

EXCLUSIA

some do call him—"Bagpipes"—and I saw they were horribly afraid; for as the shrieks of the people reached their ears, they cowered into the corners of the room, accusing one another in this manner: Said Fiddlestick to Windbag—"You fool! Had you not cut the painter so short, we could have spliced it up again; now there is not a ropeyarn left at our command. The Japanese fleet will be here within a fortnight and we no longer have the British Navy—which cost us nothing—as a bulwark." But the great Windbag replied not, he only cowered closer into his corner. Then the gaunt Maybush spoke up and said to Fiddlestick—"Why not appeal to the United States?"—But Fiddlestick jerked back the angry reply—"Bah! I did that a week since; here is their answer; read it!" Maybush read it aloud so that Windbag could hear—this is what the reply said:

‘To the Trinity of Disunity,
Republic of Exclusion.

Sorry we cannot intervene; Japan and British Empire are our most excellent friends; but if you will join Union we will square Japan with Phillipines, and British Empire with Cuba; cannot, however, admit Maybush, Fiddlestick, and Windbag, as citizens—we already have a surfeit of their breed.

(Signed) ‘URSUS MAJOR.’

As he finished reading, the gaunt Maybush took the miner's pick, which he carried on his shoulder, and drove it through the centre of the message; and I noticed there was written on the pick—"For ornament, not for use." At this moment the desire to throw these cowards to the people was strong upon me, but the Spirit of the Day, as if reading my thoughts, said to me, with a laugh—"They are reaping their reward; come with me!"