

The White Peril in the Far East.

An interpretation of the Significance of the Russo Japanese War. By Sidney Lewis Gulick, M.A., D.D. Fleming H. Revell Company.

THE first six chapters of this timely book answer the question, How has Japan become able in material resources, and physically, to face and defeat a first rate Western Power? This is answered in a luminous resume made on first-hand knowledge, of her evolution for the last fifty years. The last seven chapters study the meaning of the Russo-Japanese War and the problems of the Far East. The war's chief cause it declared to be Russian ambition for oriental empire; with Japan's good will to Korea and China, and her stand for honest diplomacy, as secondary causes. In a pregnant chapter on the war's meaning the author shows not only how Japan's actual existence and China's and Korea's integrity are threatened, but how the history of Eastern Asia, probably for centuries to come, hangs on the issue. It is a question of whether "the white man's aggression in the Far East has come to an end," and whether the yellow man is "to have a fair chance to enter into the world's best life and progress," or is to be crushed and enslaved. Japan victorious would teach, lead, and lift Eastern Asia. A quarter of the earth's population is concerned. Nor is this all. The future of Russia, France, Germany and England turns on the part they play in the Far East. Military possession there would cause them to develop in a different way from that which they would otherwise take. The war constitutes a universal crisis, the whole world is affected!

Dr. Gulick's justification of his book's title may here be found:

Surely the outstanding fact in the relations of the West as to the East has been the peril to the yellow and brown races

through the presence of the white man, whose assumption has been the theory that might makes right. The presence of the white man in the Far East has been distinctly destructive of morality. . . . The Orient, and especially Japan has been deaunched by white men."

He thinks however, that England and America's attitude to Japan, by breaking the solidarity of the white man against the brown and yellow races, has destroyed for her the white peril as such, and more and more lessens any possibility of a "yellow peril" to the West, led by Japan. The only yellow peril is the one that will come if the white man persists in exploiting the brown and yellow men. Then the latter will rise, destroy western property and drive the whites from Asia. Any invasion of Western territory by Asiatics is a groundless fear.

The author proposes this plan for securing the peace of the Orient after the war's close. After defeating Russia Japan shall demand the surrender of that part of Siberia east of Lake Baikal, and then offer this great territory for sale. England and America should buy it, administer it under joint commission as an international trust until it can govern itself, after that establishing it as an independent "buffer" state.

Having lived seventeen years in Japan Dr. Gulick is able to look at things through Japanese eyes and give the Japanese side. The chapter on the "Mission of Japan" is luminous and inspiring, opening up new vistas into the future of universal history. It would be difficult elsewhere to find, in the compass, so much recent and reliable light on the situation in the East, and on the world wide significance of the Russo-Japanese War