

Coming Struggle

What Part Should England Play in Eastern Asia?

THE new problem in Eastern Asia is oligarchic Japan. To make this fact stand out "distinctly and unmistakably" is the object of Mr. Putnam Weale's new book, "The Coming Struggle in Eastern Asia" (Macmillan & Co., 12s. 6d. net).

Mr. Weale is of those who regard the Anglo-Japanese Alliance as "a political error of the first magnitude," and that the "economic situation which now obtains in the Far East is sufficiently serious to justify the plainest speaking."

Mr. Weale, in this volume, the fourth and last of a series, gives us first-hand studies of the present problems of Russia in Asia, of Japan, and of China. After devoting 624 pages to the facts as he saw them, Mr. Weale concludes that "the component factors in the great problem of the Far East are at present mainly engaged in gathering strength, and that at any moment the unexpected may again occur, and another conflict suddenly break out."

The Unexpected May Occur

"There can be no real security," he contends, "until China is in a very different position from that which she now occupies, and until Japan falls into the place which her history, her population, and her genius prove that she can, with justice, occupy. . . . Under these circumstances the position of England must be deemed one of exceptional embarrassment. Relying no longer on her prestige and on her naval strength in the Far East, but rather on paper and on promises, she busies herself with such sentimental questions as the abolition of opium in China at a time when there is other very urgent business on hand. The matter of the enforcement of the new Commercial Treaties with China, for instance, which is of the very highest importance, and which would allow the beginning of great and valuable constructive work, is ignored—for what reason it is hard to apprehend."

"Believing that in the Anglo-Japanese Alliance instrument of August, 1905, a sovereign remedy exists for every Far Eastern ill, the directors of the foreign policy of Great Britain would doubtless be surprised to learn that in the Far East itself no more importance is now attached to that agreement than, say, to the Triple Alliance in Europe, which has been so far forgotten in Italy that Prince von Buelow recently found it necessary to remind the Quirinal Government of its continued existence."

Have Japanese an Antipathy to Whites?

A very interesting point discussed by Mr. Weale is one which he says, above all, concerns the Caucasian—"Are the Japanese primarily inspired by the same inner feelings of antipathy and disgust for the white man as are other Asiatics? A writer as gifted in understanding some of the subtleties underlying the relations between Asia and Europe as is Mr. Meredith Townsend argues that this must be, and is, the case. The question, however, is most difficult to answer for a large variety of reasons."

"Yet," he adds, "it may fairly be said that just as in India—from which field Mr. Meredith Townsend mainly gathered his materials—so in somewhat lesser degree there is, and must be, among the Mongolian races the same instinctive antipathy for the white-skinned man as the latter on his part feels for his brown-skinned or yellow-skinned brethren."

"How far this antipathy is really a political force cannot as yet be properly estimated, either in the West or the East; but just as the Americans of the Pacific Coast insist on the exclusion of all Asiatics, be they Chinese or Koreans or Japanese, so will the Japanese, above all other peoples of Mongolian race, exclude the white man from participating in the exploitation of the wealth of Eastern Asia."

Is Japan to be a Bridge?

"At heart the Japanese is just as proud of his own unalterable individuality as is the Anglo-Saxon of his. The talk to the effect that Japan is destined to be the bridge connecting the East with the West, and that this is indeed her dearest aspiration, becomes, therefore, peculiarly significant. If Japan is to be that bridge, it follows that the West may have to burn its boats and rely on less convenient methods of crossing great wastes of waters, whether it wills it or not. The gateways to the East may then be entirely changed, and with such a change nothing which might follow could be deemed surprising."

The conclusion of Mr. Weale's mass of evidence, is that

A Corrective Required

"Just as in 1902 the first Anglo-Japanese Alliance supplied a corrective to an unfortunate political impasse, which had been brought about by British indifference to the trend of affairs in the Far East; so in 1907 is a further corrective required, if a second impasse is not ultimately to be reached. For while the Anglo-Japanese Alliance is at present a guarantee for peace, it is also a guarantee for a commercial downfall unless safeguarding steps are taken without loss of time. And before those steps can be properly taken a British Commission should be sent to the spot to obtain official confirmation of the position as it really is all over Eastern Asia. It is vain to suppose that this work can be done otherwise; it requires an official inquiry and official documents to place a Government in the well-informed position it should occupy in order to be entrenched against surprises, and able adequately to deal with a situation which the writer is only too willing to admit bristles with difficulties; is full of contradictions, is dangerous to handle, and is composed of all the elements of a sanguinary struggle."

