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THE VISIT OF MR. TAFT.

THE visit of Mr. TAFT, the United States Secretary of State for War, to this country, though only of short duration, will, it is to be hoped, convince him that the people of Japan entertain nothing but the most friendly feelings towards the United States. On the other hand, Mr. TAFT may himself be expected to express the strong regard which the United States has always shown, and continues to show, for Japan. His visit comes at an opportune time to dissolve a misunderstanding between the two nations—a misunderstanding which is all the more regrettable inasmuch as it has been fostered entirely by those who in no way share the sentiments of either Government. The agitation against the Japanese in the States appeals only to the lowest, though unfortunately not the least powerful, element of the nation, while the agitation against the States in this country, if it can be said to exist, is confined to gutter journals of a peculiar, not to say inexpressible, sense of humour. Mr. TAFT will not be deceived by these publications. He will understand that the Japanese Government fully realises the awkward position in which the United States Government is placed in regard to control over the various States forming the Union. At the same time it may be asked that the United States Government should also view with sympathetic eyes the position of the Japanese Government, which is bound to protect its nationals in the enjoyment of their just rights. Under similar circumstances it is fairly certain that the United States would have taken more extreme steps, and therefore it is only fair to ask that the United States should realise the moderation of Japan in the matter and the assurance she has manifested that the justice of her cause will be main-

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tained by the United States Government. Japan as one of the youngest and newest of the Powers confronts the largest federation of States the world has ever seen—a federation which has so far fully justified the faith of those who claim the right of nations to rule themselves. Japan has a full belief that the United States will fully realise her position, while, on the other hand, Japan has shown every desire to deal moderately and peacefully with an embarrassing situation. Mr. TAFT's presence in this country is a guarantee on the part of his country that Japan shall have just treatment, and it may be expected that any public utterances on this question he may please to make will be to this effect. He may be assured that he will be met with as full frankness from the side of Japan.

