

fanaticism, according to the way it affects us, is exceedingly strong. In the south of China the people grow rich through trade or service with foreign devils and they have learned the tolerance which commerce always brings. In the north bigotry has freer sway. In view of this a prominent American in Peking said last winter that "anything might happen in China and it might come at any time." The time seems to be now.

More potent toward immediate has been the invasion of railway and mining engineers, who wander about the country, often reckless of native customs or prejudices, asking nobody's leave and heeding nobody's objections. The Chinese do not want railroads. Still less will they consent to have them run through their grandfathers' graves, and almost every foot of land is somebody's graveyard. They do not like mines, least of all those conducted by foreign devils in sacred hills, and they are incensed when samples of ore are knocked off from their tombs or their temples. Everywhere are found agents of syndicates eager to secure concessions, often doing nothing with them save to hold them for future speculation. This view of the matter may be an unjust one, and many of these men I know to be doing honest work in the interests of the Chinese people. Still public opinion awards them a large share in the disturbance of Chinese good feeling. It is, of course, only through mines and railroads that the foreign element can make money out of China, and these represent the sole returns which any sort of European jurisdiction could give. Father Pius Trovarelli, a very intelligent Italian missionary, says:

"There will be no partition of China except as regards the coast ports. No foreign nation could afford to conquer or to administer any Chinese province. There would be great loss and no possible profit. All the land above ground belongs to the Chinese and they cannot be ignored or displaced."

In other words, all that Europe can ever get in China is mines and roads. In general, railways or other enterprises on a large scale cannot be made to pay in China. The nature of the people is such that things have to move slowly. A little at a time China demands progress, but not at any breakneck pace, and not all the Occident can force her to quicken her steps. The movement in the Orient must come from within. Even in progressive Japan, European influence counts for little; European pressure for next to nothing. The Japanese see something they want—a bicycle, a lamp, a brand of cigarettes or a social custom—and forthwith they take it. Nobody can force it on them.

The European nations forget sometimes that jurisdiction and ownership are two different things. Jurisdiction is costly and unless it is in full accord

with the will and the customs of the people over whom it is exercised it is ineffective and unprofitable.

This touches the third and most direct cause of the present outbreak. The "breaking up" of China, its partition among European nations, has been freely discussed throughout the civilized world, not to the pleasure or the edification of the Chinese. "Spheres of influence" have been freely laid out on paper by men who do not know that the true meaning of "sphere of influence" is simply "center of trouble." In commerce and manufacture the Chinese will hold their own in any competition. They learn to make what they want. They bring in skilled workmen from the rest of the world as teachers. They are apt pupils and soon learn to avoid the outside shipment of raw material. Even in British Hongkong, as well as in Singapore and Manila, it is said that all trade is falling into the hands of Chinese merchants, who displace the foreigners by greater attention to business. Chinese workmen supply most Chinese demands more cheaply than any one else can do it. China is weak, but Chinamen are strong, and the future of the tropical Orient lies in their hands. Even in Siberia the Chinese gain foothold faster than Russian influence spreads in China. China cannot be conquered nor divided nor retained by outside powers if it is once awakened and united. Some men foresee the formation of two strong nations—Manchuria and China—instead of the one now as a nation headless and irresponsible. Some concede Tartar Manchuria to Russia, in which case Japan will take Korea, which she does not want save as part of the strategy of nations. This Japanese gentlemen freely concede, but it is felt Japan will have to do it, as they have already taken the fractious and unprofitable island of Formosa. The Japan Mail thus sums up in striking fashion the political grievances of China:

"China has been undergoing a process of vivisection. Her territories have been seized on ridiculously flimsy pretexts; her ports have been rented—virtually by force; concessions for building railways and working mines have been wrested from her whether she would or not. She has been divided up into spheres of influence by western states as though she were jelly or a cheese. She has been compelled to open her doors wide to foreigners of all complexions, while foreign nations on their side close their own in the face of her people for reasons as insulting as the fact is irksome. We have watched her suffering all this tamely and timidly and we have flaunted her for cowardice and ridiculed her for helplessness."

I may sum up public opinion as it reaches me in these propositions:

First—The foreign powers must protect their own legations and citizens against official weakness and local

fanaticism. This they are doing shoulder to shoulder—a fact of which the people of Japan seem very proud.

Second—The foreign powers must not make this an excuse for the partition of China. This is a thing impossible, and China once roused not all Europe could furnish the men to conquer the country or to hold it in check. No foreign power can maintain an army in the interior of North China through a Chinese winter. If China falls apart it will be through the diverging interests of north and south. This is not likely to happen. Sooner or later, it is believed, the moderate leaders of the north will come to terms with the viceroys of the south.

Third—The European powers, as Lord Salisbury has distinctly pointed out, cannot guarantee the interests of syndicates doing business under Chinese jurisdiction. They can protect their citizens under ordinary conditions, but they cannot foster foreign enterprises by a show of force.

Fourth—It is for the general interest of the world to hold China together to strengthen her government so that it can maintain order at home and dignity abroad, and to treat Chinese people wherever they go just as similar people of other nations should be treated. It does not, for example, help our own trade or relations with China to subject her people to statutes which apply to immigrants or travelers from no other nation. To apply similar statutes to people of Japan would be regarded as a national insult, not to be forgiven or forgotten, as it would be if France or Germany or Italy were expressly singled out by name. The anti-Japanese agitation in San Francisco is regarded with great surprise and greater favor in Japan.

There is no desire in Japan for war with Russia or any other nation. There is a feeling that Japan will not again be made a catspaw for any European combination. If Russia seizes Manchuria Japan will feel it her duty to take Korea, a weak, irresponsible and badly governed neighbor. Every one hopes that the flames of war will be confined to the region where they have been kindled. The powers cannot be too quick to act in defense of their official representatives. They cannot be too careful as to giving fresh cause for fanatical outbreaks. It is well that the United States should take an active part in the defense of her unoffending citizens attacked by an uncontrolled mob. It is also well to hold aloof from any European concert looking toward political action. For our notions of treating nations and people differ somewhat from those current in Europe.—San Francisco Call.

Admiral Remey refuses to allow Hobson to go to China; perhaps he feels that the empress dowager is entitled to protection even after all she has done.—Chicago Record.