

patriot might demonstrate. The King passed, and it was "Vive Edouard!" all the way. One walked home, and everybody out for the night was asking everybody else, "As-tu vu Edouard?" Then we knew that the peace of Europe was safe and the *Entente Cordiale* cemented.

When the Russo-Japanese War broke out, M. Joseph Prudhomme began by discovering that the Japanese are Asiatics. The Yellow Peril was brought down from a musty shelf, and the most Prudhommesque of modern rulers pointed to as a prophet for having first denounced it in oracular word and obvious picture. Russia championed the Whites against the Yellows, and it was a new crusade. A portion of the Paris Press still echoes this early voice of the French people in February last, but M. Joseph Prudhomme has forgotten that he ever heard it or joined in. The second change in his *haute politique* did not come in a day, but it came in a few weeks. It was a steady but swift progress of disenchantment, and the crumbling of a superstition, hitherto carefully propped up by politicians and the Press in the name of patriotism, generally for party purposes. During the first week of the war, Russia, unaccountably, failed on sea. But wait till her mighty fist is brought down on land, said M. Joseph Prudhomme, for he believed in her. The French headquarters staff knew for a fact that before the outbreak of the war the Russian Army in Manchuria numbered 300,000 men, and this knowledge filtered down to political cafés, where officers are good customers. The Japanese landed and the Russians retired, to "lure them on," said M. Joseph Prudhomme. The Yalu was reached by the invaders, and it was impossible to blink the fact that there they beat their opponents. Silence reigned in political cafés for a time. The Bourse, on the other hand, had begun already to resound with loud opinions which had only been whispered previously. It was not long before business men could be heard during lunch and after Bourse hours cursing Russia deeply. They cursed with the more energy because they could do nothing else, being compelled to