

THE PROGRESSISTS AND AMERICA.

Among the telegrams received by the *Japan Advertiser* we notice the following:—

It has been ascertained that Washington is just now infested with agents of the Progressive party of Japan, who are doing their best to manufacture reports calculated to arouse hostility between the two countries, for their own political purposes.

This telegram, though doubtless intended to be in the interest of peace, must be described as singularly misleading. It is a flagrant libel to accuse the Progressists of desiring to provoke a quarrel between their country and the United States in their own political interests. The Progressists are just as sincere patriots and as prudent men as any that are to be found in Japan, and while they are quite ready, too ready in fact, to arraign the Government's foreign policy wherever an opening presents itself, they may safely be accredited with supreme aversion to the idea of a quarrel with America. Indeed fate has been more than wontedly sarcastic when she associated the party led by Count Okuma with such a policy. Among all Japanese statesmen none has given so many proofs of sincere friendship and admiration for America as Count Okuma, and it is really silly to suppose that a party, under his guidance and including amongst its foremost members publicists like Dr. Hatoyama and Mr. Inukai, should be anxious to bring about war with the United States. Our local contemporary's telegram may therefore be dismissed as a pure canard. It deserves to rank with the previously received tale that large sums of money had been sent by the Progressists to the Pacific Slope for the purpose of encouraging agitation against the conduct of San Francisco. We venture to affirm that so far from Washington being infested with mischievous Progressists of the kind alluded to in the telegram, such agitators are really conspicuous by their absence. But if we come to inquire whether no responsibility rests with the Progressists for the creation of this false conception in America, we are bound to admit that there has been responsibility and that it rests almost entirely upon the shoulders of the *Hochi Shimbun*. The *Hochi* alone amongst Japanese newspapers has handled this San Francisco question in a manner at once so intemperate and so indiscriminating that, were its counsels followed, war would soon become inevitable. It now rails at its contemporaries for not adopting a similar course, and it indulges in a great deal of "high collar" talk about the duty of every publicist to have and to show the courage of his opinions. That is all very fine and very true, but it is quite beside the mark and we are glad to observe from the *Hochi's* latest utterances that it betrays all the peevish chagrin usually engendered by defeat.