

macy. Russia has, by this time, occupied all Manchuria, whether her purpose be the military one of armed conquest, or the more peaceful object of developing a world commerce on the Pacific after the completion of the Trans-Siberian railway. This great railway, which will enormously strengthen Russia's position in the far East, is soon to be finished, and its extension through Manchuria appears to be a work of the near future.

If the present movement continues, the lower part of Manchuria will soon go the way of the northern provinces, until the whole serves as a naval and military base for the Russian power in Asia. It is not necessary for the continuation of this process that China enter into direct conflict with her grasping neighbor. It is much more likely that Russia will devour Manchuria bit by bit while the authorities at Peking are in difficulty elsewhere. This has been the policy of the Czar's ministers in the past, and they are not likely to adopt any new methods in the immediate future. In any case the ultimate result will be the same; without foreign aid China will be unable to arrest that advance of Russia which is now tending toward the complete annexation of Manchuria.

Bearing in mind these phases of international politics as exhibited by some of the European powers, it is easy to understand why a majority of the Chinese generally feel that foreigners of every nation are objectionable. When they see foreign governments, having gratuitously obtained valuable leases and concessions, preparing to gridiron their country with railways, they fear these innovations will hasten the extinction of ancient and sacred customs, and that the foreigners will eventually rule the empire. So the Boxers suddenly sprang out, as a thunder-stroke, from the northern provinces with their ominous war-cry of "Sweep out the foreign devils! China for the Chinese!"

Since the arising of this unlawful disturbance all the foreign powers have been busied saving the lives of their representatives and subjects or citizens at Peking, and preventing the attacks of the natives in other cities where their people dwell. But when this work is accomplished, and its end is likely to be at hand, their mutual jealousies, which so far have served to keep China entire, will soon revive. The struggle between their respective schemes and interests that has been going on now for many years past, may come to a more acute stage. The foreign powers will probably be obliged to choose some one to occupy the throne, and the candidate favored by any one of them may well be suspected by the others. There is nothing in politics and diplomacy so fertile of misunderstandings and suspicions ultimately leading, perhaps, to armed conflict as the attempt of several mutually jealous powers to exert joint control over some other government or territory. It is chiefly for this reason that those