

Translation.

Mainichi Dempo,
January 28, 1908.

THE RUMOR OF WAR BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

(Summary)



To refer again to the war scare, says the Mainichi Dempo, would be like recalling an ominous dream. When the rumor of war between Japan and the United States was first circulated in the latter country, the Japanese public regarded it merely as a temporary development of the anti-Japanese agitation in that country. While the agitation has somewhat affected the good-will of the Japanese towards the Americans, still not a single Japanese has dreamed of the possibility of any armed conflict between the two countries. The paper has been ridiculing the war scare as absurd and unfounded, but it wonders if it is really so, since some intelligent Americans still seem to be afraid that a conflict is inevitable, when the immigration question has almost been settled and the anti-Japanese agitation has subsided. Speaking of the present situation in America, Ambassador Aoki has made the following statement, "When the American people talk about a war between the United States and Japan, they do not mean to anticipate any conflict in the near future. When they consider the present international situation between various Powers, they wonder if the interests of the two countries in the Far East will not lead eventually to a war. This idea is indeed a deep-rooted one. It is not enough to ridicule the idea in order to remove it. It requires serious refutation." Though the Mainichi Dempo is aware of the part taken by the

French in the second circulation of the war scare, yet the paper is inclined to regard Viscount Aoki's utterances as highly suggestive. When, in the future, any contest takes place for the supremacy of the Pacific, what countries will take part in the conflict? It may be argued in the United States, says the Mainichi Dempo, that the United States, which has vast interests in the Pacific, ought to be ready for any conflict with Japan. Though any war in the near future between the two countries is inconceivable to the paper, yet the renewed interest of the American public in the possibility of a war is worth careful consideration in this country.



(Note. Viscount Aoki has denied the foregoing statement attributed to him.)