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"THE YELLOW PERIL."

Russia and other European powers that sympathize with it in its present contest with Japan are doing what they can to alarm the rest of the world with the idea that "a yellow peril" will threaten it in case Japan triumphs. A warning is sent out from St. Petersburg that Japan and China united would possibly overrun the earth, as the Asiatics did in the time of Attila or Zengis Kahn, and that Russia is the sole wall of defense against such a grave affliction.

M. Kurino, late Japanese minister at Berlin, has taken pains to assure the world that there is no possibility of danger from this source. "We pledge ourselves," he says, "to the maintenance of the open door, whenever the fortunes of war clothes us with ascendancy in the far east. I find commercial Germany exploiting the bugbear that if we humble Russia we shall proceed to slam the door in the face of Europe and America, and hoist the banner of Asia for the Asiatics. Japan has no such intention. The idea that Japan plans the organization of the yellow race for the purpose of crushing white power in Asia is a ridiculous fantasy."

There was scarcely need for a denial of this report from any representative, either of Japan or China, says the Ledger. The existing facts in regard to the characteristics of the people, and the relations now existing between them, are a stronger guarantee that they can not be united for any purpose of aggression against the rest of the world than any statement from whatever source, no matter how authoritative, possibly can be. The two peoples have nothing in common. The Japanese are fond of war, and regard the profession of the soldier as more honorable than any other. The Chinese are not good soldiers, but are good merchants. They prefer a condition of peace and they hate a condition of war. They prefer relations with other people to relations with Japan. They submit to Japanese domination, but Japanese influence can never raise them to any aggressive policy against the rest of mankind.

So far as Japanese control in China might affect the rest of the world, there is no occasion for us to fear. We know how to defend ourselves against an invasion of labor from that quarter, and we shall know how to make defense against any other form of peril that may threaten us. No peril of any sort is visible at the present time, nor is there any prospect of any. On the contrary, we have reason to hope for an increase in trade, both in China and Japan, under Japanese rather than Russian domination. Russia has not yet begun to be a commercial power. Her people are not familiar with any of the more profitable modern arts. Her policy has never encouraged commercial activity, nor can it do so while it remains what it is now, and there are no indications that it is likely to greatly change its character in the near future.

THE MATTER OF FRIENDSHIP.

The Oregonian replies interestingly to the pro-Russian element in the United States which is out with its reprimands because of the decidedly friendly spirit manifested by our government for the Japanese in their far eastern trouble. The Oregonian goes into the history involved in the sentimental discussion now being waged, and concludes that America is under no particular obligation to Russia for anything she has ever done for us. That Russia once saw fit to assume rather a friendly attitude towards our country can be regarded as no particular manifestation of love for us; the circumstance is attributed to Russia's hatred for England, against which country America was then waging a revolution.

What Russia has or has not done for us in the past is not a present-day consideration. International friendships are merely temporary. Twice in the history of the American republic England tried to wipe her citizens off the face of the earth. During the revolutionary war and during the war of 1812-14 the people of the United States hated England with all the bitterness capable of emanating from a liberty-loving people whose enemy sought to destroy them. Today England is our best friend. We entertain a natural feeling of friendship for France,

because that country is the only republic among the old world powers. Were France to identify herself with interests hostile to ours, however, the friendly feeling would at once disappear.

National friendship depends entirely upon the attitude of the powers concerned. Russia is now fighting for monopoly of far eastern trade. She is seeking to shut us off from our share of oriental commerce. Japan, on the other hand, is waging a war for commercial liberty. Her interests are identical with those of the United States and England. No matter what has transpired in the past, our plain duty today is to lend encouragement to our present-day friends. Traditional sentiment has its proper place in history, but commercial security absolutely replaces it in practice. We are not manifesting any particular friendship for the Japanese in the present struggle, but we can not but admire their wonderfully progressive spirit, which almost equals that of our own people, and actually surpasses that of any other nation; but we are friendly to the cause which she has espoused. Japan, Great Britain and the United States have mutual interests at stake in the far east, and those interests demand our earnest attention, no matter how friendly the present opposing interests may have been in the past. It's not a matter of sentiment, but of interest.

ART, LABOR AND BUSINESS.

The union and non-union house painters of Minneapolis have found a common standing ground, says the Saturday Evening Post. It appears that a certain person who mixes paint on a palette instead of in buckets has obtained the contract to decorate the new state capitol. He calls himself a "mural painter," and, as if that were not enough, he comes from New York. To check this invasion of non-resident labor, four Minneapolis house painters have applied for an injunction to stop the execution of the contract. They hold that the agreement is not legal because bids were not advertised for, no bond was taken, and no preference was shown for Minnesota bidders, as required by law.

At first sight this position seems to be impregnable; but, perhaps, after all, it may be necessary to find a *modus vivendi* between art on one side and labor and business on the other. If the contract for decorating the Sistine chapel had been advertised no doubt some competent house painter would have under bidden Michael Angelo. Yet it might not have been best to accept the lowest bid. The walls of the Boston public library could have been covered with colors, well laid on, by members in good standing of the Decorators and Plasterers' Union, at a lower rate per square yard than was paid for the work of Abbey, Sargent and Puvis de Chavannes. It might even happen sometimes that it would be better for Oskosh to let a New York artist decorate its public buildings than to depend entirely upon Oskosh.

But the exact place of art in the commercial and labor world really ought to be settled. Uncertainty is bad for business. How are sculptors, who work in clay, stone and bronze, to know whether they are under the jurisdiction of the Dirt Diggers' Union or the Brotherhood of Stonecutters, or the Amalgamated Association of Metal Workers? And is a mural painter properly subject to the regulations of the United House Painters or of the International Order of Plasterers and Decorators?

Henry Clews' letter says of the effect of the war on stocks: "The stock market acts as if confused by the multiplicity of influences. Chief of these, of course, is the war and its potentialities. If the struggle is confined to Japan and Russia, as it probably will be, its effects upon the world's financial markets will not be serious. But those who control the purse strings in Europe are more sensitive about the effects of the war than financial leaders in the United States. While Japanese success appears to be regarded with satisfaction throughout the civilized world, there are those who are apprehensive of the effect of defeat upon the Russian empire, which is weak financially, industriously and politically. Russia is ruled by a czar of highly humane purposes, but, unfortunately, it is only too evident that he is surrounded by a bureaucracy which is entirely at variance with his ideas and beyond his control. Further, Russia is seething with discontent, arising from misgovernment and the corruption which prevails among the official classes. It is not easy, therefore, to calculate the effect of a military and naval reverses upon the Russian government, especially should they mean, as now appears probable, the driving back of Russia to the Amur river. Important developments in Russian affairs of a more or less revolutionary character are therefore quite within the range of possibilities, should Japan continue on her victorious course. Added to this uncertainty there is fear of an uprising this spring in the Balkans, the outcome of which is entirely beyond calculation; so that the foreign situation is far from being assuring."

The Washington Post refers to the editor of the Oregonian as "Colonel" Harvey Scott. It is to be presumed that Mr. Scott acquired the title at the time he commanded Senator Brownell, of Clackamas county, to accept an opportunity which the editor deemed favorable to an ambition he once cherished.

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11:35 a m	ton, Flavel, Fort	4:00 p m
5:50 p m	Stevens, Hammond,	10:45 a m
	and Seaside	

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