

Translation.

JAPAN, ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES;-

THEIR INTER-RELATIONS.

("Tokyo Mainichi Shimbun", November 7, 1906.)

In view of the unsettled condition of the complication between Japan and the United States, a member of the British Parliament asked the other day in the House of Commons whether there was any provision in the Anglo-Japanese Alliance which safeguards Great Britain from a war with the United States on behalf of Japan. In reply to this question, Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, is reported to have stated that the Alliance was of a general nature and would guarantee the peace of the world. A statement that there is no fear of having a war with the United States is also ascribed to Sir Edward Grey.

Though the question of the member of Parliament referred to is rather abrupt, we can imagine how he came to ask such a question. The anti-Japanese agitation now prevailing in the United States has lately been exaggerated by the press despatches and editorials. Some Californian politicians have been indulging in sensational speeches, and one of them is reported to have intimated^{that} an immediate war with Japan would be advantageous to the United States. These things must have given an impression to those who are far away that the relations between Japan and the United States are seriously strained. We have known for a long time that the anti-Japanese agitation in California is not a thing of recent origin, and that it is like an intermittent fever which attacks one from time to time. Similar agitations have often taken place in Canada and Australia, and they are all due to race prejudices and labor competitions. If such local troubles were dangerous to the friendship between nations, our friendship with England would also

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be in danger. It is true that the agitation now prevailing in San Francisco and vicinity is, as it were, a more acute form of disease. Especially after the disastrous earthquake the labor party almost resorted to violence to prevent the Japanese from working for lower wages. Some petty politicians took advantage of the scarcity of laborers, the consequent rise of wages and the lack of order to instigate the masses, and we now see the state of things not yet seen either in Canada or Australia. Nevertheless, the affair is exclusively a local one, and not a national one. The public sentiment of the United States as a whole is opposed to that of California and San Francisco. Moreover, we have strong evidence that the United States is sympathetic toward Japan. These are however our observations specially bearing on the subject of the present trouble. If we go further and look at the situation in general, we find that the profoundly cordial friendship between Japan and the United States has not been injured for half a century, and there is no influence that can disturb this historic intercourse. The intelligent people of both nations firmly believe that the friendship between the two countries will grow still more cordial and intimate.

In this connection, we may introduce the remarks of Professor Ukita of the Waseda University made the other day at a meeting of the Kokumin Sakushin Kwai, for he has said just what we wished to say on the international relations of Japan, England and the United States. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which is ^a political compact, said the professor, is strong enough to guarantee the peace of the world, since there is back of it the United States. The friendship between England and the United States has grown more intimate since the last half of the previous century, and at present there is absolutely no cause for any war between the two countries. The intimate relations between the

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United States and Canada prevents any conflict between the former and England. Though at present the maritime route to India via Suez is open to England, the relations between England and Russia might possibly undergo a change in the future, and her route to India via Turkey and Egypt might be closed. In that case, England must protect India by keeping open the Pacific route via the Dominion of Canada. The safety of Canada depends upon the cordial friendship between England and the United States, while the security of Canada means that of India. It will therefore be seen that the permanent friendship between England and the United States is an indispensable factor, and that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance indirectly strengthens the cordial friendship between Japan and the United States. Professor Ukita called attention to the existence of a moral alliance between Japan and the United States side by side with the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, which is a political compact. The cordial relations of the three countries thus maintained are powerful enough to guarantee the peace of the world. This being the general situation, Professor Ukita drew the conclusion that the anti-Japanese agitation in a section of California is purely a local affair of infinitely little consequence.

In the name of humanity we censure the acts of some Americans and appeal to the public in order to improve the situation by cooperating with the better elements of the American nation, for the present agitation for excluding the Japanese is due to race prejudice. But we desire to emphasize that, so far as the general situation is concerned, the friendship between Japan and the United States remains as cordial as ever. We take the occasion presented by the question made in the House of Commons to express our views on the situation and to endorse Secretary Grey's reply.