"The British Government could easily have at its disposal a score or more of retired officials and others whose names are household words in the Far East, and whose opinions would be invaluable—in fact, the very experts necessary to compose such a commission. The mere facts that, by virtue of the alliance of 1905, England is the international endorser of all Japanese actions, and that the very first "open door," and "equal opportunity for all," and the integrity of the Chinese empire—are now more than menaced, should be sufficient to ensure drastic and instant inquiry."

Our Remote Attitude of Mind

"But it is felt in Eastern Asia, as it is felt in the Australian Commonwealth, that there is no complaint to be made of peremptory treatment on the part of the British Government, but that representations from the spot are too often met with an understanding neither of the real causes from which they spring, nor of the precise intentions of those who make them. The complaint is therefore, of an attitude of mind—a certain impenetrability, a certain weariness on the part of people much pressed with affairs and greatly overburdened."

"The final word is that a corrective is absolutely necessary in Eastern Asia in order to postpone, if not to prevent, the inevitable struggle. Sane Caucasians no longer dream of laying at the feet of their sovereigns the keys of Moorish castles or the jeweled turbans of Asiatic kings. They can only dream of tradesmen's profits—of perhaps, retaining a portion of that which has been previously won. Yet even if this humbler dream is not to be rudely dissipated—if the status quo, such as it is, is not to be slowly undermined until it quite naturally topples over—action must be taken without further delay."

A Certain Ominous Pause

"Of this there can be no question. Germany and Russia, the only two other Powers in the world, apart from the United States, which now have real first-class importance, are manifestly marking time in Eastern Asia, and waiting for the new outlines and the new tendencies more openly to manifest themselves. They are ever coquetting with Japan because of their distrust of one another and of everybody else. At the present time, therefore, there is a certain ominous pause; a calm before a storm, which not even deceptive diplomatic agreements can entirely conceal. Eastern Asia is once more on the eve of great events. What part shall England play?"

Mr. Weale's book is obviously one which all who follow world movements should study.

PROSE STYLE OF MEN OF ACTION

STYLE—like beauty and like genius—is one of those mysterious qualities which can be immediately perceived, but which cannot be defined," says the Spectator. "Pages of analysis and description will fail to convey the notion, which becomes obvious at once from a paragraph by Swift or Sir Thomas Browne. If we examine the paragraph, if we split it up into its component parts—the sense, the sound, the rhythm, the balance, the arrangement—we shall find that the informing spirit of the whole, the style itself, has somehow or other slipped through our fingers and disappeared, like the principle of life in the chemical analysis of protoplasm."

No Recipe for Style

"Thus there is no recipe for style; one has it or one has it not; and though, if one has it, there are aids—such as study and practice—towards the perfecting of it, yet there can be no doubt that its essence is a gift inborn. Some writers—Walter Pater was one of them—seek through a lifetime, with all the laborious refinements of scholarship and taste, to achieve style, and in the end achieve only the imitation of it; while a Bunyan, tinkering in the highways, flows at will with the very perfection of language. Nor is the gift confined to those whose fame rests on their mastery of words. Nothing is more interesting than to watch the magic of style springing unexpectedly from the utterances of great men of action, bringing an alien sweetness into the hard world of fact, and wonderfully lending to expressions of business or of duty the glamour of passion and romance."

These Natural Stylists

"The sentences of these natural stylists, thrown off amid the hazards and labours of administration or of arms, possess often enough a distinctive quality of their own—a racy flavor of actual life which is rarely caught save by the greatest or least literary man of letters. It would have needed a Shakespeare or a Scott at the height of inspiration to coin such a phrase as Cromwell's memorable injunction, 'Put your trust in God and keep your powder dry!' The mere writer who must, like a silkworm, spin out his precious material from inside him, can hardly hope to rival the man of genius whose imagination has been quickened and whose tongue has been loosened by what Burke calls the 'overmastering necessities' of events. Who does not feel, however humble his pretensions, that he might, after all, write splendid prose if he had just won a splendid victory?"

"Among the Elizabethans, with whom style was, so to speak, in the air, great men of action possessed the magic of expression in

overflowing measure. In those days functions were less specialized than now; and it is often difficult to decide whether an Elizabethan was chiefly eminent as a writer or a soldier, as a discoverer or a poet. What could be more magnificent than Sir Walter Raleigh's prose? His invocation to Death at the close of his 'History of the World' is too well known for quotation; but some sentences from his less familiar 'Letter to Henry, Prince of Wales' contain, in the same rich raiment, the same nobility of spirit:—

"Your father is called the Viceroy of Heaven; while he is good he is the vice-regent of Heaven. Shall man have authority from the fountain of good to do evil? No, my prince; let mean and degenerate spirits, which want benevolence, suppose your power impaired by a disability of doing injuries. If want of power to do ill be an incapacity in a prince, with reverence be it spoken, it is an incapacity he has in common with the Deity. . . . Preserve to your future subjects the divine right of free agents; and to your own royal house the divine right of being their benefactors. Believe me, there is no other right can flow from God."

