khan, victoriously

At dinner time we left talking about Fural matters, and I listened with deep

before Howard and Queen Elizabeth

saved England from the Spaniard and

the Inquisition.

this hero husband hiding for his life under the "tatami," while his enemies, searching everywhere and thirsting for his blood, dragged her by her long black hair from her cushions, and threatened to kill her also. Now she did the honors of the house, placid, demure, debonair, the kind eyes which had witnessed such deeds and days guarded by blue spectacles from the overbrilliant gold of the setting sun, while her illustrious lord, with only a gray hair or two in his black locks, went back to finish behind the near est paper screen the rules of the new parliament, or busied himself in making lists of peers, as we catalogue pictures, or books. or sacks of rice.

I saw the great marquis on the first day of the new Parliament, when, while peers and commons, with foreheads upon the floor, knelt in two hemicycles before the Mikado, he stood proud, but reverent, beside his imperial majesty, handing to him the first speech from the throne. I shall never forget the bow of acknowledgment which the Mikado vouchsafed to the two houses of his Legislature, thus simultaneously prostrate before him. How would be discharge this recognition, descendant from the sun, helr of a dynasty which has 2000 years of record? He simply dropped his chin two inches and a half, so as just to touch the broad scarlet and white ribbon which crossed his breast, and in that imperial parsimony of salutation I saw the inborn traditions of his line. I saw and heard it all like a mouse at a chink in the wainscot, for the master of ceremonies had solemnly whispered to me: "You must not be seen. You are here by chance placed above the Emperor, which would be treason. You will see everyone sits below him except Ito. You must be honorably invisible.' And so I was. That night again in in Richelleu and Mazarin. I am not Tokio I had the honor of listening to pretending that Marquis Ito unites in him upon whom so much still dehis genius and temperament all that pended, and was glad to find that belonged to those epoch makers, but his first and last thought was to renmerely that in intercourse with him a der Japan powerful enough to save student of character might be re- herself, whatever might befall. I should not, of course, dream of repeatmentioned in their turn. After that ing here any of the weighty things would remain that aspect of perfect he uttered, since they were all heard in private conversation; yet I may be allowed to mention an instance of his alert habit of mind and swiftness of action. I had spoken of a group of islacross the path of Russia almost as ands eligible to possess, and, as I had gathered, not by any means out of reach of Japan's ownership if she wanted them. Without directly replyhis uttermost dangers and innuermost ing he took a swift note in Japanese, despatched a messenger to the telephone and returned quietly to the little pipe. I saw the message afterward: He did me the honor of inviting me the sense of it was: "Send immedito pass some time with him at Oda- ately full particulars, report, of-" wara, one of those lovely hamlets Well, No Man's Land. Not long afterward I had occasion to find that he knew more about the spot in question which he occupied there had no affecta- than anybody, and the white and red flag of Japan floats over it now.

The last time I met the great marquis was in Moscow, at the coronation of the reigning czar. The first snow which follows maturity had sprinkled his temples and neck like the summer drift which lies upon the head of Fuji, but the firm face seemed more resolute than ever; the dark brows were even more sternly knit, the strong mouth had grown almost harder than before neat and demure little maids who with use of words masterly and commanding. He was not embassador for "nesans," such as would be waiting Japan at that time, but only, if I rightto take a visitor's foot coverings and ly remember, a representative minister, any means waste his time city of the green and golden domes. It appeared to me that I was viewing history through an inverted telescope, seeing him and Count Lobanoff standing together, far off, in the miniature of events, but coming, and certain to come into the large foreground.

> The Russian statesman, who has not survived to carry out the anti-British plans he cherished, was tall, spare and punctilious; Marquis Ito is of average Japanese stature, which is lower than that of the West; and you could read difference of race in the Muscovite countenance, where the Slav blood mingled with the Teutonic, and that other countenance, which only the irnorant called Mongolian, and foolishly confuse with the yellow peoples. It men learn that a score of natural facts the Chinese and the Tartars. There is more of Malay blood, there is even more of Kanaka and of Polynesian blood in that fearless, self-reliant visage of the lamous marquis than of Gengis or Kubla Khan. At the last good-by he paid me a compliment far beyond any merit of mine, and no doubt inspired only by his conviction that I was a grateful well-wisher to Japan and to her sovereign and people. 'What is your last word of counsel?" he laughingly remarked. "Excellency," I answered, "it is this: Be strong! the future will have no pity except for the strong." The glitter of his eyes as he made response dwells in my recollection, as if I had seen a samural of the old days touch the bandle of his sword, there was in it so plain and resolute an answer! But I fervently hope that it will be by the path of peace that Japan is to accomplish the splendid mission confided to her by history and her national qualities.

