

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, MONDAY, DEC. 10, 1906.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

President Roosevelt.—The Tokyo Press unanimously accords high praise for the open and vigorous assertion by President Roosevelt of his views concerning the San Francisco affair, in his Message to Congress. Among others the *Tokyo Asahi* expresses deep satisfaction in seeing its confidence in the President's personal qualities being more than justified by the manly stand he makes upon the question. The unfortunate affair has led to a stirring question for the Americans, which is to test the adequacy of their Constitution and presumably is to serve an opening for a stronger national organization of the Union. As to the naturalization law in favour of Japan, that was the only thing that has been lacking in placing the Japanese on the par with the European immigrants. Whether Mongols or not, the exclusion can not but serve as a barrier for keeping the Japanese further from the American heart than the other friendly nationals. When the President declares that he would secure fair, humane treatment for the Japanese, by employing all the permissible forces in his hands civil and military he rises, in our contemporary's eye to the heroic grandeur of vigorous manhood, in which the paper finds the guardian of the simple, straightforward Americanism of the Revolutionary days. It takes also the President's manhood to utter the vigorous language in reference to the seal question. Through joining in the treaty making on the subject is not of advantage to Japan, our authorities should assume as fair an attitude as the President assumes on the San Francisco question, and give satisfaction to America in that matter.

The *Kokumin* explains the utmost patience that the Japanese have exercised so far over the San Francisco affair by the profound confidence they have had in the just administration of the President, who has fully met their expectations as their friend by his thorough understanding of their position and strong vindication of their cause. In these days of equivocal diplomacy and government, it is relishing to our sense of manliness to have the Chief Executive of the great people come out so clearly with his yes and no. It only prays for the approval and support of his standpoint by all right-minded citizens of the Union, who are re-

presented in the Japanese mind by the President. Should they disappoint us in our confidence in their sense of justice, the paper, for one, would not answer for the undesirable consequences. The Japanese are not invertebrates, and will know how to guard their own rights.

The *Tokyo Mainichi* does not hesitate to pronounce the President the living model of an heroic administrator, and expresses its admiration for his forcible character enhanced beyond measure. The one particular point of the message it delights over is that it favours the establishment of a naturalization law for the Japanese. The opportunity should not be missed by our people and authorities for seeing the enactment of that much desired law achieved. The delay of one year in the matter of our attaining the same treatment as immigrants as the Europeans would deter our interests by a decade.

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TOKYO, THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 1906.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

President Roosevelt on the Japanese.—The *Nichi Nichi* is deeply gratified with President Roosevelt's high opinion of the Japanese, evincing a deep and unbiased knowledge of the people, and uttered in bold candour such as has never been shown by the Chief of any nation friendly to them. But it advises the people to exercise the virtue of humility and consider whether they deserve the high generous laudation that the President gives them. The paper itself is confident that this people, who started in the path of material progress the moment they became aware of their backward conditions, and have attained with rapid strides the highest civilization of the world, fully deserve the President's commendation. But they should set their ideals high. The President's praise of our soldiers for their high loyalty and ideal patriotism does not cover the spiritual status of the people as a whole. It still remains for them to show that they possess a firm basis of spiritual progress, as they have shown in the past half-century their zeal in elevating the material condition of their lives.

Nichi Nichi No. 129 of Dec. 26, 1906.

than any other political leader that the President gave substance to in his Message, which coming from the lips of a noble personality gives an impression equal to the maxims of ancient sages. The courses of national affairs are in general guided by the triple factors, feeling, interest and reason, and only the highly civilized peoples subject their sentiments and interests to the direction of the last. The Californian Affair is, in its essence, nothing but a question of local labour competition combined with bigoted racial prejudices. It is not likely that a statesman of President Roosevelt's high principles would countenance the irrational movement. Had the California authorities shared in any measure their Chief Executive's high principles, the question would have been solved with no difficulty. But as it is his Message, so far as pertains to the Japanese question, may prove void of effect upon their pre-occupied ears. The question therefore has to be tested in the law courts, and the status of the Japanese immigrants to be secured in future by the establishment of a naturalization law, besides introduction of such changes in the national law as to enable the U.S. Government to protect the treaty rights of the aliens. These proposed reforms will be sure to be opposed by the biased section of the American public. The paper is as sure however, that the President will give another proof to his indomitable courage and fearless sincerity by carrying the scheme through with the support of right-minded citizens. Differing as he notably does from the usual specimens of statesmen, who consider sophistry true political wisdom, President Roosevelt is the man who will support the sincerity of his words by vigorous action, as he has proved himself, to the surprise of all his countrymen, in the Herculean task of suppressing the Trusts and growing abuses of wealth in general. The principles enunciated in the Message as well as his high standard of statesmanship should be held up for study and emulation by the politicians who are prone to place personal interests above reason.