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AMERICA AND JAPAN.

If the constant dropping of water wears away a stone, it is to be feared that the persistent writings of Mr. Hearst and his fellow-thinkers will have a more or less disintegrating effect on the good relations between Japan and America. It is hard to tell whether these men do not include among their ranks dishonest agitators as well as loyal patriots. We should have no right to deny their title to the latter epithet if they confined themselves to a plain statement of facts, but when they insist on attributing to Japan a deliberate desire for a conflict with the United States, they depart so grossly from the truth that our faith in their sincerity is greatly shaken. It is evident that they estimate at an infinitesimally small quantity the reasoning powers of the Japanese, for they attribute to them a notion that some very great material advantage would accrue to Japan from such a conflict. We have never met a Japanese so thoroughly silly as to entertain such a view. Even assuming the great improbability of a victory for Japan in a contest with America, the victor would be still less competent to collect an indemnity than he was in the case of the war with Russia. Two things would be essential as preliminary to levying a heavy fine on America: one would be the annihilation of her fleet; the other, the invasion of her territories by an army at least a million strong. Neither of these events is conceivable. On the other hand, Japan would not only have to support an expense of crippling magnitude, but would also see her trade with America completely interrupted, which, result even if it stood alone, would be ruinous. These considerations are so very plain that although Mr. Hearst and his friends may be so curiously blind as not to see them, we may be quite sure that the vision of the Japanese is not equally obscured. The crowning pity of it all is that the irresponsible and giddy publicists, by their reckless writing and speaking, can not fail to impair more or less one of the strongest friendships that ever existed between two nations. We have entire confidence, however, that the Japanese will preserve their moral equilibrium and will remember what the American people have always been to them, not what Mr. Hearst and his followers are now.