

have not forgotten, the contrast between the British and Prussian treatment of Asiatics. Even Japanese officers of position were exposed to the boorishness which seems inseparable from the Prussian attitude towards those considered inferior. At times the friction threatened to become serious, and British self-effacement in allowing a Prussian officer to be generalissimo of the combined forces occasioned surprise and a certain amount of adverse comment. The German interference with all Japan's schemes of finance has merely inspired the sublime Oriental patience of the Japanese, who are content to wait till the hour has struck for reprisals. That hour has now struck.

At the present moment the German navy may be ruled out as an effective world force. The fall of Tsing-Tao and the passing of Kiau-Chau out of German hands, followed by the destruction off the Falkland Isles of the Kiau-Chau squadron, has afforded a very practical justification of Japan's intervention. The Mikado's Government has with true instinct refrained from embarrassing us by any designs on Samoa, the Carolines, or New Guinea, and has given up to Australasia the islands which she had for strategic reasons taken from Germany.

New Zealand has already annexed German Samoa, and Australia has taken New Guinea. A German *piéd-à-terre* so near the Australian coast has always been a source of disquietude to the island-continent. We have perhaps already forgotten that thirty years ago a vigorous Queensland Administration did annex Papua, but the move was disowned by the British Colonial Office, and Australia has ever since lamented that ill-judged weakness.

Japan's action is striking evidence of the world-wide antagonism which Prussian aims and methods have