The Death of a Poet

THE recent tragic death of Mr. Tsumo Hsu, as a result of an accident when the plane that carried him as the only passenger from Nanking to Peiping collided with a mountain peak near Tsismn, cannot be sufficiently deplored. Like Adonais, Mr. Hsu died in his prime, for he had just reached his thirty-sixth birthday this year. (Lord Byron, if we remembered correctly, was also thirty-six when he died). A most brilliant poet of his generation, he will always be remembered by his “A Night in Florence,” “Poems of Tsumo” and his last poetic collection “Tiger, Tiger,” so entitled because it contains his translation of Blake’s famous lines. Besides these works of poetry, he has also left behind him two volume of essays, and, in collaboration with his wife, a play; not to mention his translations of Voltaire’s “Candide,” Katherine Mansfield’s “Garden Party,” etc., etc. His friends will long cherish the memory of him as a most charming personality, for in him “breathed an animation, a fire, an enthusiasm, a vivid and preternatural intelligence” that were truly Shellyesque. In fact, his life is as full of “Sturm und Drang” as that of the English poet, and if somebody would only take the pains to write his biography, it would indeed be a document of immense human interest and value. It would be more than a life of a man, it would be a history of an epoch in Chinese literature of the recent past.

Scheming France

WE publish elsewhere in this issue an article by O. D. Rasmussen on “Manchurian Crisis Part of French Plot.” According to this author, the Manchurian crisis is only a preliminary step “in a plot involving seven nations in a gigantic war,” and France is the motivating force behind it all. The alleged plot, we are told, was known to the White Russian emigres in Paris, and it was due to their “bragging” that the news leaked out. While of course, we have no means to confirm the existence of such a plan, yet the recent events have made us believe that France must have something in her sleeves. Thus according to The China Press, a news dispatch from Canton dated December 12 states that the French military are at present very active along the Kwangsi-Annam border, indicating thus that France is now about to be ready to follow in the footsteps of the Japanese militarists in order to satisfy her imperialistic ambitions. If the news is true, then we have indeed reasons for alarm. France as a nations has become more and more militaristic since the conclusion of the Versailles Peace Treaty. Her chauvinistic politicians have been seriously contemplating the plan of creating a hegemony in Europe under the leadership of France. In carrying out such a plot, she naturally looks upon Soviet Russia as her strongest potential enemy, hence her desire to win over Japan, knowing very well that Russia is Japan's