Cromwell's Hammer Strokes

"In strong contrast with the splendid and stately sentences of the Elizabethans stands the strange, incoherent, half-inspired style of Oliver Cromwell. His loose, vague, unformed periods, in which the meaning, so often dissipated and lost in a complexity of unfinished phrases, flashes out sometimes with amazing force, resemble clouds charged with lightning; the reader is alternately illumined and confused. When the stupendous power of the man does burst out to the surface, who can follow the words without a tingling in the blood, who can fail to catch, with the ear of the imagination, the echo of that high terrific voice?—

"I can say, in the simplicity of my soul, I love not, I love not—I declined it in my former speech—I say, I love not to rake into sores, or to discover nakedness! That which I drive at is this: I say to you, I hoped to have had leave to have retired to a private life. I begged to be dismissed of my charge; I begged it again and again; and God be Judge between me and all men if I lie in this matter! That I lie not in matter of fact is known to very many; but whether I tell a lie in my heart, as laboring to represent to you that which was not in my heart, I say, the Lord be Judge. . . . But I could not obtain what my soul longed for. And the plain truth is, I did afterwards apprehend that some did think, my judgment not suiting with theirs, that it could not well be."

"Such hammer strokes of speech could only have come, we feel, from a man who had gone, seatless through the depths, who had looked, on tempests and was never shaken."

"What would not the mere man of letters give to be able to write like that? The glowing, the inimitable rhythm, the superb and awful close—by what magic intuition have these things been brought into existence? by what mysterious and unconscious art?"

HOW AN EMPIRE GROWS

THE new Statistical Abstract has just been published, which gives the latest complete statistics for the whole of the British Empire. The Evening News bases the following article on this Blue-book:

"How many fellow citizens have we in our Empire? At what rate do they increase? We can fairly estimate the population of the British Empire at 405,000,000. It grows steadily at the rate of 40,000,000 every ten years."

"Not evenly in every country, of course. The birth-rate is higher here, emigration depletes there; a new colony shows a sudden increase, an older country remains nearly stationary. The population of the United Kingdom, given now as 44,000,000, has, despite steady outpouring to the colonies, especially Canada, shown a rapid increase during the last six or seven years. Three millions have been gained since 1901, and only three millions was the average increase for periods of ten years before that."

"But Western Australia leads the way! And triumphantly, too. No other portion of the Empire has grown anything like so rapidly. From 29,000 in 1881 to 49,000 in 1891, to 184,000 in 1901, to 261,000 at the present day. That is an advance which shows health and vitality indeed. Victoria has gained less than 100,000 in the last sixteen years. New Zealand has made a vigorous spurt in the last few years, and now, probably, just touches the million mark."

"Canada is vigorous enough with its steady increase of over 600,000 since 1901, its total population now being practically 6,000,000. Rhodesia speeds on at a rate of half a million per decade; Ceylon gives similar progress; Natal has now well-passed the million mark. In the Mediterranean the story is still one of progress: Malta from 184,000 in 1901 to 206,000 today, Cyprus from 237,000 to 250,000! Not rapid growth, certainly, but old countries cannot move as quickly as new. Their increase is one of birth-rate, not immigration, and birth-rate is always handicapped to some extent by the drain of the young and adventurous to other countries in search of wider spheres of activity. Gibraltar's vagrant and floating population is on the downward grade. In 1901 it was 20,000, now it is but 18,624."

"So far the note is of vigor! In the colonies, that is, which are being fed by the Mother Country, and where industry is developing. But what of those where immigration tells less? What of those where climate ceases to be friend and becomes enemy?"

Scientists Sayings

IN an address at the Royal Institution on "The Ether of Space," Sir Oliver Lodge said that in all cases where physical motion was involved there must be a connecting link of some kind, or transference could not occur. A body really only moved when it was pushed from behind. It was common to say that a horse pulled a cart, but, as a matter of fact, they made the horse put its head through a collar and push. Everything, indeed, was pushed from behind. The explanation of cohesion involved in some form or other a continuous medium connecting the separating particles of matter. Ether was the connecting link. So dense was ether that matter by comparison was like gossamer or the Milky Way. He looked forward to the time when ether in motion would be recognized as the fundamental and unique thing in the scientific forces of the world. The matters of which we knew seemed as nothing compared with ether, which was everywhere and existed throughout every limit of space. If anyone thought it probable that the ether with all this energy had no psychological significance, all he would say was that he found himself unable to agree with him.

