

Enclosure with Mr. O'Brien's Dispatch # 13 (Duplicate)

The Japan Daily Herald.

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BASELESS DISPATCHES.

RECENTLY there have appeared in the Japanese papers some telegrams with regard to the alleged visit of a German Fleet to the United States, the telegrams being embroidered with sundry details of the supposed meaning of the visit, all presumably for Japanese consumption, since it was stated the visit was in support of the United States should she have any trouble with Japan. In fact, one telegram from London stated that Germany aimed at an understanding with America in regard to Far Eastern affairs. We did not trouble our readers by reproducing these telegrams, because it was evident the information they contained was based on rumours, if not inventions, while their source was exceedingly suspicious. From a Berlin telegram published in yesterday's issue it appears our suspicions were correct, for it now turns out that the sources of the reports are the notorious London *Daily Mail* and the equally notorious New York *Sun*. The New York organ in all probability started the story, and it was eagerly seized upon by the clique in the British capital who have before now done their best to ruffle the relations between Germany and Japan, for what purpose probably they themselves are not aware, unless it be for the mere love of mischief-making and to provide sensations to swell the reputation of the *Daily Mail* as a "yellow" organ. It is unfortunate, though perhaps natural, that the sources of the information wired to Japan are not always stated, since it would prevent many mistakes. Thus if it had been known that the London *Daily Mail* and the New York *Sun* were responsible for the projected visit of the German fleet to American waters and the alleged overtures of friendship, the delusion as to the accuracy of the news would at once have been dispelled, and we should not have had the Japan-

ese papers discussing it seriously, if somewhat incredulously, as directed against Japan. However, the correspondents who supply the Japanese papers with their cables are generally too wise to give their source of information, with the result that such expressions as "It is said," or "It is stated" have a solemnity quite out of proportion to the real facts. The Japanese Government is, of course, not deceived by such statements, since it has access to the real sources of information, but it entails a waste of money and time in denying statements which would never have the slightest air of credibility if duly ascribed to their sources. Internally of course the reports are equally absurd. Germany is on the best of terms with the United States and has no need to further testify her friendliness. Prince HEINRICH has visited the United States before on a warship and may visit her again, but even if such a visit were at present contemplated—which it is not, as shown by the Berlin telegram—why should it excite more suspicion than the visit of the KAISER to England or of King ALFONSO to Austria? Perhaps by-and-bye some of the scare-mongers in London will conceive the idea that the visit of the Kaiser to England is directed against Japan, just as they, or their counterparts across the Atlantic, have conceived the delicious idea that Germany is going to guard the Atlantic coast of the United States while the American Fleet is in the Pacific. That anything can be done to stop these rumours is doubtful, since it is apparently too much to expect that the correspondents should in all cases give the sources of their information or even exercise a little discretion and limit themselves to actual facts. If REUTER'S agency were properly conducted, and was not influenced by phobias of various kinds, it might, instead of telegraphing Japanese news back to Japan or wasting money on betting news which is quite without interest, do much service by giving the sources of its news on all occasions or by showing up these unfounded reports before they are amplified by the other correspondents.