

JOURNALISTIC FLIPPANCY.

"Between the yellow journals of Japan and America a war between Japan and America is announced about twice a week, but, strange to say, the governments of the two Powers never hear of it excepting through the saffron-coloured press." We extract the above sentence from the columns of a local contemporary who appears to be sweetly unconscious that he himself thus furnishes a striking example of the very type of newspaper which he condemns. For what is yellow journalism unless it be exaggeration for the sake of effect and for the sake of sensation, and could there be easily found a more flagrant example of sensational exaggeration than to allege that Japanese journals have assisted to predict war with America about twice a week? We do not profess to speak about American newspapers. Their name is legion and the number of them that falls under our notice is comparatively small. They may have been uttering the strange predictions attributed to them by our local contemporary. But we do claim to know something about Japanese journals, and we undertake to affirm positively that not one of them, not a solitary one, has from first to last "announced a war" between this country and America. A greater blunder could not easily have been penned than this told by our local contemporary. One Japanese journal, the *Hochi Shimbun*, did, in a moment of temporary aberration, adopt an immoderate tone when discussing the San Francisco problem, but that very newspaper now writes with noteworthy restraint, and as for all the rest, in so far as concerns those deserving to be called in any sense representative, they have been conspicuously circumspect. There can be no hesitation in affirming that never since any country, possessing a newspaper press, became involved in a complication with another country, has the tone of the former's journals been so remarkably free from the slightest taint of jingoism as the journals of Japan have been. They deserve the greatest credit; deserve to be held up as a model. But, on the contrary, we have here a local American critic who speaks of Japanese yellow journals "announcing war about twice a week." People outside Japan will naturally imagine that the newspaper publishing such an analysis of its Japanese confreres, must, since it is edited by an American resident in Japan, have some good warrant for its allegations. But there is not a word of warrant, and therefore, in so far as it is possible to embroil neighbourly nations by misrepresenting the state of their public sentiment toward each other, just so far does our Yokohama contemporary assist to embroil America and Japan by flippant writing which, for the sake of a mere trick of diction, creates in America a wholly false impression of Japan's attitude.

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