

a large and difficult portion of this great work of unifying the aims and interests of God's family of nations.

China, Japan, India are with us to-day as well as representatives of most European countries. We can not keep them away if we would, and we need them as they need us. They have a message for us if we unstop our ears to hear, and we have a message for them that can only be effective when we break down the adamantine walls of prejudice.

Having spent a number of years in Japan, an alien in a foreign land, it is given to me to appreciate the feelings of the aliens here upon our shores. At first the Japanese seemed to be of an entirely different world, but gradually as the strange customs and habits lost their uniqueness and became the common-places of life, we also lost the feeling of strangeness of race, and we found that in all that makes up life we were at one, having the same needs, the same emotions, the same desires, the same spiritual aspirations.

When a well-known American newspaper man was asked on his return from the Japanese campaign in Manchuria what he thought of the Japanese, he said unqualifiedly: "They are the greatest people on the face of the earth." This man had seen much of other peoples and was a competent judge. The qualities of the Japanese on which he based this assertion are apparent to students of racial traits, though not every one would be as outspoken, and many might modify the above statement into "one of the greatest, etc." But Japan has suffered from an unwise adulation as well as an unjust depreciation. A Tafcadio Herne, who works out so alluring but so false an impression of the Japanese and their environment, a Pierre Loti, who charms us with Oriental life as seen through the haze of his own imaginings, has done Japan as much harm as a merchant from England who said to me one day: "If I had fifty thousand to invest in Japan I would take it and throw it into the sea from the end of Kobe wharf." And some of the advisers in various departments of industry who have lost their positions when trained native supervisors were possible, returning to their homes disappointed though fully paid as per contract, have not hesitated to say the most galling things and half truths that injure sometimes more than downright lies. A Sir Edwin Arnold sees a fairy-like life and writes: "They have the nature rather of birds or butterflies than of ordinary human beings," while a