

Preface

permission. Hence the present attitude of Japan. "If you do not allow our people to colonise Manchuria peacefully, there is only one thing for us to do: to enter it anyhow." Yet the density of population in Japan at the present time is considerably less than that of Great Britain, of Belgium, of Holland, of Saxony, of Alsace Lorraine, of Hesse, of Baden; not to mention other non-European countries. The new Russo-Japanese Alliance is concerned mainly with their railways, and Japan insists on China relinquishing her project of a railway into Mongolia. Now it is an open secret that Russia is to have a railway direct from Irkutsk to Peking—the inference is obvious. The situation is an interesting one; but I have neither the knowledge nor the impertinence requisite for prophesying the course of events. My object will be attained if I can in any way succeed in describing the condition of affairs at the present moment.

The latest step in advance is the annexation of Korea, the highroad into Manchuria.

August 26, 1910.