This World of Ours. When a Chinaman wants to have a tooth drawn, says the Lahore (India) Tribune, he feels no nervous spprehension of pain, for the excellent reason that he knows his dentist will not inflict any. The latter simply rubs a secret powder over the tooth. After about five minutes the patient sneezes and the tooth falls out. Many attempts by Europeans have been made to get some of this mysterious powder, but no one has yet succeeded.

## Picturesque Lanterns.

The noted Japanese gardens, famous interest to what fell from the lips of for their beauty, owe much of their him who, among the foremost, had charm to the quaint lauterns which built so strong and well upon the are used in great profusion. The best oundations which the "Earthquake" of their garden lanterns are made of ad flercely laid. Everybody knows bronze after quaint native designs. about the early years of Ito's ventur. Some of them are richly carved and us life; how he foresaw the mighty are of great intrinsic value. Many of rutere and prepared himself for it, these lanterns are of great antiquity. tudying the West down to its deepest and the best examples are seen at Nikprinciples, working his way to Europe kho, famous for its exquisite bronzes.



That the first quarter of the twentieth century will be a great era of road building in this country now seems probable. All persons who have given serious thought to the question are agreed on the following propositions: That road building in the United States has been greatly neglected; that we are far behind other civilised nations in this respect; that the general improvement of the highways throughout the country would do more to promote the welfare and happiness

of the people than any other work which could be undertaken, and that the present is an auspicious time for inaugurating a national good roads campaign.

The last of these propositions is in some respects the most important because on it rests the hope that something is actually going to be done. The last quarter of the nineteenth century was the great era of railroad building, but that has now passed into history. Of course, we are still building railroads, and will continue to build them for ages, but never again on the enormous scale of the past thirty years. The necessity and the opportunity no longer exist. The energy, the enthusiasm, and the capital heretofore directed to the building of railroads is now seeking other channels, one of which is the building of improved highways.

Another reason for believing that the time is ripe for a great popular uprising for good roads arises from the extension of the rural free mail delivery. This is rightly looked upon as one of the most beneficent developments of modern civilization. In fact, the people have scarcely begun to realize the extent of its benefits.

Proper Construction of Roads. Broken stone roads may be conveniently divided into two classes-macadam and telford. The principal difference between these two constructions is as to the propriety or necessity of a paved foundation beneath the coating of broken stone. Macadam denied the advantage of this, while Telford supported and ; racticed it This point will not be argued here, but it is suggested that good judgment should be used in the selection of one or the other of these systems. The macadam system is the best under some conditions, while the telford is more advantageous under others. The latter system seems to have the advantage in swampy, wet places, or where the soil is in strata varying in hardness, or where the foundation is lia ble to get soft in spots. Under most other circumstances experienced road builders prefer the macadam construc-

The earth foundation for either sys tem is identical. It should have the same slopes from centre to sides as the finished road, with sufficient shouldering to hold the stone in place at the

The Ways and Means.

Thoughtful, progressive people are earnestly discussing the ways and means by which the highways of the country may be improved. The great appears to be that, under existing laws is possible. Everything depends or local effort and local initiative. What is needed is National legislation which will stimulate action in all sections and co-ordinate local effort. At pres ent those who have given the matter most thought are in favor of a Nationa' aid law similar to the State aid laws now in force in several States. Just what will be the solution of the prob lem cannot now be foreseen, but this much appears certain that the era of ing, and something of importance is a few minor injuries.-London Pall going to be done in the immediate fu | Mall Gazette.

The Weakest Link.

As a chain is no stronger than its weakest link, just so the greatest load which can be hauled over a road is the load which can be hauled up the steepest hill on that road. The cost of haulage is, therefore, necessarily increased in proportion to the grade, at it costs one and one-half times at much to haul over a road having a five per cent. grade, and three times as much over one having a ten per cent. grade as on a level road. As a perfectly level road can seldom be had, it is well to know the steepest allowable grade. If the hill be one of great length, it is best to have the lowes. part steepest, upon which the horse is capable of exerting his full strength and to make the slope more gentle toward the summit to correspond with the continually decreasing strength of the fatigued animal.