Sir Norman Lockyer on Child Employment

Sir Norman Lockyer, as chairman of the Association of Technical Institutions, said that in technical institutions now there were three-quarters of a million children, who in former days would have been merely learning a trade. The present system was infinitely better than the old system, because under the aegis of technical institutions the boys and girls were learning something more than learning a trade. The recent work of the Board of Education could only be described by one word—magnificent. We had now a very good system of elementary education, but then came a break. There was a terrible wastage after the primary school.

One of their difficulties at this moment was the disinclination of parents and of employers to get rid of child labor. Was it not possible to show that the real interests of employers lay in the fact that if children could be taught for a longer time they would be more useful in their employment? Was not that organization powerful enough to suggest that a committee should be formed representing that association, employers, and parents to see what could be done? It seemed to him that if such a committee were rightly constituted, and considered the thing carefully, when all the facts were known there ought to be no very great difficulty. He supposed the half-time system would have to go, and he was glad to know that that was no question of party politics.

The Personal Factor in Disease

"Sir Dyce Duckworth's address to the Faculty of Medicine in Paris merits detailed notice for two reasons," says Reuter's correspondent, "first, because as the lecturer himself anticipated in the course of his remarks, it may give rise to some lively criticism in this important centre of bacteriological research; and, secondly, because it may afford a solid grain of comfort to many sufferers by showing that the very ills under which they groan render them comparatively, if not entirely, immune from other more serious troubles."

"It should be said at once that Sir Dyce carefully guarded himself against even the suggestion of deprecating the value of bacteriological work, with which he declared himself to be in full sympathy, but the purpose of his paper was to put in a plea for the older doctrine of diathesis or the study of habits of body predisposing to certain diseases, which nowadays is too often neglected in favor of more new-fangled theories. That he considered a dangerous error. The lessons of the clinical laboratory should receive greater attention, and more of such laboratories were needed."

Doctors Should Study Man

"The principal study of the medical profession should be man, from his birth to his death, and all his habits and surroundings. In every disease they were face to face with the personal factor, and a long clinical experience had strengthened his confidence in the doctrine of diathesis. The modern investigator occupied himself too much with the seed and too little with the soil in which it was sown. Illustrating this contention, the lecturer said that many persons were constitutionally predisposed to rheumatism and gout, but an important characteristic in such cases was the antagonism of the tissues to the bacilli of tuberculosis. The more rheumatic or gouty a person was the less pronounced was his tendency to consumption."

"Contrary to recent teaching in the medical school of Lyons all his experience confirmed the antagonism of these two conditions, an antagonism which, if not absolute, was at least very great. Tuberculosis in a rheumatic subject, and still more in a gouty subject, was extremely rare, and when it declared itself it made very slow progress, was frequently arrested, and met with vigorous resistance. The lecturer contended that what was transmitted in the various diathetic conditions was assuredly the quality of tissue or soil, and not the infectious microbes. Here they had the personal factor, which the doctor must always consider."

Ptomaine Poisoning

"When people speak of Ptomaine poisoning they are commonly making use of an expression which conceals an ignorance, by no means confined to unscientific circles, of the chemical reaction which has in fact taken place," says the Morning Post. "A paper recently read by Dr. William F. Boos summar-

ises rather effectively some of the known facts concerning the actual poisons which can be distinguished when so-called ptomaine poisoning takes place. Of these the most important, and in fact the only one which has been isolated in the pure state is "sepsin," and twenty milligrammes of this would probably poison anyone. The symptoms and effects of it are very similar to those of arsenic poisoning. By heating to about 60 degrees Centigrade for an hour "sepsin" is changed to "cadaverine" and rendered innocuous: from which one might jump to the conclusion that, since the poisoning from bad meat is due to the presence of "sepsin," cooked meat ought never to be poisonous. That is not quite the case, because in ordinary cooking processes the interior portions of the meat or fish may not reach a temperature sufficiently high to destroy the poison if present."

