

tion to plunge it into barbarity, horror, and uncertainty, are, by the force of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, to be the results of a future policy of adventure in Asia. In openly asserting this principle of policy, the Island Powers have established a guarantee for the peace of the whole world. Because the helplessness of the peoples inhabiting the vast territories to which it applies, constitutes, at the present time, the greatest danger to the world's peace by tempting the aggression of those Powers which ambition or necessity excites to an extreme policy of expansion. For now the consequences of aggression are sufficiently terrible to give pause to the most needy as well as the most reckless of the modern Adventurers of Empire. Indeed, the whole civilised world would rise in resentment against those who sought, solely in self-interest, to occasion so vast a disturbance of its peace. And it is these very consequences of universal disaster and enmity, which confront Russia in regard to her choice as to whether her future policy in Asia shall continue to be one of aggression, or become one of peace and mutual understanding, in regard to the other great Asiatic Powers.

The former of these alternatives has been already considered; it remains now to consider the latter. It is clear that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, by placing too high a price on war, has set a premium upon peace in Asia. This fact, however, must be discounted in considering the possibility of a peaceful Russian policy in Asia. Because the question of a permanent understanding with her Asiatic neighbours is for Russia distinctly a matter of self-interest and common sense—not one of surrender or coercion. It has been shown, with regard to an aggressive policy in Asia, that the chief determining factor was the inter-relation of Russia with Germany. On the other hand, the chief determining factor of a policy of peace is the inter-relation of Russia with Britain. But whereas the irreconcilable elements of conflict with which the interests of Russia and Germany are instinct, militate against concerted action by these Powers in a policy of aggression, the