Grades.

Good roads should wind around hills instead of running over them; and ip many cases this would not increase their length, as it is no further around some hills than over them. Moreover as a general rule, the horizontal length of a road may be advantageously in creased, to avoid an ascent, by at least twenty times the perpendicular height thus saved; for instance, to escape a hill 100 feet high it would be better for the road to make such a circuit as would increase its length 2000 feet The reasons for this are manifold, the principal one being that a horse car pull only four-fifths as much on a grade of two feet in 100, and gradually less as the grade increases until with a grade of ten feet in 100 he can draw but one-fourth as much as he can on a level road.

Tobacco Ash. It has been calculated that 8000 tons of tobacco ash is annually wasted in England. It would make an invaluable fertilizer for poor soil, considering that seventy-five per cent. consists of ealcium and potassium salts, and fifteen per cent. of magnesium and sodium

-phosphoric acid.

SHRUBS ABOUT THE HOUSE. Simple Ways For Beautifying the

How wenderfully a few shrubs and rince will transform the appearance of in old schoolhouse yard has been many imes made clear to readers of The Companion. An expert of the Agricultural Department has recently been making an investigation of what may be done in simple ways for beautifying home grounds, whether they include only the back yard of the city resisence or embrace the spreading acres of the old farm.

Trees and shrubbery, the Government expert suggests, should hide unsightly buildings w'thout interrupting the line of vision where the outlook is pleasing. Their use as screens and windbreaks may be combined with pleasing effects.

Walks should generally be straight. Any ornamentation that sends the traveler a longer way round defeats one of its own objects.

Greensward is everywhere an element of beauty as a common background for almost everything that grows. The perfect lawn is a possession hardly less rare than beautiful paintings; it usually represents a triamph over difficulties in addition to giving restfulness and delight.

Shrubs ought to be grouped so that those of upright habit and robust growth will occupy the rear, and form a general background for all the lowergrowing sorts. The eye may thus be carried from the turf to the highest foliage without resting on bare stalks anywhere. In this nature herself is one of the safest guides; her companionships usually include plants which love the light and those which can bear the shade, growing side by side. The hand of the gardener should always be concealed.

Evergreens seem to many people sombre. Nevertheless, in the winter of Northern latitudes they offer a striking contrast of the living with the dead.

They are also useful as a means of emphasizing slight elevations. The value of vines in decorative planting is well understood.

Such ornamentation of the home grounds costs something in time, money and effort. But the effect on a cozy place of enlisting a little of nature's aid can never be measured in dollars. There is a restfuiness in the beauty of the plant life to those who enjoy its atmosphere, and that doubtless adds to the vigor with which they can take up duty's rounds .- Vonth's Companion.

Disastrous Alpine Year. The deathroll in the Alps is increasing this year with terrible rapidity, and promises to exceed that of any other year of which reliable records have been kept. There have been already this year no fewer than 160 deaths, either from avalanches or climbing accidents, in the Swiss and French Alps. Among the most recent victims is M. Dubois, who, in making an ascent of great difficulty and danger without a guide, accompanied only by a friend, slipped and fell, and succumbed to shocking injuries before he could be carried down to the hospital. Mr. Rooke's death at Zermatt appears also to have been due to an attempted ascent of a difficult passage without a guide. At Saentis a German musical director fell and was instantly killed a few days ago on the Bodmer Alps. Two soldiers belonging to an Alpine regiment were swept away and killed a week ago near Epierre: the accident on the Dolderhorn, due like so many est obstacle to progress along this line others to the absence of a guide, redate for governor of Michigan, is of sulted in the death of one of the three | English birth. He was about three climbers and such injuries to another that he will probably never be able to walk again; another guideless ascent on the Wetterhorn ended in the fall and instant death of one of a party of Swiss tourists; while on Mont Pilatus an Englishman, exploring in thin summer shoes, slipped and fell, landing almost unhurt on the very brink of a 200-foot sheer drop. Miss Nicholas, a Scottish lady, a few days ago fell into a deep crevasse on the Mer de Glace at Chamonix, though her fall was forroad building on a large scale is dawn tunately arrested, and she escaped with

