

It is easier, however, to demonstrate the need for such conferences, than to overcome the practical difficulties of holding them. These are in the main questions of time and money, and of time more than of money. The men of business find it easier to subscribe the money which enables professors and missionaries and retired diplomats to attend these conferences than to spare the time to go there themselves. In the nineteenth century the opinion which determined British policy in China was that of the traders, and the results in the twentieth century are not good for trade. We are now faced by the opposite danger. If American and British policy in the Far East is influenced by philanthropic opinion out of touch with economic realities, the results will be bad for much that philanthropists hold dear. The safeguard against this danger is for men of business, learning and religion to find a practicable way of studying the problems of the orient together. As with mechanical traction, and with the conquest of the air, mechanism for achieving that end must be worked out by the process of design, construction, use and scrapping, followed by re-design, new construction and fresh use, until we have arrived at a fool-proof contrivance. Such processes usually move from something elaborate to something simple. The idea of tinkering at Kyoto in 1929 the constitution we thought we had settled in 1927 at Hawaii should not therefore alarm us. By that means we shall end by arriving in time at some stable arrangement which no one wants to alter except in minor details after it has been found to fulfil the main purpose in view.