

## 128 PROBLEMS OF THE PACIFIC

the English to all other Europeans. Some years ago I remember overhearing Tukuaho, a high Tongan chief, mimicking the speech and manners of Germans and Frenchmen. It was a most realistic performance; the words were gibberish, but the accent was perfect. I expected a personation of the Englishman to follow, and I asked him afterwards why he had omitted it. He seemed surprised, and said, "There is nothing funny about the Englishman. He is our friend." It is to this subtle distinction that the success of British administrators in the Pacific is to be attributed.

If I now venture into the region of prophecy, and try to take long views of the future of the Pacific, I shall not seem more irresponsible than the host of political prophets who have lately come to grief. Prophets—especially war-prophets—have had experiences lately that should teach them caution for the rest of their days, and if we embark upon forecasts and the course of history stultifies us, we shall look foolish in good company. Four great nations are vitally concerned in the Pacific—England, the United States, Japan and China. I leave out France purposely, because her island colonies depend so little upon commercial interests. Of these four we may leave out China. The Chinese are colonists, but politically they are not a colonising nation. The United States have, as it were, acquired their colonies—Hawaii and the Philippines—in the Pacific against their inclination. There remain England and Japan—both maritime nations with the colonising instinct. Japan has already taken temporary charge of the German colonies north of the Equator, and she has the advantage over other nations of being in a position