> A Brief Interruption. Looking every inch the eminent jurist, Judge Clay N. Merriton, of Alabama, was at Seelbach's Hotel last night surcharged with a fund of clever anecdotes concerning himself. Judge Merriton was asked by a reporter how he had acquired the facility with which he turned from one case to another. In explanation be stated that he had learned this from what he saw at a baptism of colored people

> when a boy. "The weather was very cold," said Judge Merriton, "so that to immerse the candidates they were obliged to cut away the ice. It happened that when one of the female converts was dipped back into the water the cold made her squirm about, and in a moment she had slipped from the preacher's hands and was down the stream under the

"The preacher, however, was not disconcerted. Looking up with perfect calmness at the crowd on the bank, he said: 'Brethren, this sister bath departed-hand me down another."-Louisville Herald.

A Hard Luck Story. The prize hard luck story is told by the Beloit (Kan.) Gazette about R. D. Dukes, a farmer. Within a short space of time a lot of things happened to him. He lost his crops, cholera killed most of his hogs, a shed fell and killed his two cows, his wife was thrown from a buggy and hurt so badly that she went on crutches for months, and she was just beginning to walk again when she was burned to death by an exploding lamp; Mr. Dukes also was seriously burned in the fire; then he injured his knee and had to go on crutches; then he was badly burned again in a prairie fire; a few weeks later his mother died, and recently his house burned up with all its contents.

Germans in Samos. The German occupation of Samoa does not appear to be a success. The landed proprietors, unable to make money out of their estates, are emigrating to America, and the heavy freight rates and import duties are a serious matter to the smaller business

people.

WROTE HIS TITLE CLEAR

Sumorous Indian Tells Good Story on His Superior. Gen. Pratt has quite a fund of interesting experiences from his twentyave years' service as Superintendent of the Carlisle Indian school.

One of the earlier students was Sam Six Killer, who took up the printer's art at the school and became not only quite proficient, but a universal faworite in the office and school because of his ready wit. One time it became necessary for the Superintendent, then Capt. Pratt, to discipline Sam for some prank, and he was taken out of the office for several days. When he entered the office on his return to duty Sam received quite an ovation from his brother typos, and

"Fellows, come here. I want to tell you a dream I had last night." When all the boys had gathered around, Sam said:

"I dreamed last night that the world had come to an end and everybody ran out of their houses and was looking up. I asked what for, and they said the names of all who were to be saved would be found written in the sky. So I looked and looked every place, but could not find 'Sam Six Killer' anywhere; but there was 'R. H. Pratt' written clear across the sky in the Captain's own handwrit-

North Carolina Teacher's Big Pupil. Mr. M. B. Forbes of Camden coun ty, who is attending the summer ichool, boasts of teaching the most ponderous pupil this country has ever produced.

His name is Lewis Lewark, son of John Lewark, a fisherman on Albemarle Sound. He is 21 years old and weighs 710 pounds. When he went to school to Mr. Forbes he weighed over 500 pounds and his mother told Mr. Forbes that Lewis weighed 150 pounds before he was weaned. He exhibits himself sometimes, going to Virginia Beach, Norfolk and other nearby places. He will not venture far from home—is afraid of an accident or that he will get sick. He sleeps on an iron bedstead and has a chair especially constructed for his use. He spends his time with his father on the beach. -Chapel Hill News.

World Statistics.

At a rough calculation the population of the world is more than one tillion souls. These speak some 3,064 languages, and are worshipers of more than 1,100 religions. The average length of life is 33 1-3 years. Onefourth of mankind die before the seventh and one-half before the seventeenth year. Only one-sixth live beyoud the age of sixty. Thirty-three million die annually, 91,000 daily, 3,730 every hour, sixty every minute. While one-fourth are capable of bearing erms, only one in a thousand is naturally inclined to the profession.

Necessary.

The other Sunday two boys were industriously digging in a vacant lot. when a man who was passing stopped to give them a lecture.

"Don't you know that it is a sin to dig on Sunday, except it be a case of necessity?" asked the good man. "Yes, sir," timidly replied one of the boys.

"Then why don't you stop it?" "'Cause this is a case of necessity," replied the little philosopher. "A feller can't fish without bait."

