

TOKYO, FRIDAY, OCT. 26, 1906.

NO OCCASION FOR
SENSATIONALISM.

IN the latest despatches from the West relating to what is taking place at San Francisco, occur expressions to which all intelligent Japanese would unhesitatingly take exception. We refer to such words and phrases of broad signification as "indignation," "anti-American feeling" and so on, the use of which is not at all warranted by fact. Their employment would imply that a feeling is developing in this country against the Americans as a people, but that nothing is further from truth will have been observed by all those Americans who are in touch with the actual state of things in this country. We ourselves had occasion to comment briefly on the situation at San Francisco and we believe we then voiced the sentiment of our general public, in saying that the anti-Japanese movement is local in its origin and nature, and that though regrettable the phenomenon should be faced in a spirit of moderation and friendly adjustment. And it will have been seen that this belief is borne out by the utterances of our principal metropolitan contemporaries, which have already been summarised in our columns, and in which all rest assured of the friendliness of the generality of the American people and counsel an unbiassed view of the situation. There is therefore no occasion for such expressions as we have quoted above.

A notorious exception to the last remark is indeed an article which the *Tokyo Mainichi* admitted into its leading column a few days ago and which we epitomised in our last issue. The language used is intemperate in the extreme, the conclusion drawn most hasty and the general tone pitifully puerile, except perhaps to those who are easily moved by sensationalism. It is in short one of those effusions which only serve to show that Japan also possesses her jingoes. We fancy no intelligent American would be misled into believing the article in question represents in any way the

prevailing view of the Japanese people, official or general, on the San Francisco affair. There is a proverb, however, of an ant's hole destroying an embankment, and from that point of view we strongly regret the appearance of such a chauvinistic article as that of the *Mainichi* in the responsible columns of a respectable journal in this country. We know what is being said about us by San Francisco papers; but they are printing what they print for their own purposes, and what do we gain by retaliating in kind? What they say is not meant for us, and we can only play into their hands by taking them seriously, supplying them thereby with fresh opportunity for vituperation. Carried by passion one is apt to lose sight of the real issue, but our public know what is it that they want to have remedied and repudiate all such wild ebullitions as that of the *Mainichi*.

We have had official assurances from the American side as to the real attitude of the Republic and its people as a whole and they are the most satisfactory. Really, however, they were not needed; because we have never yet had a moment's doubt of the sincerity of American friendship toward Japan and of the sense of American justice. Otherwise a different sort of feeling would have long since seized upon us and our public organs would not be writing in the tone they are studiously maintaining to-day. There is nothing to prevent us from changing our attitude toward Americans but the sense of our gratitude for half a century of beneficent friendship and the cherished hope that the tie of cordial relationship which has bound the Empire and the Republic in the past shall grow ever stronger in the future, as well as the faith that the spirit of justice and humanity that rules Washington also rules the whole of the United States. But assurances have been given us and we should the more endeavour to show the virtue of forbearance. The Americans admit, we believe, that our compatriots at San Francisco have grievances to ventilate, and will not resent our Government making a clear presentation of the case. And as far as we are aware this is being done. In the meantime we should deprecate all attempt at sensationalism.