

spite of Russian intrigues, Japan will be able to carry Korea successfully through the period of inevitable turmoil, involved in the needed internal reforms and international relations, is an open question. It would not be strange were this ancient and corrupt weakling to weary of Japanese tutelage. And, seduced by specious promises she might naturally turn to Russian troops for relief from her strenuous teacher. In a word, Russian possession of Eastern Siberia is a standing menace to the peace of the East. Now is the time to settle the question. European military coercion of Russia in behalf of the peace of the orient is not to be expected. Japan must coerce Russia herself. She must fight and she must conquer and the treaty of peace must require of Russia the surrender of all Siberia east of Lake Baikal.

Thus far my Japanese friends have agreed with me; but here they enter their first dissent. "While all you say is true," they answer, "could Japan expect to hold Eastern Siberia permanently against Russian intrigue and attack? Your solution is insufficient," they add, "because Japan has not the power after pushing Russia back, to hold her there. With full preparation for a second war Russia would surely conquer.