

THE FAR EAST:

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE "KOKUMIN SHIMBUN."

Tokyo, Friday, October 11th, 1907.

JAPAN AND AMERICA.

New York telegraphs that it is now beginning to be clearly recognized that the real political issue in the present campaign turns on the Fleet, both in connexion with the forthcoming Pacific cruise and the question of expansion as a whole. The anti-Roosevelt Press, with comparatively few exceptions, is bitterly opposed to the fleet movement, the principal weapon in its armory of attack being the war bugaboo with reference to Japan. The journal called the "Navy" referred to the contemplated voyage as an "undertaking about equally compounded of ill-justified vain-glory and cheap politics."

Apropos of the above, we notice that America had already abandoned her traditional policy and acquired Hawaii and the Philippines. She also co-operated with other Powers in relation to the Boxer affair, inter alia. Her relations with the Far East are now as close as with Central and South America, leading to busier diplomacy and greater military expenses. Is not it more advantageous for America to settle her position now at once to conclude an alliance with a great Power, whose interests coincide with hers? We are disposed to regard the Pacific cruise and the proposed expansion of the American navy as reflecting her probable inclination to ally with another Power. Is there any country other than Japan worthy for America to ally in the Far East?