

Germany, in the face of which a combination between the ally of France and Germany would be hardly politic—or possible. At the same time, this useful incident has thrown a clear light upon the good faith and the steady support given by Britain throughout this crisis directly to France—and indirectly to Russia. And is it to be supposed, when the true measure of this service to their ally, to their alliance, and so to themselves, is realised by Russian statesmen, in the calm of retrospect, that they will find an alliance with the Power which threatened their ally and their interests, as against the Power which served their ally and their interests, either a politic or a possible instrument of national policy? Apart from these considerations altogether, it is certain that such a step taken now, or in the near future, would inevitably result in a disturbance of the balance of power throughout the world, and necessitate a complete redistribution of international power in Europe, which would reduce Russia and Germany, both in Asia and elsewhere, to a necessary impotence.

A careful consideration of the foregoing facts brings the mind to certain interesting conclusions. In the first place, it is clear that Russia cannot hope to form an alliance against Great Britain and Japan in Asia. In the second place, it is clear that she must, in the future, consider her relations with these Powers, not as a purely Asiatic Power, but as a European power. This last conclusion helps to make clear what is not generally recognised, namely, that—though the scope of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, as an instrument of force, is apparently confined to Asia—Europe with any other part of the world may come within its scope. Therefore, although Britain and Japan reserve their influence and power under this alliance for the settlement of certain political problems in Asia, yet their power and influence, as allies, extends throughout the world and becomes a controlling factor of equipoise in the whole balance of international power. This fact becomes clearer by examples which will illustrate the practical application of this treaty of alliance. For instance,