

Nothing but some almost unthinkable affront to her dignity from our unwary national ignorance can divert her attention to us. She has nothing to fear from us. She is beating us out in the race for the Pacific carrying trade, and she will soon have all the machinery for a similar supremacy in China. I am not a believer in the permanent achievements and control of any Eastern race; and I find no arguments except of a hypothetical sort to bolster up, much less to prove, such a thesis; but I am bound to admit that Japan, whether permanently or not, has become a factor to be considered in all international problems of the day.

China is far more puzzling than either India or Japan. The Chinese are the independent, virile, and mentally superior race in all the East. To the Westerner it is inconceivable that power should not wish to express itself, that ability should not wish to proclaim itself, that force should not wish to stamp its will on others. It is just because the Chinese are the most Oriental of the Orientals, the stanchest believers in themselves, that this fitness to prevail, and this inertia, exist side by side.

The East is spiritual, the West secular. The East still obeys spiritual beliefs, the West obeys only so far as it is convenient and consistent