

"Japan Times",
July 9, 1907.

THE AMERICAN BATTLESHIPS.

The *Tokyo Asahi* publishes views expressed by a naval critic on the rumours relating to the dispatch of U.S. battleship squadron to the Pacific. He endeavours to prove that the dispatch of the battleships to the Pacific is not connected with the Japanese-American situation. He states that for the last ten years, America has been so assiduously constructing warships, that she rose from the position of the fifth or sixth naval Power to that of the second. These warships have generally been constructed in the Atlantic, and it is quite natural that some of them should be brought round to the Pacific. To consider the action as a demonstration against Japan is premature. There are reasons to doubt the accuracy of the report that 16 battleships will be sent round. America can hardly spare 16 battleships from the Atlantic, and the cruise of 16 battleships alone is not an easy task. Probably for battleships in the report should be read warships. From a strategic point of view, it is the same to Japan whether the American squadron be in the Atlantic or in the Pacific. For America, the presence of the squadron in the Atlantic is more convenient. The American Pacific Squadron will concentrate in the San Francisco neighbourhood. The place, however, does not fulfil all requirement as a sole base of operations against Japan. A squadron of sixteen warships, again, is not large enough to carry out any demonstration on the part of America. At the same time, the rumour concerning the probable recall of the squadron to the Atlantic after spending a number of months in the Pacific is possibly untrue.

The American armoured cruisers *Colorado*, *Pennsylvania*, *Maryland*, and *Virginia* have been ordered to proceed from Chefoo to San Francisco. They will touch at Yokohama on the 15th inst.

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