F. M. Warner of English Birth. Like Mayor Weaver of Phialdelphia Fred M. Warner, Republican candimonths old when his parents moved from Nottingham to this country.

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distance nor ride in an easy buggy. I do not

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berman, of Dep-

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not walk any

believe I could J. B. CORTON. have raised ten pounds of weight from the ground, the pain was so severe. This was my condition when I began using Doan's Kidney Pills. They quickly relieved me. and now I am never troubled as I was My back is strong and I can walk or ride a long distance and feel just as strong as I did twenty-five years ago. think so much of Doan's Kidney Pills that I have given a supply of the remedy to some of my neighbors, and they have also found good results. If you can sift anything from this rambling note that will be of any service to you, or to any one suffering from kiducy trouble you are liberty to do so." A TRIAL FREE-Address Foster

Why Children Like Fairy Tales. Probably the chief reason why children are so fond of fairy tales is because of the seeming reality such stories have for them. The enchanted palaces, the wonderful transformations, the mysterious people and animals that talk, is for the imaginative child much nearer the real than it is to the fantastic. Of course he admires heroism, and in these tales such heroic deeds can be done, and to him they do not appear as strange as we may think they do. In fact, the fanciful child takes the same interest in the fairy tale that the adult does in the book of fiction, where improbable but perhaps not impossible things happen.

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Baby Rhino Pet. The wife of the governor of North

Borneo has a pet which few women will envy her. The governor's house is near a jungle, and from it strayed a baby rhinoceros. Captured as a curiosity he at once became tame and refused to return to his native wilds He consumes sixteen quarts of milk a day and on this diet thrives and grows fat. He might be mistaken for a horn in the middle of his face. He is devoted to his mistress and follows her about like a dog.

Deaf Mute's Advantage

At a social gathering, some time ago, a number of deaf mutes were present. Refreshments were served during the evening, and in handing a small glass of wine to one of the guests a deaf mute gentleman happened to spill a few drops on his wife's skirt. The wife is also a deaf mute, and it was evident that she took the mishap in a rather irritable way. She wrinkled up her forehead and at once made a series of remarkably swift movements with her nimble fingers. The husband, looking exceedingly apologetic, made a few motions in return.

One of the guests, who had noticed this little by-play, slyly slipped out a bit of paper, and penciling something on it handed it to a friend.

This is what the letter read: "No matter how badly afflicted,

woman can still scold." The friend scribbled this in return: "Yes; but in the present case the husband is luckier than the average. He doesn't have to look."

Knew How It Was Himself. They had just been married, and were on their way to Niagara Falls to spend the honeymoon. The bride was indifferent as to who saw her with her head resting on his shoulder. The bridegroom was also perfectly satisfied openly to squeeze her hand or encircle her waist when the inclination seized him. A little old man sat in front of them, and he looked around and smiled at the hap py couple so often that the young husband finally said:

'We've only just been married, sir." "So I thought," chuckled the old

"And we can't help being a little spcony, you know." "No: of course not."

"It probably all seems very silly to an old fellow like you, though?" "Does it? does it?" chuckled the old man. "Well, I can tell you it does not. then. I've been there three times already, and now I'm on my way West to get No. 4. Follow me up and you'll get a few pointers."

Didn't Know It Was Sunday. A man came into the village of Rumford Falls, Me., one Sunday efter noon recently with his farm wagon and some stuff for sale. When it was suggested to him that such a performance was a trifle strange for such a day, candidly remarked: "Well, for goodness sake, I didn't know it was Sunday. We are all of us liable to make mistakes sometimes."

Pempelian Sign.

One of the oddest mosales of the world is that unearthed at Ponpeil which announced the abode of a fero clous Roman dog. The sign is the exact equivalent of our modern "beware of the dog" advice. The old Romans, in order to make their meaning clear, so that he who ran might ead, carefully wrought the image of the dog.

FIT's permanently cured. No fitsorne; yous-ness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great KerveRestorer, \$2trial bottle and treatise free Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa. Cavalry of the west coast of Madagas ar ride oxen.

Piso's Cure cannot be too highly spoken of as a cough cure.-J. W. O'BRIEN, 522 Third Avenue, N., Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 6, 1999. Cossacks are said to eat candles for ra-

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