

The Japan Daily Mail.

YOKOHAMA. WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1907.

DEATH.

At Bizerta (Tunis), JEAN LONDIN, aged 5 months, the infant grandson of Madame I. Dou-treligne, No. 33-B Tsukiji, Tokyo.

SAN FRANCISCO.

The *Jiji's* Washington correspondent telegraphs that the leading American papers strongly deprecate the idea of sending an American fleet to the Pacific at the present juncture. They point out that such procedure would have the effect of immediately imparting an acute character to the trouble with Japan, and that no such course should be adopted by the United States unless Japan herself sets the example. Some of the minor journals, however, seize the occasion for a jingoistic display and urge that the apparition of a strong naval force in the Pacific would make the Japanese bow their heads. Washington treats all disquieting rumours as worthy only of ridicule. *The World* takes a very strong line. It insists that if an American fleet be sent to the Pacific at present, there will inevitably be created a general impression that it is intended as an armed demonstration against Japan. As to that, however, we, *Japan Mail*, suggest that unless there is some cause for a demonstration of the kind, it would be extravagant to interpret the coming of the fleet in that sense. The position taken by the President probably is that there do not exist between the United States and Japan any questions to which international danger however small can be assigned, and that therefore each country may go about its business in a perfectly clear atmosphere. Evidently it would be inconsistent with that rational assumption to make the San Francisco affair a reason for dislocating America's general naval programme, but in view of the writings which appear to have been published by some of the American journals, Mr. Roosevelt may probably think it advisable to alter his intentions.

Count Okuma, speaking through the columns of the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, shrewdly observes, with regard to the little cloud which hovers over the San Francisco section of the two countries' horizon, that Japan is in the position of complainant and the United States in that of defendant. That the defendant in a suit which cannot yet be said to have actually entered the courts, should make an armed demonstration against the complainant would be much as though a man should put his hat on his feet and his socks on his head. It cannot be supposed for a moment that the United States Government contemplates such a reversal of the proper order of things. The coming of the fleet is therefore to be interpreted simply as a feature of America's newly espoused imperial policy, and as part of her programme sketched without any reference whatever to San Francisco.

The *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* fully endorses the above view and notes that Viscount Aoki has not even sent any official information to his Government with reference to this incident.

An anonymous "high official" is said by the *Hochu Shimbun* to have described the despatch of this fleet as showing a want of circumspection on America's part. He recalls the fact that when the Japanese training squadron was about to commence its cruise which included a call at San Francisco, the Washington Government suggested to Japan that the presence of Japanese warships at that port might tend to complicate the disagreeable situation which had arisen, and that the Japanese marines if they landed might be subjected to assault. Japan at once abandoned this part of the programme. The question now arises whether if a powerful American fleet appears off San Francisco, the anti-Japanese agitators of the Pacific slope may not regard such action on the part of the authorities as a demonstration of support, in which case much mischief might be done. This official thinks therefore that Japan would be quite justified in asking Washington to reconsider the project.

For the rest the Japanese press continues to maintain its tone of absolute calm and moderation. It takes in the main two views. One is that the essential duty devolves upon America of uniting her scattered naval forces and accustoming them to manœuvre together; the other, that whereas the Pacific is the arena of America's new imperial policy, the naval strength she possesses there is quite disproportionate to her situation. Therefore this despatch of a large part of the Atlantic fleet to the Pacific is a wise and proper measure. Moreover, with only one exception do these newspapers think it worth while to question the timeliness of America's action. That exception is the *Hochu Shimbun*, which while frankly and fully approving of the President's programme from tactical and imperial points of view, thinks that in the circumstances the time is badly chosen, because the coming of the fleet is sure to be misconstrued by ignorant people on both sides.