

THE WORLD-INFLUENCE OF BRITAIN AND JAPAN

THE pen, through the Anglo-Japanese Agreement, has forged the mightiest weapon of war which the world has ever known. It has ranged together, in concert of action, irresistible powers of sea and land. The greatest and most powerful navy, with an attendant host of transports, brings the whole earth within the reach of the strongest and most efficient army. Two little islands, set half the world apart to east and west against the coasts of the largest continent, have stretched a link of steel across it, which not only secures their common interests against the menace of a common danger, but, at the same time, safeguards the peace of nations for the benefit of all humanity.

The Anglo-Japanese Agreement, as an instrument of force, is completely efficacious and far-reaching in its effects. The "white peril" passes for ever from Japan. The Empires of Europe can no more confront her from neighbouring ice-free coasts, nor spread, in peril to the world's peace, across the huge helpless continent of China to the south. The fleets of Europe can no more challenge her predominant power in her home seas. But while Japan herself becomes inaccessible to the armies of Europe, and while Britain shields her from the ships of the world—by the grace of Britain as warden of the ocean—all Europe and all the world lie open to attack by the ships and armies of Japan. Though the guns of Kiao-Chau