

FIGARO., October 29th, 1906.

RED BLACK AND YELLOW.

* Do the North Americans want to suppress the rainbow?— The Red Indians, the negroes and the yellow races of Asia: every colors are proscribed on American soil. Let us leave aside for to-day the Red and the Black; here we have the Japanese who protest against the somewhat rough customs and the exclusive methods of the Americans. Before them the Chinese also complained. Chinese students, merchants, tourists and even an employé of the Celestial Embassy were kept in custody at the American Custom house like simple coolies, —I mean as even coolies ought not to be.. To these proceedings the peaceful and trading Chinese replied by boycotting American goods.

And now it is the turn of the Japanese. During last summer, some Japanese fishermen were seeking their livelihood in the American waters of Alaska: some gun shot taught them the way of retreat (Shooting repressing Fishing) What a subject for a picture in the style of Remorse pursuing Crime. Following up this incident, the Washington Government demanded of the Tokyo Government the punishment of those audacious poachers whom had dared poach and had displayed more impudence still in running away with their nets.

After all it was but a matter of poaching or of a quarrel of fisherfolk. but the new incident is rather more serious. The Californian authorities have forbidden Japanese children to frequent the same schools as the whites. This is a humiliating measure. Besides, it violates the Treaty of 1840 between the United States and Japan,

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treaty which granted to the citizens of the two countries a treatment of reciprocity. The Japanese Ambassador at Washington did not forget to recall the text of the 1849 treaty in the proper quarters.

President Roosevelt and Mr. Root are well acquainted with the liberal clauses of that accord, but the difficulty lies in imposing its respect to the Californian authorities, thus throwing out a lurid light on the drawbacks of federalism. And the little Japanese of San Francisco obtain a lesson in constitutional law which was not in their programme.

In view of these particular circumstances, the Tokyo government presents its reclamations with much sang froid. The point in litigation does not warrant a grave conflict, and everything will be arranged, this time, with a little patience coupled with good will. Undoubtedly the United States and Japan will have accounts to settle, sooner or later, in the Pacific. But the settlement can be made à l'amiable. At any rate tis not yet the moment.....