

The Most Greedy Nation.

THE hopelessness and gloom reflected from the pages of the Russian reviews become more intense as the war drags on. Even the jingo feuilletonists cannot remain oblivious of the danger threatening Russia at home and abroad. This is illustrated by an article by Prince Menschikov in a recent number of *Novoye Vremya*, the well known journal of St. Petersburg. Having been compelled to fight, he says:—

"I am convinced that there is no other way for us to achieve peace than by vigorously repelling our enemies. A successful defence on our part would bring the assurance of peace for half a century, as was the case in Germany after the Franco-Prussian War, but should we fail, there will be no limit to the demands of our emboldened enemies. Whoever shall desire it will join in the spoliation of Russia, just as the Dutch, the Portuguese, the French, and the English once despoiled India, and all Europe despoiled Turkey, and is now despoiling China. To yield to Japan now would mean the renunciation of our imperial and national existence. But the people will hardly consent to such suicide. Our generation has scarcely any right to decide this question for Russia, for Russia belongs not only to the present, but also to the past and the future. . . . Let us be strong, then. Let us be thoroughly armed, let us be noble, let us not be deterred by hard work, by the sacrifice of treasure, by the sacrifice of life itself, to uphold Russia.

Russia's defeat, he continues, would be the signal for "great, unending misfortunes." She would be overwhelmed on all sides.

"We shall be wiped off the face of the earth. . . . The dangers threatening Russia are growing to vast proportions, and we cannot but see them and recognize them. It is high time for the nation to realize that the danger is near us. Professor Mendelejev predicts that after this war will come other wars as a natural sequence. We have a comparative abundance of land, our neighbors have a shortage of it, and under such conditions wars break out in obedience to the laws of atmospheric pressure. Japan is the most densely populated, hence she was the first to begin the war. Germany, China, the United States, England—they are our environment exerting their forces with terrible swiftness.

Russia must seek safety in armed resistance, declares this writer. Her powers of resistance gave way at their weakest point—in the Far East—hence "we must strive, with all our might, to hold back the catastrophe, lest it become general.

"Back of Japan there stands with insolently bared teeth the most greedy race in the world—the Anglo-Saxon. England is already covertly waging against us a war that may at any moment break into open flame. She is already dispatching armed fleets to close our channels by force. On land, in Central Asia, England is already approaching our boundaries. Without an open declaration of war (this knightly custom seems to have been abolished), England is conquering Tibet, the buffer state that separated us from India. The partition of China is inevitable. There is no room for doubt that there is approaching the division of Asia and of the entire