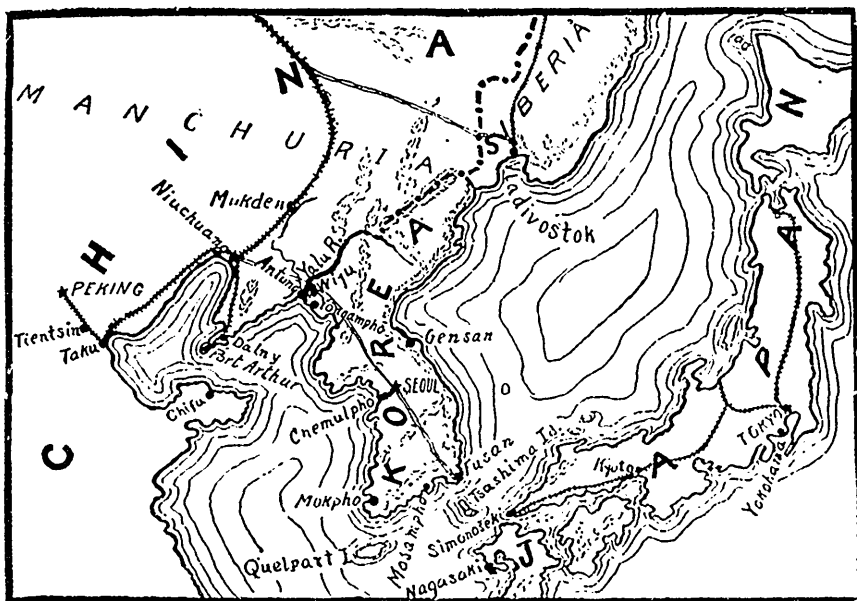


Current Topics and Events.



MAP OF THE SEAT OF WAR.

SYMPATHY WITH JAPAN.

So far as we have been able to observe, the sentiment of practically the whole civilized world, save Russia itself and a part of Germany, is with the plucky little empire of Japan in her present conflict with the Colossus of the north. In this Russia will be greatly disappointed, especially that her dearly-beloved friend, the United States, for whom she claims such marked affection, should give its sympathies to a heathen instead of a Christian nation.

On the ethical aspects of this question The Commercial Advertiser, of New York, has the following :

"First, as to the nature of the 'casus belli.' Russia has deliberately chosen to display herself as a breaker of the most solemn pledges. Her rulers make no concealment of the fact. The promises to which her ministers have set their seals are absolutely worthless. Cynicism, insolence, and violated faith are the marks of recent Russian policy in its dealings alike with China, with Great Britain, with the United States, and with Japan. China is helpless. Great Britain and the United States

have no such interests at stake as to justify a war. But Japan must fight or else be slowly stifled; and in the last resort she is not afraid to fight. Eight years ago she won the right to that foothold upon the Asiatic mainland which is vital to her natural growth, and in the very hour of victory, the harsh order of the Czar, backed up by France and Germany, turned her triumph into failure and humiliation. To-day she sees the author of that successful plot refusing to withdraw from the great province of Manchuria, and at the same time, with equal disregard of treaties, menacing the rights which Japan has for so long a time enjoyed in the kingdom of Korea. Swiftly and surely, by lying promises and stealthy craft, the coast of Asia opposite Japan is being ringed with Russian fortresses and dotted with naval stations and huge armed camps. If only another year goes by Japan is doomed to be shut out for ever from her one chance to develop and attain the full measure of her greatness. On one side is arrayed a nation struggling for existence; on the other a brutal, greedy, and unscrupulous power which does