"Cold storage is sometimes blamed, and not altogether without reason, for effects of poisoning. Low temperatures will not destroy all bacteria, and will not even prevent their multiplication while the material in which they live is liquid. But if meat is stored at a temperature low enough to produce a solidly frozen substratum it will keep indefinitely, since there can be no bacterial growth or activity in ice. Fowls have been kept and found quite good after four years' storage at a temperature to degrees below freezing. Poisoning from "frozen meat" arises from quite a different cause. In markets it is often the practice to thaw the meat and poultry before selling it. Thus thawing is done by soaking in cold water, and as fresh water is not used for each fowl, or each joint, the water naturally becomes foul and infection takes place. Moreover, it is by no means uncommon after meat or poultry has been thawed to return it, with all its new-found germs, to the cold storage room. This re-refrigerated stock always shows marked deterioration. One point that emerged from a discussion on Dr. Boos's paper was that "sepsin" is present in small quantities in all "high" meat or game, but that by practice a certain amount of artificial immunity against the poison can be gained."

WHAT LONDONERS MISS

MAJORITY of Londoners have never seen the sun rise, save over smoky chimneys; they have never been able to watch the full moon sailing across the clear blue of a cloudless night; never known a day filled with the joyous exhilaration of sunlight only dimmed by the mist of the vanishing dew. Still less do such town-dwellers understand of the lonely silence of the night in the open country, in which men may feel themselves back again, amid the childhood of the race. True, the amber haze of day in London and the flicker of the gas lamps in the streets at night have a beauty of their own; but it is dearly bought if the price must be, at least for the greater part of our poorer men and women, and for almost all the children, so heavy a one as this. The civilization which shuts out from its gaze the vision of the stars may well grow blind to greater mysteries; if men will not listen to the music of the spheres, how should they hear the angels' song? So concludes a fascinating article in the Nation, entitled "Nature's Sacraments."

"The life of words is like in some days to the life of men; the soul changes within them, though the form remains the same. Yet while language is still living, it may regain something of its old power beneath the poet's healing fingers, and now and again a master of words will recall to life for us some dying form of speech. Some writer of power is needed, surely, to win us back the older and wider use of the word sacrament, as a spiritual symbol, the revelation of the unseen through the visible, the unfolding of the unknown through the known. Far down into the Middle Ages men used the word in this wider sense, which had led the early fathers to employ it as a rendering of the mysteries of pagan Greece. Doubtless, too, with this wider use went the more frequent thought of sacraments as widespread throughout life. To the mystics the whole earth abounded in spiritual teaching; nature was full of sacraments that brought a message of things unseen."

"Science speaks to us of the insignificance of man beside the illimitable greatness of the universe of which he is ever striving to gain some knowledge, and trains us to revere the majesty of laws which we can only imperfectly apprehend. Yet it is well known how sadly one great leader of modern science regretted that in his old age he was no longer able to know the feeling of the beauty and majesty of the Alpine landscape which had so often helped him in the past, because, as it seemed to him, the habit of scientific analysis had taken from him that simpler sense of the earlier years, the direct consciousness of a beauty he could not explain. So true it is that the child's eyes and the childlike spirit only find the entrance into the kingdom of Heaven, which is hid to the wise. One must not suppose, indeed, that the closing of this one door into the unseen means that others, too, are shut, or else the lot of the city-dweller would be even worse than it is. Dr. Johnson, kindest and best of townsmen, though he said that to see one green field was to see all green fields, was yet keenly sensitive to many of the lesser sacraments of man's social life; and those who read his prayers and meditations know that the invisible realities were to him no subject of intellectual belief, but the atmosphere of his inmost thought."

coming one of mineral products continent, or perhaps but little attention is extended and there is a place as far as the Peakeen and wider natural resources. It only remains to be seen, which the country has, convenient point in plies can be hand.

A few days from Montreal a man who had boring party near mense bed of salt struck there and was 300 by 600 m the country through Mackenzie rivers the fur traders, on Salt river, on the finest salt in a perfect mountain of that mountain, salt springs, the winter, and in the city of the salt, a these places. A s beds of rock salt surface of the ground south and north and the deposits. At any rate they Montreal despatch with a railway to river basin could ages to come. stated that he us table just as nature it, and it was equ had ever been placed Europe. At all posts in the Mack has been used fr established.

On the right posit old Fort C natural ramparts are visible, and or oxide of iron; of magnesite; alums in the stone ond rampart of the limestone ban. There are also places, those on the best known. The Athabasca, that powerful that whe times have to hold selves from being basca plumbago river there are lar

Coal From There is not ing to the asserti connected with the parliament, that the rivers and the S down to the Arctic Slave lake, and seams fourteen feet is a tributary of the Peace River v kenzie, and even the Mackenzie, coa in places has been

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