

self, has encouraged the Chinese to believe that they might defy us yet again.

In conclusion, Britain and Germany have published an agreement whereby they bind themselves to keep open all ports in China for trade, to abstain from seeking any territorial advantage, and to strive to prevent others from seeking it. The other Powers have also subscribed to this doctrine. Doubts, however, arise as to the meaning and effect of this agreement, inasmuch as Russia, one of the subscribing Powers, subsequently secured what seemed to be aggrandisement in Manchuria. This was to be obtained by means of a Convention which the Chinese Government was requested to sign, but which after a while that Government at the instance of the Powers declined doing. In fine, the clouds hang thicker than ever all round the horizon of China. They may lift soon, or alas! they may not; meanwhile the only gleam of light comes from the fact that, despite all the evil in Peking, the local authorities in the Yang-tsze Valley and around Canton did preserve order on the whole.